

WOMEN'S STUDIES SECTION NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, No. 2
October 1996

WOMEN'S
STUDIES
SECTION

*Issued by the Women's Studies Section, Association of College and Research Libraries
a division of the American Library Association*

Comparing New Women's Studies CD-ROMs

Women's Studies Section Midwinter Discussion Washington, DC

Monday, February 17, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Until quite recently, librarians working in Women's Studies were sorely aware of the lack of databases dealing with Women's Studies. While a few databases indexed a selective handful of journals in Women's Studies, one needed to rely on the print sources, Women Studies Abstracts and Women's Studies Index, for complete coverage.

With the appearance of four different CD-ROMs in quick succession over the last couple of years (indeed, three of the four databases appeared on the market in just one year), all of which cover Women's Studies topics, we may think our access problems are over. But are they? Do these CD products replace the print sources, supplement them, or neither? And since most of our libraries can't afford all four of these new products even if they want them, which one(s) would be the best investment?

The Technical Services Committee of the Women's Studies Section will be discussing the pros and cons of at least three of these new products at the WSS midwinter discussion in Washington (as of late October, the fourth title was still not available, but was expected soon.) Don't miss this important discussion!

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The WSS Newsletter welcomes contributions from readers. Send articles, items of interest, and news to the editor or to the appropriate column editor, preferably in electronic format.

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WSS Officers 1996/97:
Bonnie Jean Cox, Chair
Jessica Grim, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
Betty Heath, Secretary
Bernice Redfern, Member-at-large
Theresa Tobin, Member-at-large



Notes from the Chair

Dear Section Members:

After ALA Midwinter a committee of the Women's Studies Section began working on a strategic plan for the section -- a strategic plan that would give voice to the mission and vision of the section while aligning it with the overall ACRL Strategic Plan. Trying to adhere to the goal of having this completed and submitted to ACRL before annual, the committee worked out a draft version, but only posted it to the FEMINIST listserv for comments. Doing so disenfranchised those of our members who are not listserv members, those who are so overwhelmed that they do not have time for lengthy e-mail and those who still do not have access to e-mail. We are therefore including our strategic plan (which we still consider to be a draft) in this issue of the newsletter. Please read the proposed strategic plan and give us your feedback. You can snail mail comments and suggestions to me c/o Collection Development, 204 King Library, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0039 or e-mail me at bjcox@pop.uky.edu.

You can also bring your comments to our general membership meeting if you will be at mid-winter. Due to a scheduling conflict, the date and time of the general membership meeting is not yet known (check the listserv later in the year or your conference program for time and location.)

It would be easier to write this plan, perhaps, in a vacuum, but it would be in contradiction to everything the Women's Studies Section stands for. If this plan is to carry us into the next century, it needs to be OUR plan and to be that it needs input from all our members. Please take time to read it and send me your comments.

Bonnie Jean Cox
Chair

★
★
★ **Are You Going to The ALA Midwinter Meeting in Washington, DC?** ★
★
★ **If so, contact** ★
★ Daren Callahan ★
★ at the address below ★
★ and give her your mailing address ★
★ so that she can send you an information packet ★
★ which includes a checklist of meetings for ★
★ all Women's Studies related groups and a ★
★ Women's Studies Section sticker for your nametag. ★
★ *Special Collections Cataloger* ★
★ *Morris Library* ★
★ *Southern Illinois University* ★
★ *Carbondale, IL 62901-6632* ★
★

ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE**New York, NY June 1996**

Program: "Leadership and Collaboration: Librarians Develop Women's Studies Electronic Resources"

Co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Section, ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL), ACRL Afro-American Studies Librarians (AFAS), Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT), and Feminist Task Force (FTF), and moderated by WSS Chair Grace Jackson-Brown, this program effectively presented the evolution of electronic resources from three divergent perspectives.

Gladys Smiley Bell, Coordinator of Instructional Services at Kent State University Libraries and Media Services, presented her Web site--the "Smiley Page"--and demonstrated its numerous links to electronic resources on African and African-American women. Her paper, "Black Women Online," described the many techniques she uses to identify useful sites, from conversations with colleagues, to subscribing to listservs, to using a variety of search engines to discover new resources.

Phyllis Holman Weisbard, Women's Studies Librarian for the University of Wisconsin System, gave a presentation titled, "Fantasies, Foibles, and Facts: Promoting Women's Studies Online." She used a timeline--from the 1960s, to the present, to its possible future--to reflect on how far reference in the field of Women's Studies has come. This comparison revealed that thirty years ago, it was a challenge to find scholarly information on women. In 1996, Women's Studies is a recognized academic discipline, expectations of library patrons are high, and several databases devoted to women now exist.

Ralph Ferragamo, President and CEO of Softline Inc. spoke on "The Birth of a Database: Women 'R'" He described the development of this full-text product, articulating the numerous decisions a publisher must make as it creates a new resource that satisfies its audience. Among the choices Softline addressed for Women 'R' were the selection of a software platform, the level of indexing, and possible partnerships with other publishers.

Congratulations to the Program Planning Committee, Rita Pellen (Chair), Grace Jackson-Brown, Kris Gerhard, May Jafari, Vicki Litzinger, and Shelley Arlen, on a very successful program.
—Emily Silverman

ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND RESEARCH LIBRARIES**WOMEN'S STUDIES SECTION****STRATEGIC PLAN (draft)****MISSION**

The Women's Studies Section of ACRL promotes interest in and provides quality information about Women's Studies for librarians, scholars, students, publishers and others interested in issues related to Women's Studies in academic and research libraries.

The Women's Studies Section of ACRL promotes the highest level of involvement for librarians and others in recognizing and improving the status of women in librarianship, access of all women to information resources, and the diversity of our profession.

VISION

The Women's Studies Section will continue to broaden the availability of Women's Studies materials within the academic community and the ability of Women's Studies librarians and other academic librarians to provide access to these collections. The Women's Studies Section will provide leadership in shaping the nature of this information by fostering cooperation among Women's Studies librarians, scholars, students, and publishers. In a profession numerically dominated by women, WSS will work with other ALA groups and other national organizations to monitor and improve the status of women in librarianship, to promote library and information services to women, and to increase the diversity of our membership and our programming.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 1

Continue to broaden the availability of WS materials within the academic community and the ability of WS librarians and others to provide access to these collections.

1.1. The Women's Studies Section will continue to produce bibliographies and other information resources for Women's Studies and to make them as widely available as possible.

1.2. The Women's Studies Section will continue to work with publishers of indexes and bibliographies to ensure thorough inclusion of Women's Studies sources and scholarship in these publications; additionally, the
(continued on page 5)

Internet Sources of Interest

Please send Internet "finds" to Charlene Hovatter at cehova@vms.cis.pitt.edu

In an attempt to find some WWW sites related to women and politics for this issue's *Internet Sources* column, I discovered two useful search engines/finding tools for information about women.

WWWomen, like Yahoo, has both a keyword search function and category listings for finding information. Their "All about WWWomen" page states "WWWomen fills a need for anyone who is looking for topics relating to women. We are dedicated to finding all sites on the Web relevant to women—from sites about child rearing and pregnancy to sites about civil liberties, careers and religion." In addition to the search functions, they maintain a variety of message board type "chat groups," and conduct informal "polls" on current events. While the comprehensiveness of this resource is questionable, the available information is organized in ways that can be very useful. For instance, the sub-category "Government" under "Community & Government" essentially lists women elected officials and political candidates who have Web pages. WWWomen is available at

<http://www.wwwomen.com/>

Women's Connection Online, previously affiliated with Prodigy online service, is now available on the World Wide Web. Only a small section of this site is dedicated to providing access to "Women's Internet Resources". Rather, the site consists primarily of locally maintained brief articles on topics such as "Current News" and "Women's Organizations". The source of the information is listed at the end of each article. This site also contains an "Information Library", packed with quick facts and articles on a number of topics. For instance, the section on "Politics" includes such things as tables showing voter turnout in presidential election years by gender and articles on how to visit your congressperson. You can find this resource at

<http://www.womenconnect.com/>

The League of Women Voters *Election '96* page is a great spot for finding a variety of election information. Their site includes guides which provide an overview of the issues in the election, results of voter surveys, and a lot of information about the Motor Voter registration program, in addition to links to other election-related

Web sites. You can find the Election '96 page at <http://www.electriciti.com/~lwwvus/elect.html/>

"Women in Politics" was created by a Library Science class at University of Maryland. The most useful parts of this site are the index, which provides a timeline of women in politics in the United States, and the bibliography. The other sections are brief narratives regarding the roles and history of women in politics in the U.S. This site is at

<http://www.glue.umd.edu/~cliswp/>

One of the links from the above page is to the League of Women Voters and *Ladies Home Journal* "Power the Vote" page. This page has interviews with political figures, candidate profiles, guides to understanding and rating debates and deconstructing political language, and facts and figures about women in politics. You can check out this page at

<http://www.lhj-lwv.com/>

ForeFront Connect claims to be "...your one-stop source for comprehensive non-partisan information about women, politics, and public affairs." Here you'll find directory type information, reproductions or summaries of articles and studies, and links to other Internet resources in eight general categories, including "Government," "Election '96'," and "Money and Business." This site is still under development, but you can take a look at

<http://www.ffconnect.com/>

On a more general note, both of the major U.S. political parties are online. The Republican National Committee lives at

<http://www.rnc.org/>

The Democratic Party is online at

<http://www.democrats.org/>

On these pages, you'll find party platforms, election news, coverage of conventions and debates, assorted propaganda, and pot-shots at the opposing party.

Disclaimer: Due to the political nature of the above sites, most of are rife with bias. Proceed with caution!



(continued from page 3)

section will continue to conduct studies and assessment programs that monitor the status of the inclusion of Women's Studies related material in these and similar resources.

1.3. The Women's Studies Section will provide programming and discussion opportunities that highlight successful cooperative projects among these groups.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2

Foster cooperation among Women's Studies librarians, scholars, students and publishers.

2.1. The Women's Studies Section will continue to work closely with groups in ALA such as the Feminist Task Force and the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship.

2.2. The Women's Studies Section will re-establish links with related groups and organizations, including the National Women's Studies Association and the National Council for Research on Women.

2.3. The Women's Studies Section will begin to work with library schools to encourage and support a curriculum more inclusive of women's issues and research, as well as to provide them materials and opportunities to encourage women students to become involved with the profession.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 3

Work within ALA as well as nationally to monitor and improve the status of women in the profession and to ensure quality, unlimited access to library and information services to women and other under-represented groups.

3.1. The Women's Studies Section will monitor the national political environment, particularly activities and legislation on affirmative action, and communicate the need for action to the ALA Washington office.

3.2. The Women's Studies Section will be an advocate for attention to gender issues in information literacy efforts, particularly in the Internet environment, and work actively to shape the presence of Women's Studies in evolving information technologies.

3.3. The Women's Studies Section will strengthen its cooperation with other ALA groups concerned with

women in the profession to work in a more organized manner on issues within ALA relating to women.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 4

Increase the diversity of the section's membership and programming.

4.1. The Women's Studies Section will increase membership recruitment and mentoring efforts, particularly for women of color.

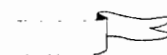
4.2. The Women's Studies Section will actively seek programming opportunities with other ACRL and ALA units representing women of color and other minority groups.

4.3. The Women's Studies Section will ensure that the section's programming represents the interests of Women's Studies librarians and other women in the profession, regardless of ethnicity, class or sexual orientation.



CONGRATULATIONS TO BERNICE LACKS ON HER RETIREMENT!

Whereas Bernice Lacks has made many contributions to Women's Studies librarianship and to the Women's Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries from its inception, including editing the Women's Studies portion of *Magazines for Libraries* for a number of years, and coordination of the Women's Studies Section list of core bibliographies, and participation in the original Women's Studies Indexing Project, and whereas Bernice Lacks is entering retirement from active employment in librarianship in November, 1996, therefore, be it resolved, that the Women's Studies Section thanks Bernice Lacks for her service and wise counsel, and wishes her a very happy retirement.



Kudos and News

Please send news items to Charlene Hovatter at cehova@vms.cis.pitt.edu

Shelley Arlen is the author of "'For Love of an Idea': Jane Ellen Harrison, Heretic and Humanist," the lead article in *Women's History Review* 5.2 (1996) :165-90.

Sara Brownmiller and Ruth Dickstein announce publication of their book, [An Index to Women's Studies Anthologies: Research Across the Disciplines, 1985-1989](#), by G. K. Hall. This work indexes almost 700 anthologies from the second half of the 1980's and complements an earlier volume which covers 1980-1984. It is available from Simon & Schuster, 200 Old Tappen Road, Old Tappen, NJ 07675-7095, for \$165.00.

Joan Campbell is the new chair of the Boston Library Consortium Women's Studies Collection Development Committee. She is also the new editor of *ACRL/New England Chapter News*. Please send information on events, meetings, workshops, etc., to jcampbell@wellesley.edu.

Laurel Duda was hired as Fisheries Science Reference Librarian at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. In this position, she also manages the local NMFS Science Library and acts as liaison between the two libraries on collection development and services.

Linda Golian, Head, Serials Department, and Rita Pellen, Assistant Director for Public Services, Florida Atlantic University Library, co-authored an article, "Helping Re-entry Women Develop Library Technical Skills and Research Strategies," that was published in *Feminist Collections*, volume 17, no. 2, Winter 1996 : 44-46.

Emily Horning was promoted to Librarian II. Her new title is Librarian for Philosophy and Coordinator, Reference Collections, Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University.

Charlene Hovatter authored a chapter on Women's Studies in *Empowering Students: Hands-on Library Instruction Activities*, edited by Marilyn P. Whitmore, and published by Library Instruction Publications, 1996. For information on ordering this title, contact Marilyn Whitmore at (412)687-1844 or mpw+@pitt.edu.

Marlene Manoff was elected vice chair/chair-elect of the ALCTS CMDS Collection Development Librarians of Academic Libraries Discussion Group.

Sarla Murgai presented a paper at IFLA in Beijing, China, on August 27th, 1996. The title of the paper was "Motivation to Manage: A Comparative Study between Male and Female Library and Information Science Students in the USA and India." It was presented and published under the Round Table on Women's Issues Program. Sarla is an Associate Professor and Reference Librarian at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Jessy Randall is now a Reference Librarian at the Library Company of Philadelphia, a rare book library specializing in printed material and images from revolutionary America through the period following the Civil War. Jessy is in charge of the Women's History materials and welcomes inquiries, particularly those relating to early Philadelphia at kn22@philadelphia.libertynet.org

Celebrating the First Research Level Discrete Women's Studies Library Collection in the University of California Libraries System!

The UCSB Davidson Library held its Ribbon Cutting Grand Opening Ceremony for the Ethnic and Gender Studies Library May 23, 1996, in the UCSB Davidson Library. Discrete collections include Andelson (gay, lesbian, and bisexual); Asian Americans; Black Studies; Coleccion Tloque Nahuaque/Chicano Studies; Native American Studies; and Women's Studies.

Ethnic and gender studies librarians of those collections participated in the planning and implementation process. These discrete collections will permit students and faculty fuller access to research materials for these interdisciplinary subject areas.

All of these collections are represented in the UCSB PEGASUS Online and UC MELVYL Online Systems. A reception followed the ribbon cutting ceremony. Sally Willson Weimer served as Women's Studies Librarian at the time; Nerea Llamas, UCSB, is the new Women's Studies Librarian.

Committee News

The **Communications Committee** is currently working on ways to expand distribution of the WSS Newsletter. The Committee would also like to schedule the Social Hour at a time and place that will enable more members to attend. Please send any suggestions regarding the Social Hour to

Daren Callahan, Chair
dcallaha@lib.siu.edu

The **Collection Development Committee** is continuing with its project to organize Women's Studies resources on the Internet. We are creating an upper level page that will be linked from the Women's Studies Section Web page and a series of specialized pages devoted to Women's Studies resources in specific disciplines. We hope to make the site public some time in March. Section members who are interested in contributing to this project are invited to contact the committee.

Marlene Manoff, Chair
mmanoff@mit.edu

The **Technical Services Committee** is comprised of both technical services and reference librarians who work together to identify and monitor issues and practices in technical services that affect Women's Studies.

The Committee recently completed a project involving recommended subject heading submissions to the Library of Congress.

The incoming chair, Ruth Dickstein, will be working on a project that will consist of evaluating and establishing criteria to evaluate the recent Women's Studies resources available on CD-ROM.

The Technical Services Committee welcomes anyone who would be interested in joining the committee, as well as ideas related to technical services in the broadest interpretation of the term.

Mila
Su
mcs1@email.psu.edu



Women's Studies Section COMMITTEE INTEREST FORM

Name: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

Please indicate committees on which you are interested in serving, and number your preferences:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| _____ Collection Development Committee | _____ Program Planning Committee |
| _____ Communications Committee | _____ Publications Committee |
| _____ Nominating Committee | _____ Social Issues/Education Committee |
| | _____ Technical Services Committee |

Other current ALA or ACRL committee assignments:

Please mail to: Jessica Grim, Assistant Librarian
Oberlin College Library
Oberlin, OH 44074

🕒 WSS MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE WASHINGTON, DC CONFERENCE*

DATE AND TIME TBA		General Membership Meeting
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16	9:30a.m. - 12:30p.m.	All WSS Committee Meetings
	6:00p.m. - 7:00p.m.	Social Hour
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17	9:30a.m. - 11:00a.m.	Discussion Meeting
	2:00p.m. - 4:00p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting [†]

**Check conference schedule for locations and room numbers*

†There will be no Saturday Executive Committee meeting at this conference

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