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NEWSLETTER

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Getting Published: From Practice to Print 2005 WSS Annual Program

"If you have a good article, and you've done good research, you *will* get published." Karyle Butcher provided these words of encouragement at this year's Women's Studies Section Annual program, "Getting Published: From Practice to Print." The panel presenters discussed several aspects of the research and publishing process. Butcher, founding editor of *portal: Libraries and the Academy*, and Theresa Kemp, co-editor of *Feminist Teacher* covered a range of topics in their talks, including reasons for publishing, the barriers and obstacles many face when attempting to publish, cultivating ideas for research and the common reasons articles are rejected by a publisher.

There are many places to get ideas for research, starting with one's own institution.

Butcher emphasized that publishing needs to come from all kinds of libraries, and encouraged people to look at the issues being discussed within their li-

braries. She also outlined some specific areas she sees as potential topics for research, including: intellectual property issues, unique collaborations amongst individuals and institutions, usability studies, fundraising and development, and unsuccessful programming or partnerships.

Kemp suggested starting research in stages, such as conducting a poster session or delivering a presentation before writing an article or book length work. Not only does this help to break down the writing and research process into manageable parts, it provides an opportunity to receive important feedback. Taking a new look at old assumptions or truisms held by the profession may also provide inspiration for relevant research. Finally, both Butcher and Kemp emphasized that writing for publication can be a fun and gratifying experience.

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Newsletter Editor Opening

WSS Newsletter Editor needed for two year term, beginning Fall 2006 issue. **Responsibilities:** Serve staggered two-year term, the first year as Assistant Editor, the second year as Editor. Editors are non-voting ex-officio members of the Executive Committee and of the Publications Committee. Editors may divide up the editorial and text inputting tasks as is most convenient for them. Camera-ready copy is sent to ACRL for production and mailing. Editors solicit input and news from WSS Officers, committee chairs and members, and may write original copy. At least one editor should be at WSS Executive, Publications, and Program Committee meetings; Membership meetings; and Leadership Orientations. Editors also must attend the ACRL meetings for newsletter editors. **Qualifications:** Knowledge of or willingness to learn Microsoft Publisher; interest in increasing one's knowledge of how WSS operates; desire to add a national service accomplishment to one's CV. Enjoys working with a active group of dedicated librarians. Contact Sherri L. Barnes at barnes@library.ucsb.edu.

Women's Studies Section

Newsletter is published semi-annually by the Association of College and Research Libraries', Women's Studies Section, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, 1-800-545-2433, ext. 2519

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The *WSS Newsletter* welcomes contributions from members. Please send articles, items of interest, and news to the editors, preferably in electronic format. ©American Library Association, 2005 ISSN 0895-691X

WSS Officers 2005-2006:

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Notes from the Chair

As I write this note to you, sitting in my office on the first day of September, I am truly devastated by the horrifying loss of life and property on the Gulf Coast and in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina just a few days ago. It is still much too early to know whether or not ALA Annual 2006 will be able to be held in New Orleans, or whether it will move to another city. Since how and where we will meet is so uncertain right now, it seems time to mention the advances ALA has been making in its online community software.

You may remember from the Spring 2005 newsletter that virtual meetings were the topic of discussion at ALA Midwinter 2005. There was no clear consensus that WSS members wanted to move away from face-to-face committee meetings in favor of virtual meetings for either annual ALA conferences or midwinter meetings. In Chicago this summer, we learned that ALA will be rolling out a new software package called ALA Online Communities. According to Mary Jane Petrowski of ACRL, the software package should be ready for all ALA groups to use in fall 2005.

ACRL has developed a Virtual Meeting FAQ that answers the many questions that have been raised about what constitutes a meeting, what constitutes a working session and about virtual voting. It can be found at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/> - About ACRL - Resources for Working with ACRL - Tipsheets and FAQs - FAQ for Virtual Meetings.

It is my hope that the ALA online community software will allow more WSS members to participate in the work of WSS and to participate in building the community of WSS, regardless of member location or travel budget. WSS committees and groups who wish to use the new ALA online community software should contact me at madams1@swarthmore.edu to facilitate the process.

I hope to see many of you in San Antonio for Midwinter. Please keep all our WSS friends and colleagues in the Gulf Coast and New Orleans areas in your thoughts.

Megan Adams, Swarthmore College

Are the Library Leaders of Tomorrow Working in Your Library?

Support diversity in librarianship by encouraging perspective librarians of color to apply for the ALA Office of Diversity Spectrum Scholarships. If you know a beginning library school student, library worker, or college graduate from an underrepresented group who might help shape the future of library services, please tell them about Spectrum. Recipients receive a \$5,000 scholarship, mentoring, professional development opportunities, and leadership training. Direct applicants to the Web site at <http://www.ala.org/ala/diversity/spectrum/spectrum.htm> or have them email spectrum@ala.org, or call 1-800-545-2433 (X5048).

Women Working Broadens it's Scope

The Harvard University Library Open Collections Program has broadened the scope of *Women Working* to include materials published prior to 1870. The collection now includes 337 works published prior to 1870 and more than 3,000 published 1870 and later. This change in scope is reflected in the change in the title of the Web site to *Women Working, 1800-1930*.

The pre-1870 materials include works on the conduct of life for women and men, female education, biographies, and a full run of the *Lowell Offering* and its successors from 1840-1850.

A new magazine page brings together a sampling of women's magazines including *Dorcas Magazine* (8 issues), *Ladies' Home Journal* (8 issues), *Woman's Home Companion* (6 issues), and *The Woman's Magazine* (4 issues). Trade and consumer catalogs have expanded to 73 catalogs covering beauty products, clothing, groceries and recipes, home appliances and technology, household goods, machinery, office and school supplies, reading materials, recreation, and transportation. All the magazines and trade catalogs were digitized in color and are delivered as Jpeg 2000 images that provides image zoomability.

Women and the Medical Profession

Among many other topics, *Women Working* documents the debate surrounding women's admission to medical schools and their practice of medicine. The writings of Elizabeth Blackwell, James R. Chadwick, Samuel Gregory, Mary Putnam Jacobi, Marie Elizabeth Zakrzewska, and many others explore the various sides of this issue.

One of the first medical schools for women was organized in Boston in 1848 by the Female Medical Education Society. Its goal was to provide for the education of midwives, nurses, and female physicians. *Women Working* has digitized the annual reports of the Society and the New England Female Medical College from its founding in 1848 to its merger with Boston University Medical School in 1874. From 1847 to 1865, Dr. Samuel Gregory kept a scrapbook of advertisements, press reports, and newspaper and magazine clippings on female medical

education and activities of the New England Female Medical College. This material is complemented by a by a scrapbook assembled by Dr. James Chadwick, a specialist in women's health, an advocate for the admission of women into medical schools and medical societies, and founder of the Boston Medical Library. From 1879 to 1884 Dr. Chadwick assembled a collection of over 100 letters, newspaper clippings, and manuscript notes on the debate over whether to admit women to membership in the Massachusetts Medical Society. Together these digitized scrapbooks provide considerable insight into the 19th century debates on women in medicine.

The [New England Hospital for Women and Children](#) in Boston, Massachusetts was founded by Dr. Marie Zakrzewska in 1862 with three main purposes: to provide women with medical aid from competent physicians of their own sex; to provide educated women

with an opportunity for practical study in medicine; and to train nurses. Staffed by women, the hospital provided women's health and pediatric care within a single facility and was the sec-

ond hospital for women and children established in the US.

Women Working has digitized the annual reports of the hospital from 1863 to 1930. These reports contain reports on patient care, including the nativity of patients, diseases and treatments, changes in hospital practice, and insights into women's health issues over 67 years.

Also included are biographies of the most famous women doctors of the nineteenth century.

Women Working also provides books and pamphlets on related topics: nursing, midwifery, hospitals, physicians, medical practice, and health and hygiene. The book collection, and the unique manuscripts in *Women Working*, together provide a broad overview of issues relating to women in medicine and women and health in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Tom Michalak, Founding Director and publisher of the Harvard University Library Open Collections Program, recently retired, cruikshank1@comcast.net

<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/>

Berkshire Conference Report Stacy Shotsberger Russo, CSU Fullerton

History

The Berkshire Conference of Women Historians was founded in 1930 in response to the professional isolation experienced by women academics. Every three years the “Big Berks” or Berkshire Conference on the History of Women is held. The 13th conference was recently held at Scripps College in Claremont, California, June 2-5, 2005. The conference provided many events of interest to women’s studies librarians, including a program on archival collections reported on below.

Iowa State University Archives of Women in Science and Engineering

- ◆ Over 150 collections, including papers from women’s science organizations.
- ◆ 50 oral history interviews of women chemists
- ◆ Personal papers of Mary Singleton, who filed a successful sexual discrimination class action lawsuit against Lawrence Livermore Lab

Sophia Smith Collection (SSC) - Smith College

- ◆ Papers of Wynona I. Ward, founder of Have Justice – Will Travel. The organization fights incest by providing legal and social services to rural women in Vermont.
- ◆ Papers of Loretta Ross, a founder of SisterSong: Women of Color Reproductive Health Collective.
- ◆ Papers of Fran Henry, founder of Stop it Now!, an organization aimed at preventing child sexual abuse.
- ◆ Recently opened collections (2002-2005): microfilm of the YWCA USA archives; papers of labor organizer and Communist Party member Anne Burlak Timpson (1911-2002); records of Planned Parenthood Federation of America; papers of poet, writer, and artist Patricia Beck (1924-1978); and papers of historian Mary Sheldon Barnes (1850-1889). Future projects: The Voices of Feminism Project, which will include 50 oral history interviews with Second Wave Feminists; Population and Reproductive Health Project, consisting of interviews with 41 national and international leaders in family planning policy.

Archives Roundtable

The roundtable on archives was chaired by Sherrill Redmon (Smith College). Participants included Kathryn Allamong Jacob (Schlesinger Library); Tanya Zanish-Belcher (Iowa State University Archives of Women in Science and Engineering); and Lisa Rubens (University of California at Berkeley Regional Oral History Office). The following provides a brief overview of just some of the resources found in these amazing collections.

University of California at Berkeley Regional Oral History Office (ROHO)

- ◆ Over 2,000 oral histories.
- ◆ Suffragist Oral History Series.
- ◆ Rosie the Riveter WWII American Homefront Project, interviews with San Francisco Bay Area residents
- ◆ Future project: Lisa Rubens’ Women at Cal, which will document the work of senior faculty, the creation of Women’s Studies, and issues of sex equity.

Schlesinger Library

- ◆ Multitude of resources related to Second Wave Feminism (1960s-1970s).
- ◆ Papers of June Jordan (1936-2002). The collection is currently being processed and should be open to researchers, with some restrictions, in approximately a year.
- ◆ Papers of Adrienne Rich, Susan Brownmiller, the recently deceased Andrea Dworkin, and artist Judy Chicago.
- ◆ Women’s organizations archival material: National Organization of Women, Women’s Community Health Center, Boston Women’s Health Book Collective, National Women’s Political Caucus, Women’s Coalition for the Third Century, and many others.

**See page 5 for Online Resources
Related to this Report**

(Continued from page 1)

Getting Published

According to the presenters, there are many strategies an author can utilize to increase the likelihood that their work will be published. Providing a framework or context for the initiatives, programs, and ideas described in a piece helps to make it accessible to a wider audience. It is also important to make sure that the publication to which the work is being submitted has an audience appropriate for the kind of article being considered. Additionally, one way to ensure writing quality is by having a research mentor or small peer group read and critique the work in its various forms.

So, what does it mean to be a feminist editor? Consciousness about providing constructive criticism, listening to one another, and blind refereeing all characterize feminist practice. The mentoring process at *portal* is another example of feminist practice, whereby staff coaches an author whose work is not ready for publication, and assists them with the revision process.

Following the panel presentations, several roundtable discussions continued the themes explored in the presentation and participants were offered an opportunity to engage with issues they felt were most relevant to their research. I participated in two energizing discussions: "Finding Opportunity to Publish and Collaborate" and "Getting Started." Both facilitators and participants shared experiences about research and publication. We identified various avenues for finding potential collaborators, including looking within our own organizations, participating in local and national professional organizations, and joining library and discipline-specific email lists for professionals with similar interests and goals. Balance is an important characteristic of successful collaboration, and we discussed the rewards of finding collaborators with complementary strengths.

In addition to collaboration, other strategies include writing book reviews or building on an article that has already been published. Writing book reviews for publications such as *Choice*, *Kirkus*, and other review journals can be an excellent way to get started and develop your writing technique. Updating the research in an older article is another strategy for beginning researchers. Once the original

author(s) has been contacted, it may be possible to either use the research design outlined in the original article or modify it to add something significant to the research findings. Do the conclusions of the original article still hold true?

Other roundtable discussions gave attendees an opportunity to further explore the themes raised during the presentation. "An Editor's Perspective" (Monica Baron and Theresa Kemp), "Revisions and Turndowns" (Phyllis Holman Weisbard and Janet Fore), "Moving from Presentation to Article" (Nancy Dewald and Dr. Dolores Fidishun), "Writing a Book" (Aline Soules, Cindy Ingold, and Linda Krikos). Notes and handouts from these sessions are available at : <http://www.libr.org/WSS/conference/2005program.html>

By naming and discussing the barriers to research and publication, presenters and roundtable facilitators acknowledged the anxieties and struggles many writers encounter. By discussing the editorial process and collectively outlining strategies relevant to all stages of the research/publication process, attendees developed specific tools and strategies for addressing these surmountable obstacles.

MW Discussion Group

"You mean I can use a 'zine in a research paper?"

We will share ways to use alternative resources or grey literature when teaching women's studies classes. Tell us how you've used multi-media materials, 'zines, blogs or other resources to bring life to the classroom. Monday, 8-10am (tentative).

(Continued from page 4)

Berkshire Report Links

[Berkshire Conference](http://www.berksconference.org/)

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

[Iowa State University Archives of Women in Science and Engineering](http://www.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/wise/wise.html)

<http://www.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/wise/wise.html>

[Schlesinger Library](http://www.radcliffe.edu/schles/)

<http://www.radcliffe.edu/schles/>

[Sophia Smith Collection of Women's History Manuscripts at Smith College](http://www.smith.edu/libraries/libs/ssc/)

<http://www.smith.edu/libraries/libs/ssc/>

Committee Reports From Annual in Chicago

Instruction Committee

At the annual meeting in Chicago, Alicia Daly, Associate Publisher of *Ms Magazine*, visited with the Instruction Committee to gather input on how to increase library subscriptions to *Ms*. (currently MS is only in 4,000 libraries), and how to get faculty to incorporate the magazine into classroom instruction. The Committee discussed upkeep for the database instruction guides and adding new ones. Finally, the Committee gave approval to a draft version of a Web page. We hope to have the Web page up and ready for use by the fall. Once the Web page is up, committee members will send publicity to various publications and email lists advertising the Web page and the work of the Instruction Committee.

Cindy Ingold, Chair

Research Committee

The Research Committee is happy to announce that we have finished the Research Agenda for Women's Studies Librarianship and are now looking for publication outlets. We are going to pursue ACRL's interest in publishing it, but we would also like to revise it heavily and market it to a broader women's studies audience. We discussed future projects for the committee and two ideas were generated 1) create an electronic bulletin board or weblog as a central space for advertising calls for papers and conference announcements that would allow multi-user input, and 2) conduct a survey of section members on what research questions they are interested in, what motivates them to do research, and what support they need as researchers. This information could be used to determine future goals of the committee. Be sure and look for both our research agenda and future interests survey coming soon!

Jennifer Gilley, Chair

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has had a busy year. We created a series of flyers with a 1920s vintage bathing beauty theme. These flyers were available at ALA Midwinter in Boston, ACRL in Minneapolis, and ALA Annual in Chicago. As a way to recruit more people to the WSS social hour, we also passed out cards with this same theme. In

April, we sent flyers promoting the section to all the library schools in the US and Canada. Some of these flyers were posted to student email lists and on boards at the schools. We received a number of student contacts in this way. Successful, well-attended social hours were held in Boston and Chicago. We recently submitted an action plan to ACRL in hopes of getting a library school student outreach program funded. Currently, we are considering ways to enrich the conference socials.

Piper Martin, Chair

Collection Development & Bibliography Committee

The Collection Development and Bibliography Committee discussed the maintenance of existing Web guides available from the Collection Development Resources page (<http://www.libr.org/WSS/committees/colldev.html>). Several of the pages will have new editors this year, and the committee plans to substantially augment the *Core List of Journals in Women's Studies* (<http://libr.org/wss/projects/serial.html>). We also have completed a draft for a *Women's Studies Microfilm Guide*, which we hope to soon make available as a Web page. The committee continues to communicate with the Core Books editors concerning issues related to the database. The group decided to address subject gaps and differences in the scope of the subjects covered in a general statement on the Core Books Web site, which would serve as an explanation of how the lists are chosen and edited to site visitors.

Diana King, Chair

Awards Committee, See program article on page 1, and call for nominations on page 7.

Publications Committee, no report submitted

Nominating Committee, no report submitted

Electronic Resources and Access Committee, no report submitted

Program Committee, no report submitted

See Committee Descriptions at: <http://libr.org/wss/committees/comm.html>

Women's Studies Section Awards

Now is the time to nominate!

The Women's Studies Section awards are given annually to honor distinguished academic librarians who have made outstanding contributions to women's studies through accomplishments and service to the profession. The awards recognize those who have made long-standing contributions to the field during a career (the **Career Achievement Award**) and those who have made significant one-time contributions (the **Significant Achievement Award**).

Nomination Forms: <http://libr.org/wss/awards/index.html>.

Contact Person: Ruth Dickstein, Social Sciences Librarian for History and Women's Studies, University of Arizona Library, at dicksteinr@u.library.arizona.edu

WSS Core Books Database News

The Core Books has a new editor coming on board this fall. Kim Clarke, who maintains the Education subject area, has agreed to become a co-editor taking over for me (Cynthia Johnson). Carrie Kruse will remain as the other co-editor.

Working with the Collection Development Committee, Core Books hopes to create a more systematic process for evaluating what new subject areas should be added to the Core Books database. Of particular concern is geographic scope; we will not be adding new topics this coming year as we try to establish where there are needs and where our coverage is uneven.

Finally, welcome to all our new contributors who are stepping in to maintain pre-existing subjects. And thank you to everyone who responded so enthusiastically when the calls went out for new contributors.

On a personal note, I would like to add that being a co-editor has been a great experience, largely because I have been able to meet, (in person or via email) such a wide variety of people. Thanks especially to my co-editor, Carrie Kruse. Cynthia Johnson

Use the Core Books Database at
<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/ACRLWSS/>

Women's Studies Librarians in Transition

Joan Ariel, has left her Women's Studies Librarian position at the University of California, Irvine, to become shared Print Planning Manager for UC Office of the President Systemwide Library Planning. **Cass Hartnett** will assume Susan Kane's responsibilities as Women's Studies Librarian at the University of Washington. **Mandy Swygart-Hobaugh Ph.D.** (Consulting Librarian for the Social Sciences/Assistant Professor) has been appointed Chair of the Women's Studies Program at Cornell College for the 2005 and 2006 academic years.

Save These Dates

ALA Midwinter, San Antonio, TX January 20-25
NWSA, Oakland, CA June 15-18

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