



## Women's Studies Section Newsletter

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Fall 2003

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

### San Diego in 2004!

Join the Women's Studies Section for the Midwinter Discussion on Monday from 9:30—11 (watch the listserv for hotel/room announcements). This year's topic is "Serials, the Ever—Growing Monster: How do We Deal with Continuous Escalating Costs and Cancellations?" Discussion will focus on how different campuses are responding to the continuing "serials crisis." How are faculty engaged in cancellation decisions? Are women's studies periodicals particularly at risk? What strategies are being used in your library to control serials costs? Is there a way to evaluate aggregator packages? Join us for a lively discussion in sunny San Diego!

*-Ruth Dickstein*

### NWSA in Wisconsin

For the first time in a few years, the National Women's Studies Association's Annual Conference and ALA Annual Conference will not conflict in June 2004. I want to encourage WSS members to consider presenting or attending. The NWSA conference will be June 17th—20th in Milwaukee. This year's theme is "Women in the Middle: Borders, Barriers, and Intersections." Plenary panel sessions on generations; globalization; and feminist uses of science and technology are being organized. There will also be an imbedded conference on "Coalitions and Conflict Across Difference." Information about the conference and a link to the call for proposals is

at <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CWS/nwsa>. The submission deadline is December 9th. I am co-chairing a video/film series which runs continuously through most of the conference and we welcome recommendations on fairly recent videos you've seen that would be good to show. Please contact me at [pweisbard@library.wisc.edu](mailto:pweisbard@library.wisc.edu)

*-Phyllis Holman Weisbard*

### Get Your Ears Out!

ALA is heading for Orlando, Florida for its 2004 Annual Conference. Stay tuned for details in the spring newsletter.

### Welcome New Members!

<i>Daria Carle</i>	<i>Corinne Ebbs</i>
<i>Susanna Eng</i>	<i>Ana Fontoura</i>
<i>Lory Gallo</i>	<i>Susan Garcia</i>
<i>Diane Gwamanda</i>	<i>Julia Hendry</i>
<i>Josephine Kujawa</i>	<i>Rudy Leon</i>
<i>Kirtley Ann Luney</i>	<i>Jennifer Moore</i>
<i>Toby Matoush-Gyotoku</i>	<i>Ann Webb</i>
<i>Jennifer Paustenbaugh</i>	<i>Kathleen Murphy</i>
<i>Austin Booth</i>	<i>Christine Hannon</i>
<i>Debra Mandel</i>	<i>Sally Moffitt</i>
<i>Patricia Pettijohn</i>	<i>Eileen Welch</i>

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Newsletter**

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The *WSS Newsletter* welcomes contributions from readers. Send articles, items of interest, and news to the editors, preferably in electronic format.

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**WSS Officers 2002/03:**

Sandy River, Chair  
Ruth Dickstein, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect  
Kayo Denda, Secretary  
Cindy Ingold, Member-at-large  
Kelly Hovendick, Member-at-large

**Notes from the Chair**

As library budgets are strained and sometimes reduced, librarians are becoming experts at developing Plan B, the workaround that lets us honor our commitments to our users and institutions under adverse circumstances. This past summer WSS joined countless ALA groups in developing Plan B when the SARS threat disrupted our Toronto plans. Those of us who attended certainly missed you who were prevented from attending, but the work of the Section continued. Prior to the conference, the Executive Committee determined by e-mail poll that we would allow committee chairs to determine whether their committees would meet in Toronto. Many committees met, and those that did not each developed their own Plan B for accomplishing their work. Both the Executive Committee and General Membership meetings were held, and a number of us relaxed a little during the social hour. Unfortunately, the large number of panelists and moderators who could not attend the conference forced cancellation of the Monday program. The good news -- another workaround -- is the talk of developing a similar program on publishing at the 2005 Annual conference.

Looking forward to Midwinter in sunny San Diego, I hope you will join us on Monday for our discussion session. We will officially congratulate Ruth Dickstein and Sherri Barnes as they receive their award plaques from Greenwood and Routledge. Ruth, as Vice-Chair / Chair-Elect will then lead a discussion on "Serials, the Evergrowing Monster." We'll talk about how we're dealing with escalating costs and cancellations and share our experiences with faculty involvement in cancellation decisions and our sense of whether women's studies periodicals are particularly at risk.

Finally, let me express my thanks for the support I received as I substituted for Dolores Fidishun in both Philadelphia and Toronto. While Dolores functioned as a behind-the-scenes chair, she provided me with all the information, advice, and good spirits I needed to conduct meetings at both conferences. I also greatly appreciated the combined experience and good sense of the Executive Committee members who guided me when I wasn't quite sure of myself in Exec meetings. Members often comment on WSS being a friendly section, but it is also a very supportive group and a good place to grow professionally. Thanks to all.

-Sandy River  
sandy.river@ttu.edu

**Newly Expanded WAVE!**

The UW System Women's Studies Librarian's Office maintains a free database of information on documentary, experimental, and feature film and video productions by and about women. It is called WAVE: Women's AudioVisuals in English. Over 600 new records were uploaded in September, bringing the total to 1,895. WAVE also includes works in other languages if they are available sub-titled in English. A companion web page, recently updated lists, contact information on about 500 distributors, including links to their websites. Both WAVE and the companion web page are linked from the homepage of the Librarian's Office, <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/>. The direct URL to the database is <http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/WAVE>. WAVE is an excellent source of information about many videos produced in the 1990s and early 21st century, with occasional records on earlier material. It is NOT a record of the holdings of University of Wisconsin System libraries. For further information about the database, see "About WAVE: Women's Audio-Visuals in English," at <http://webcat.library.wisc.edu:3200/WAVE/About.html>. Since WAVE is an ongoing project, we welcome information about new productions.

*-Phyllis Holman Weisbard  
Pweisbard@library.wisc.edu*

**Feminist-Friendly Blogs and E-Zines**

Are you looking for a daily infusion of feminist-friendly thinking and commentary on the world about you? Check out some of these feminist-friendly blogs and e-zines!

Alas, A Blog

<http://www.amptoons.com/blog/>

Bitch Magazine's (s)hitlist

<http://www.bitchmagazine.com/> - click on (s)hitlist

Blog Sisters

<http://blogsisters.blogspot.com/>

Librarian.net

<http://www.librarian.net/>

Ms. Musings

<http://www.msmagazine.com/blog/>

*-Megan Adams*

**WSS Awards Provide Acknowledgment for Achievement**

Do you ever wish you could recognize a colleague for their work in Women's Studies Librarianship, for a specific achievement in Women's Studies librarianship or the creation of materials that are important to Women's Studies librarians? Now is your chance to think about those who have made important contributions to our discipline and to nominate them for one of the Women's Studies Section awards! Not only will they be recognized for their achievement but each of the awards comes with a \$1,000 prize.



You can truly recognize a section foremother or someone else who has been instrumental in our field through a nomination for the ACRL WSS Award for Career Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship sponsored by Greenwood Publishing Group. Nominees should have demonstrated significant achievements and contributions in one or more of the following areas:

- Service within the organized profession through ACRL/WSS and/or related organizations;
- Academic/research library service in the area of women's studies;
- Research and publication in areas of academic/research library services in women's studies;
- Planning and implementation of academic/research library programs in women's studies disciplines of such exemplary quality that they could serve as a model for others.

If you want to recognize someone for a noteworthy achievement, nominate them for the ACRL WSS Award for Significant Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship sponsored by Routledge Press. This award recognizes one-time achievement, by an individual or a group, during the particular year of the award. Achievement may be in any area of academic Women Studies Librarianship, including:

- Publication of a monograph, journal article, CD ROM, or website;
- Talk or other presentation at a nationally recognized conference;
- Innovations in library instruction in Women's Studies;
- Development of an exemplary program to serve Women's Studies students and/or faculty;
- Significant creative & innovative contribution to the work of the ACRL Women's Studies Section.

One of the important things that I have experienced in WSS is the quality of the people that we work with on a day-to-day basis. Why not take the time to nominate someone that you feel deserves to be acknowledged? More information on the awards, as well as nomination forms can be found at <http://libr.org/WSS/awards/index.html>. In addition, if you have any questions about the awards feel free to contact Dolores Fidishun at [dx19@psu.edu](mailto:dx19@psu.edu) or one of the other members of the awards committee: Sara Brownmiller, Regan Brumagen, Ellen Greenblatt and Sally Weimer.

*-Dolores Fidishun*

### **Two Anniversaries, Two Events, Two Exhibits: One Center for Women's History**

This fall the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture at Duke University commemorated two historic events-- the 15th anniversary of the establishment of a center for women's history and culture at Duke, and the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade*. From October 30 through November 1, 2003, the Bingham Center hosted an academic symposium titled *Abortion: Research, Ethics, and Activism* in order to raise awareness of the importance of primary source materials to scholarship and activism on this topic and to explore the ways in which the history of abortion affects its future. The 15th anniversary reception, which opened the symposium, provided an opportunity to celebrate the work of the Bingham Center and honor many of the people who have been part of the Center's first 15 years including special guests Sallie Bingham and the Center's founding director Ginny Daley.

In order to highlight fifteen years of documenting women's history and to emphasize the range of formats, time periods, experiences, and perspectives included in the holdings of the Bingham Center, two exhibits were mounted in conjunction with these events: *The Sallie Bingham Center: Fifteen Years and Counting* and *A Century of Choices: Selections from the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture*. These exhibits included everything from 19<sup>th</sup> century letters and diaries to 21<sup>st</sup> century contraceptive devices and political tracts.

Through a combination of plenary addresses and breakout sessions, the symposium addressed the intersection of feminism and abortion rights, the evolution of medical ethics, international perspectives on access to abortion, and many other topics. It offered an opportunity for faculty, students, and staff from all over the Duke University and Medical Center communities to join creators of collections held by the Bingham Center in engaging these topics. Staff of the Center are hopeful that the symposium opened doors to new collaborations and historicized and contextualized the issue of abortion. In doing so, the coordinated activities facilitated the pursuit of common ground and shared understandings, and improved our understanding of the relationship of the academy to a social movement and to social justice in general.

Here's to many more years of preserving, promoting, and providing access to women's history!!

-Laura Micham

For more information about the Sally Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture, go to <http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/women/>

***Interested in learning more about archives? Join the Women's Studies Section for the 2004 Annual Program in Orlando, "Telling Our Stories Now: Women's Archives in the Digital Age."***

## Women's Studies Section Committee Reports

### Instruction Committee

The Committee has completed Instruction Guides for databases including Women's Studies International, Gerritsen Collection of Women's History Online, Alternative Press Index, Contemporary Women's Issues (from three vendors), GenderWatch, North American Women's Letters and Diaries, and Sexual Diversity Studies: Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Abstracts. These have been approved by the Publications Committee and the Executive Committee approved. These will be sent to Megan Adams for posting to the WSS website.

### Electronic Resources

This committee's current project is to identify and assess women's studies related content in non-commercial Web-based digital archives. The primary interest is to locate sub-collections in the archives relevant to women and women's issues, to highlight useful search strategies, and to identify keywords best suited for retrieval of the information. The members reported on previously assigned archival sites and had a lively exchange that included issues on general and women's focused contents, portal navigation, and controlled vocabulary of each one of the thirteen archival sites. The discussion centered on the methodology of analyses and as a result, the usefulness of the template as a tool and its elements for analyses was agreed upon. The members will start using the recommended template as a tool to contribute for Mid-Winter.

### Collection Development Committee

The Committee had a lively and productive meeting that focused primarily on the continued development of a website of collection development resources for women's studies. The site features a variety of components, which we hope will be useful to librarians working on collection development in women's studies. These include a checklist to evaluate women's studies collections; women's studies publishers; film and video resources; keeping current with women's studies scholarship; award winning and notable titles; and a bibliography of articles on collection development in this dynamic field. In

addition, we will be investigating other possible elements to add. The committee aims to complete the initial website development by spring 2003, then announce to WSS membership via WSS-L. In other business, the committee also reviewed the status of the 2003 Core Lists and the forthcoming publication of *Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography, 1986-1999* by Linda Krikos and Cindy Ingold.

### Program 2004 Committee

The 2004 Program will be "Telling Our Stories Now: Women's Archives in the Digital Age." The Committee briefly reviewed the proposal that was submitted to ACRL/ALA and talked about the timing of the program. The Committee then began discussing what topics to propose to the program panelists. Presenters will be asked to describe their archival collections and collaborations and digital initiatives relating to them. The committee closed the meeting by starting to edit the program description to make it suitable for future publicity opportunities.

### Communications Committee

The Committee began by brainstorming ideas for inclusion in the fall WSS newsletter. There was also discussion about the recent move of the Section website to a new domain and suggestions for new topics to be included. Mention was made that the new website URL was changed on the WSS brochures. Committee members also discussed new ideas for recruitment and representation of the Section on NMRT and the ACRL Membership Committee.

### Research Committee

The Committee began with a report on a project to review publications on women's studies librarianship to see where gaps exist. The committee hopes to have progress toward a research agenda so as to guide women's studies librarians in selecting important topics about which to research and publish. They hope to have a working product at Midwinter 2004. They are using a bibliography generated by a committee member and hope to have as a by-product a full bibliography on women's studies librarianship.



## National Magazine Taps Librarian Expertise with Debut of Online Book Club

The first of 24 librarian book recommendations debuted on June 9 as part of *Woman's Day* magazine's online book club, available at [www.womansday.com](http://www.womansday.com). This is the first-ever formal book club for the publication, whose Web site receives nearly 300,000 visitors every month.

Twelve librarians representing ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries), PLA (Public Library Association) and RUSA (Reference and User Services Association) contributed book titles and reviews to the book club. Each librarian was asked to submit two book titles that would appeal to the *Woman's Day* reader. They also submitted discussion questions or personal thoughts about the books to encourage discussion among book club participants. Each title will be featured for two weeks, with the last title appearing the week of May 7, 2004.

"Reading is among our readers' favorite pastimes, so I'm especially pleased to provide our readers them and *Womansday.com* users with a variety of book choices," said Jane Chesnutt, editor-in-chief, *Woman's Day*. "I know this club will be met with an enthusiastic response."

The book club is currently featured on the site's "Community" section at [www.womansday.com/community](http://www.womansday.com/community). Discussion about the books will appear in the "Book Club Forum" section of the site.

The book club marks an expansion of ALA's partnership with the magazine. The Put it in Writing @ your library™ program began during National Library Week 2002, with eight libraries hosting sold-out workshops for aspiring writers led by *Woman's Day* writers and editors. Following the first year's success, the number of workshop locations was doubled during National Library Week 2003.

*Woman's Day*, published by Hachette Filipacchi Media U.S., Inc., is a founding partner in The Campaign for America's Libraries. Other founding partners include 3M Library Systems, Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), Major League Baseball, Morningstar Foods Inc., maker of Hershey's Milk, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage.

For more information about The Campaign for America's Libraries, including how to subscribe to a discussion list for the latest updates and idea-sharing, see the ALA Web site at [www.ala.org/@yourlibrary](http://www.ala.org/@yourlibrary). Libraries are encouraged to send multiple hard-copy samples of how they are involved in the campaign to: Megan Humphrey, ALA Public Information Office, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611. Samples may also be sent electronically to: [atyourlibrary@ala.org](mailto:atyourlibrary@ala.org).

***Nancy the Librarian is the talk of the country! Though Nancy resides in Seattle, the craze of the publication of her new book, "Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment and Reason" and its accompanying librarian action figure hit the front page of the Arts Section in the New York Times on Oct. 9th (lengthy article with large photo nonetheless!). Though I'd been tracking this west coast craze, I had no idea that this was NYT material.***

***Whether you're happy or horrified that an action figure librarian "with amazing push-button shushing action!" has been produced, you've got to admit it has definitely brought some attention to our often over-looked profession without mention of the Patriot Act, filters or Ashcroft.***

***One question, though — what happened to "Barbie the Librarian??" Last time I checked, the architects were beating us bad in the fight for the next doll in the "I can be..." series. Equal opportunity, ladies.....***

**Women's Studies Section**  
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**WSS Schedule**

*Friday, January 9th*  
Awards Committee(closed) 4:30—5:30

*Saturday, January 10th*  
Leadership Orientation 9:30—10:30

*Sunday, January 11th*  
All—Committee 9:30—12:30  
Awards Committee 10:30—12:00 (closed)  
General Membership 4:30—5:30  
Social 5:45—??

*Monday, January 12th*  
Discussion Group 9:30—11:00  
Executive Committee 11:30—1:30

**ALA Midwinter**

**Meeting**

**2004**

**San Diego, CA**

