

# ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Women's Studies Section  
Deb Biggs and Betty Glass, Co-Editors

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## From The Head Of The Table

When the Newsletter co-editor called to remind me that I needed to write a short "from the head of the table" column, I jokingly said that I'd rather call my contribution "notes from under the table." As I write now I reflect on how prophetic that off-hand remark became. A mere 24 hours later I was under the table, dealing as best I could with life in Southern California's earthquake belt.

ACRL Women's Studies Section is creating its own form of earthshaking; the world (in this instance the insular world of ACRL) will never be quite the same. Our recent transformation from discussion group to section (a marvel of bureaucratic paper pushing) has brought, along with an increase in mail from 50 E. Huron St., an increased visibility that should serve us well as we continue our efforts to insure a place for Women's Studies in academic libraries.

There are several examples of the "shock" of our emergence on the scene, some concrete, others impressionistic, all extremely positive. The first item of note was our Section's inaugural program in San Francisco. A large and enthusiastic crowd listened to four knowledgeable speakers discuss "Information For, By, and About Women of Color," then stayed to take part in small group discussions. Given overcrowded ALA schedules and everyone's natural desire to do everything, the attendance figures (approximately 140) for this program are particularly gratifying.

In preparation for our "elevation" to section status, the Women's Studies Discussion Group began working on a brochure for distribution to prospective members. Apparently we did a fine job, as other ACRL sections

are looking to our brochure as a model for their publications.

On a less concrete level, our sectionhood appeared to make some within the ranks of older, more established ACRL groups sit up and take notice. Several WSS officers attended the ACRL Section Officers Orientation session (the first ever.) As we introduced ourselves as representatives of the Women's Studies Section, I detected smiles of encouragement, nods of approval, and a few subtle looks of "right on!" We have already begun to make a difference, at least within the organization.

While there is much to be said for the type of impact we might make with our new status, it's important to reflect upon how and why we began. As a section we will find that some of our precious energy is diverted to needs of the larger organization and we have already begun to worry about bylaws, committee structure, and ACRL-mandated budgets and timetables. In part that's the price of success. But while paying those dues, we need to remember that our greatest strength comes from our willingness to share our experiences, ideas, and examples of our work through informal discussions as well as major programs.

The impact we make on the larger association depends in large measure on our desire to articulate and act upon our feminist principles. The clearest way we have of doing that, particularly in an organizational context, is to continue to provide a place for Women's Studies librarians and others to feel safe, challenged, and connected. In a sense we have "arrived," but the important tasks still lie ahead...and the most important of these center around academic libraries, our services and collections, not academic library associations.

## Annual '87 Reprise

### **WSS 1987 Program**

Over 140 people attended the Section's first program meeting, "Information For, By, and About Women of Color," on Saturday, June 27, 1987. The panel of speakers, Lillian Castillo-Speed, Edith Fisher, Wei Chi Poon, and Binnie Tate Wilkin, identified various ethnic and minority issues as research opportunities for library practitioners. These range from the absence of Asian-American publication indexes to addressing the reference needs of the growing populations of minority library users.

Several minority/small presses generously contributed samples of recent publications by minority women for display at the program, along with promotional material on related publications.

The combination of speakers, small-group discussion, plus a well-stocked literature table provided multiple approaches to the complex issues facing librarians and women of color in the information environment. As a final note, the speakers were taped and the cassette will be sold by ALA.

### **Women's Studies Services in Academic Libraries Survey Report**

During the June 30, 1987 business meeting, Beth Stafford, University of Illinois gave a preliminary report on a survey she has conducted under the auspices of the University of Illinois Library Research Committee and the National Women's Studies Association. Over 80% of the 2500 U.S. academic libraries receiving the questionnaire on Women's Studies services have responded. Beth is now analyzing the data and will report on her findings in a future issue of the Newsletter.

### **1988 (New Orleans) Conference Program Committee Report**

Pat Kreitz, Chair outlined the 1988 WSS program which is entitled, "Women in Third World Countries: Research Trends and Collection Development Challenges." It will be held on Saturday, July 9, 1988 from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. The program will convene with a keynote speaker who will outline global research trends on women in development. The keynote will then be followed by three faculty/researchers who will focus on current and future research trends on women in their geographic areas and across a broad number of disciplines. A reactor panel composed of three librarians will then discuss how the materials needed to support this research can be acquired and what area/subject specialist groups (such as the Committee on South Asian Libraries and Documentation or the ACRL, Women's Studies Section) are doing to help facilitate the acquisition of these materials. Although some of the plans are still tentative pending final confirmation of speakers and budget, the Program Committee is pleased to be shaping a very exciting event for ALA annual in New Orleans.

### **Women's Studies Librarian, University of Wisconsin System**

Susan Searing announced that her office is distributing a packet of bibliographies on Black, Latina, Jewish, North American Indian, and Asian-American women. Please send a 9x12" manila envelope with \$1.41 in postage to: 112A Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706.

## **A Message from the Co-Editor**

As we gear up for ALA Midwinter 1988, we would like to celebrate our roster of 412 members (both individual and institutional) in the Women's Studies Section!! Welcome to each of you. Our membership is a rich resource to draw upon for the work facing the Section as it enters its first full year of existence.

The newly formed Communications Committee, chaired by Ruth Dickstein, will be addressing several issues concerning the Newsletter's content, distribution and editorial policies at the business meeting on Saturday, January 9th. Anyone having suggestions about the Newsletter should contact Ruth, Deb Biggs, or me prior to that meeting; we would also be pleased to hear from you then.

Extra copies of the Newsletter will be available at the Midwinter meetings, so encourage non-members to attend and learn about the Women's Studies Section's activities.

See you in San Antonio!

--Betty Glass, Co-Editor

## **Women's Studies Section Committees**

### **Executive Committee 1987-88**

Ellen Broidy, Chair  
University of California-Irvine

Beth Stafford, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect  
University of Illinois-Champaign

Beth Ellen Woodard, Secretary  
Michigan State University

Mary Lou Goodyear, Member-At-Large  
University of Colorado-Denver

Ruth Dickstein, Communications Chair  
University of Arizona, Ex-Officio

Dorothy Neikamp, Technical Services Chair  
Indiana University-Bloomington, Ex-Officio

Patricia Kreitz, 1988 Conference Program  
Planning Committee Chair  
University of California-Berkeley, Ex-Officio

Connie Miller, Nominating Committee Chair  
Indiana University-Bloomington, Ex-Officio

Deb Biggs, Newsletter Co-Editor  
University of Michigan, Ex-Officio

Betty Glass, Newsletter Co-Editor  
Southern Illinois University, Ex-Officio

### **Communications Committee**

Ruth Dickstein, Chair, 1987-89  
University of Arizona

Barbara Dean, 1987-88  
Council on Library Resources

Renee Feinberg, 1987-88  
Brooklyn College

Cynthia Fugate, 1987-88  
University of Washington

Judith Levitt, 1987-88  
University of California-Davis

Susan Williamson, 1987-89  
Swarthmore College

Deb Biggs, 1987-88  
University of Michigan, Ex-Officio

Betty Glass, 1987-88  
Southern Illinois University, Ex-Officio

### **Newsletter Committee**

Deb Biggs, Co-Editor  
University of Michigan

Betty Glass, Co-Editor  
Southern Illinois University

### **Technical Services Committee**

Dorothy Niekamp, Chair, 1988-90  
Indiana University-Bloomington

Barbara Berman, 1988-90  
Pennsylvania State University

Betty Glass, 1988-90  
Southern Illinois University

Judith Hudson, 1988-90  
SUNY-Albany

R. Michelle Shroll, 1988-90  
Business & Professional Women's Fdu.

Ellen Waite, 1988-90  
Loyola University

### **1988 Conference Program Planning Committee**

Patricia Kreitz, Chair, 1987-88  
University of California-Berkeley

Deb Biggs, 1987-88  
University of Michigan

Nancy Magnuson, 1987-88  
Goucher College

Jacquelyn Marie, 1987-88  
University of California-Santa Cruz

Molly Mahony, 1987-88  
University of Michigan

Susan Perry, 1987-88  
Stanford University

Beth Ellen Woodard, 1988-89  
Michigan State University

### **Nominating Committee**

Connie Miller, Chair, 1987-88  
Indiana University-Bloomington

Joan Ariel, 1987-88  
University of California-Irvine

Eva Sartori, 1987-88  
University of Nebraska

### **1988 WSS Election Candidates:**

#### Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Sarah Pritchard, Library of Congress  
Charlotta Hensley, University of Colorado-Boulder

#### Secretary/Recorder

Deb Biggs, University of Michigan  
Judith Hudson, SUNY-Albany

#### Member-At-Large

Suzy Slavin, McGill University  
Molly Mahony, University of Michigan

The ACRL Women's Studies Newsletter (ISSN 0895-691X) is a semi-annual publication of the Women's Studies Section of ACRL. It is a communications vehicle for section members and other interested individuals. Short articles on topics of interest to the membership will be reviewed for publication. Longer articles are welcome, but should be discussed with an editor in advance. Inquiries may be made to the Editors: Deb Biggs or Betty Glass, c/o ALA/ACRL, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. The Women's Studies Newsletter is published twice annually in June and December. Editorial deadlines for each issue are April 15, and October 15 of each year. This newsletter is available to all section members at no additional charge. Policy for purchase by non-section members is currently under review.

## Publications

Women's in LC Terms: A Thesaurus of Library of Congress Subject Headings Relating to Women by Ruth Dickstein, Victoria A. Mills, and Ellen J. Waite is scheduled for debut from Oryx Press in January or February 1988. This publication which lists over 3,000 headings can assist researchers in using catalogs, indexes and databases as well as with identifying Women's Studies materials. Price is yet to be set.

Building Women's Studies Collections: A Resource Guide edited by Joan Ariel and with contributions from many Women's Studies Discussion Group (now Section) members is due out from Choice by the end of this year. Choice regrets the delay of its publication due to their automation projects. The Resource Guide will be issued as number 8 in the Choice Bibliographical Essay Series. Three sections—"Feminist Review Media," "Feminist Publishers," and "Publishers Series in Women's Studies" were excerpted and featured as the bibliographic essay in the Choice February 1987 issue (pp. 849-854). The price will be \$12.00. [Editor's note: Joan Ariel suggests that we plan for a mini-celebration in San Antonio and thanks everyone who contributed to and cooperated in this project.]

Gender, Unpaid Labor, and the Promotion of Literacy: A Selected Annotated Bibliography by Cheryl Knott Malone will be available from Garland Publishing Inc. in December 1987. Books, serials, dissertations, and government documents from 1946-1986 are included in this bibliography which details the role of volunteer women workers in the U.S. educational system. Initial price will be \$21.60.

Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography, 1980-1985 Abridged Edition

by Catherine R. Loeb, Susan E. Searing and Esther F. Stineman is now available from Libraries Unlimited. This less expensive (\$23.50) bibliography which represents a selection of 645 titles will assist the smaller public library and school media center with collection development in Women's Studies. The unabridged edition contains 1,211 citations and continues to be available for \$55.00 from Libraries Unlimited.

A Women's Thesaurus: An Index of Language Used to Describe and Locate Information By and About Women is now available from Harper & Row. This publication is a project of the National Council for Research on Women and the Business and Professional Women's Foundation. Editor, Mary Ellen Capek consulted the Women's Studies Discussion Group on the Thesaurus prior to its publication. Price is \$34.50. T-Shirts (100% cotton-purple with the title silkscreened in white) are also available for \$10.00 each or \$8.00 for four or more from the National Council for Research on Women, 47-49 East 65th Street, New York, NY 10021.

Selection of Library Materials in Applied and Interdisciplinary Fields, a volume edited by Beth Shapiro and John Whaley is now available from ALA under the sponsorship of RTSD. This book is particularly noteworthy as it contains a chapter on "Women's Studies," authored by Susan Searing and Joan Ariel. Their contributory chapter presents the highlights in a narrative format of Building Women's Studies Collections; see above listing. Price information is not available.

## Note to Catalogers

The ACRL Women's Studies Newsletter began with Vol. 1, no. 1 (December 1986). The next issue was numbered Vol. 2, no. 1 (Spring 1987). Future issues will follow the (month year) format of the first issue, i.e. Vol. 2, no. 2 (December 1987). --Betty Glass, Co-Editor

## Request for Book Reviews/Articles

The National Women's Studies Association is starting a new publication, the NWSA Journal and are in need of book reviewers who must be current members of NWSA. If interested, contact Maria C. Gonzalez, Book Review Editor, NWSA Journal, Center for Women's Studies, 207 Dulles Hall, 230 West 17th Ave., Ohio State University, Columbus, OH 43210.

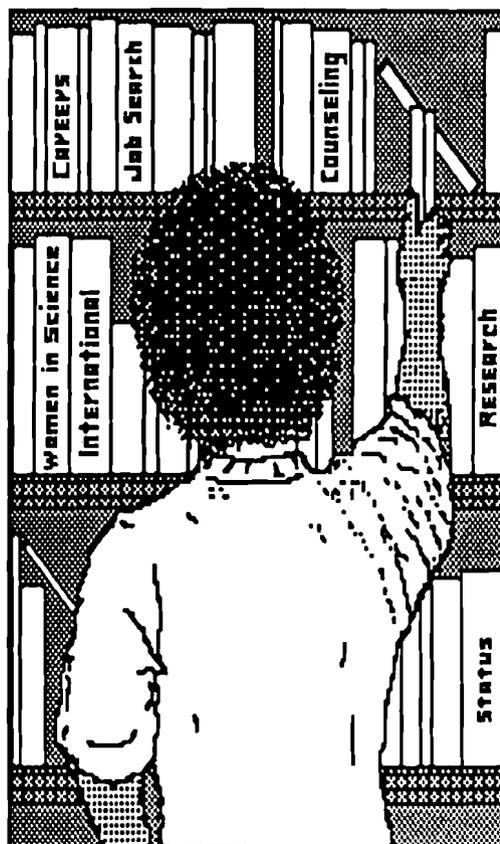
Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies, welcomes articles, short fiction, literature reviews, narratives, personal essays, poetry, photography, and reviews for two special issues, "Women and Words" and "Women and Worth," to be published in 1988. Contact Charlotta C. Hensley, Editor, Women Studies Program, University of

## Forthcoming Conferences/Workshops

The National Women's Studies Association announces its 10th annual conference, "Leadership and Power: Women's Alliances for Social Change." at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis from June 22-June 26, 1988. The conference theme focuses on women of many backgrounds working together and coalition building by way of "culturally diverse leadership models that empower women."

ALA's Social Responsibilities Roundtable Feminist Task Force will be holding a workshop at Midwinter in San Antonio on Friday, January 8, 1988 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Entitled, "White Women Working Together on Personal and Institutional Racism" this workshop is a follow-up to the 1987 ALA Preconference, "Librarians as Colleagues: Working Together Across Racial Lines." Participants will continue a closer examination of their relationships with people of color and will focus on the "ramifications of being white in a racist society." Registration is \$30.00, and although the deadline is past, inquiries can be made if interested to Polly Thistlethwaite at 212/998-2532 or Betty-Carol Sellen at 718/780-5618.

Center for Continuing Education of Women Library, University of Michigan 1987, with permission.



## News Notes

The Women's Collecting Group, formed at the "Preserving Women's History" conference that preceded the "Berkshire Conference on Women's History" in 1984 is a group that unites curators of women's collections and other interested librarians and scholars to cooperate in the acquisition and preservation of women's materials. The group is particularly interested in updating Women's History Sources, edited by Andrea Hinding (Bowker, 1979), to reflect recent additions to libraries and archives. For more information on the Women's Collecting Group, contact Susan Grigg, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College.

The office of the Women's Studies Librarian, University of Wisconsin System has received a \$1,000 grant from the UW System Institute on Race and Ethnicity. The grant will support the compilation and distribution of a basic bibliography on women, race, and ethnicity. If you have reading lists or path finders on this or related topics, please send them to Elli Lester-Massman, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706.

## Educational Opportunity of Note

The University of Michigan University Library Associates Program which began in 1985 is an extended Masters program and a coordinated effort between the School of Information and Library Studies (SILS) and the University Library. The program includes 48 credit hours of course work, a paid part-time internship in the University Library, and a research project completed in the second year. In Fall 1988, Library Associates tuition will be paid in full. Please encourage highly motivated and academically outstanding individuals who are interested in a career in academic librarianship to apply. For more information contact

Molly C. Mahony, SILS, University of Michigan, 580 Union Dr., Ann Arbor, 48109-1346. (313) 763-2283. Applications are due by February 15, 1988.

## News of Feminist Publishing

Feminist publishers and booksellers in Montreal are preparing to host the Third International Feminist Bookfair in June of 1988. The organizers promise a bilingual event (French and English, with simultaneous translation) and hope the North American location will attract more Central and South American women than previous fairs. In 1984, 4,500 people attended the highly successful First International Feminist Bookfair in London, and Oslo hosted the event in 1986. India was originally selected as the site for the Third Bookfair, but Kali for Women publishers there decided they were not yet ready to handle the fair in addition to their own struggling young publishing program; they are committed to hosting the event in 1990. For more information on the plans for Montreal's fair, write 1988 International Feminist Bookfair, c/o L'Essentielle, 420 rue Rachel est, Montreal, Quebec H2J 2G7, Canada.

July 6-9, 1987 in Dublin, Ireland, a Feminist Book Fair was held in conjunction with the Third International Interdisciplinary Congress of Women, which brought together women scholars and professionals from many different fields for discussion on feminist theory and practice.

--Courtesy, Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources, Fall 1987, University of Wisconsin System

## ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES SECTION MIDWINTER MEETING AGENDA

Friday, January 8, 1988

2:00-4:00 p.m. San Antonio Convention Center (SACC) Cube 2

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

Saturday, January 9, 1988

9:30-11:00 a.m. SACC Room 205

### **Membership Meeting** Visitors are welcome to attend.

1. General section business—introductions, announcements, reports, etc.
2. Committee Meetings—Communications, Technical Services, 1988  
Conference Program Planning, Nominating

Monday, January 11, 1988

2:00-4:00 p.m. SACC Room 210 South

### **Membership and Open Forum/Discussion Meeting**

Visitors are welcome to attend.

1. General section business including Saturday (1/9) meeting recap.
2. Open Forum/Discussion—Women Studies Abstracts; a discussion on the improvement and expansion of its format and content, and researching biographical information on women. Please bring personal experiences, questions and suggestions on strategies for biographical research including diversity issues.

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WSS Newsletter  
c/o ALA/ACRL  
50 East Huron St.  
Chicago, IL 60611

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