

Volume 21, no. 2
 Fall 2006
 ISSN 0895-691X

NEWSLETTER

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

Ariel, Broidy, and Dickstein Retire

In 1983, a trailblazing group of librarians interested in women's studies within academic and research libraries established the ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group (1983-1987). In 1987, the group became the ACRL Women's Studies Section.

Joan Ariel, Ellen Broidy, and Ruth Dickstein were there in 1983, and have since made enormous contributions to the institutionalization of women's studies librarianship. Thus, it is with mixed feelings that I announce that all three have recently retired or will be retiring soon.

Earlier this year, Joan Ariel retired from a long career at the University of California (UC). Joan was co-founder and the first chair of WSS. Most of her career was spent as the Women's Studies Librarian at UC Irvine. She ended her career as the Shared Print Planning Manager for UC Systemwide Library Planning in the Office of the President. Since retiring, Joan has

secured a part-time Library Director position at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. The one-person library, located in a historic building, looks out on the exquisite garden and the Santa Inez Mountains.

Ellen Broidy retired September 1, after 25 years at UC. Ellen's career began at UC Irvine and ended at UCLA, where for six years she was Head of Collections, Research and Instructional Services, and Librarian for Anglo-American History, Women's Studies and LGBT Studies. Ellen has published extensively on women's library issues, and has been a frequent presenter and panel moderator. Ellen's retirement plans include continuing to do part-time collections work for UCLA, and making time to revise a couple of her dissertation chapters into an article.

Ruth Dickstein, who has an endowment named after her, is retiring January 31, 2007. Established in 2005, "the Ruth Dickstein Women's Studies Library Endowment will enhance and enrich the women's studies collection at the University of Arizona Libraries by collecting both print and non-print resources for the benefit of students, faculty, and scholars in women's studies and related fields. It will also support the continuing education of a UA Librarian specialist in women's studies who can assist those studying and researching women's issues." Ruth has served as the Reference Librarian, Specialist in Women's Studies and History at UA since 1979.

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Women's Studies Section

Newsletter is published semi-annually by the Women's Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, 1-800-545-2433, ext. 2523

The *WSS Newsletter* is available to all section members at no additional cost.

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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.
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Notes from the Chair

Hello to all new and returning WSS members! All of us are aware of the concerns that many members shared regarding the location of this year's Annual Conference. Many ALA members were unable or chose not to attend this year for a variety of reasons. So I want to take this opportunity to share not just Section-related activities from the conference but the spirit of rebuilding that surrounded me during the conference.

I was awestruck on the shuttle ride from the airport to the city. I hadn't expected to still see so much evidence from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. The driver shared stories and landmarks such as rust lines on steel poles that marked how high the water had risen and stayed for weeks or a bridge which served as a camp site for thousands of residents as they were forced out of their homes and had nowhere else to escape the water. As I checked into my hotel, I was wondering whether I had made the right decision to attend. But as I wandered through the French Quarter, walked into a small gallery and started chatting with the artist/owner, I realized that this was no mistake at all. The gentleman immediately gave me the most sincere smile and thanked me after I told him that I was part of the library conference. He shared that the conference coming to the city was a huge lift for all of New Orleans – the company of visitors, the financial boost to local businesses and a sense of confidence that the city was rebuilding. As I continued to hear the thank you's and receive the smiles from countless New Orleaners throughout my stay, I sometimes felt guilty feeling such graciousness from strangers when I really hadn't done anything unusual. After the devastation and loss that most residents experienced during Hurricane Katrina, many of them were only too willing to share smiles, laughs and stories. Do I sound like a Hallmark commercial? Well, I sorta felt like I was in one for four days. What an inspiration the city and people of New Orleans are!!

Inspiration on a very different level was felt at the variety of Section-related and sponsored activities. Thank you to all for your time and energy that ensures that Section activities happen. I believe that the program this year really brought together a large audience of librarians who may typically not be involved with the Women's Studies Section.

What great creativity on the part of the planners who brought these events together!

If anyone has questions about the Women's Studies Section or is interested in getting involved with Section committees or activities, feel free to contact me.
See you in Seattle.

--Kelly Barrick, Yale University

Doing Information Literacy Differently: The View from Interdisciplinary Studies

How does information literacy look in interdisciplinary fields of study? What challenges do librarians face when integrating information literacy standards and components into instruction for these fields? These are some questions panelists and attendees explored during the ACRL/WSS Annual Program, "Doing Information Literacy Differently: The View from Interdisciplinary Studies." Tiffini Travis, Sara Heitshu, and Sherri Barnes shared their experiences of working with faculty and students in credit, workshop, and course integrated instruction. Though many of the issues and questions raised are similar to those encountered when thinking about information literacy in the disciplines or in general education, panelists highlighted how interdisciplinary inquiry creates rich opportunities for engaging faculty and students with information literacy.

Panelists and attendees explored a range of topics related to collaborating with faculty, engaging students, applying information literacy competency standards, and building support.

Travis, librarian at California State University, Long Beach, described the content, goals, and assessment of a six-week, module-based tutorial in Black Studies to assist faculty with integrating information literacy into their courses. As a result of the tutorial, there was higher demand for instruction, an increase in collaboration between teaching faculty and librarians, and a greater level of investment from faculty in the program. Travis advised those beginning similar endeavors to do focus group analysis, hire a web designer, and publish the results of their work. The tutorial experience taught CSU librarians the importance of pre and post tests, focus groups, and integrating standards at the course outline level.

Sara Heitshu, librarian for American Indian Studies (AIS) at the University of Arizona, has provided course-integrated instruction for

graduate students in the AIS program. She gave an overview of the development and epistemology of AIS, and related this to how she designs instruction. Students' research topics often require them to incorporate a number of disciplinary fields, from history to literature, political science to art. The third panelist, Sherri Barnes, gave many examples of how she teaches broad aspects of research and engages students with information culture in her undergraduate course at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Some of the topics she focused on included: the roles professors and librarians play in the creation and dissemination of information, the universality of citation conventions and formats, and agency in the publication process.

Travis, Heitshu, and Barnes raised several points that highlight how interdisciplinary research lends itself to thinking critically about information literacy. The development and theoretical foundations of interdisciplinary fields often put issues of knowledge production and access at the center. All of the fields represented—AIS, Women's Studies, and Black Studies—developed, for example, in part because of student activism and have challenged the traditional canon. Barnes emphasized that interdisciplinary fields provide opportunities for discussing and integrating information literacy concepts because the comparison of ideas and resources in multiple disciplines occurs naturally. This includes teaching databases, print resources, and publishing conventions across multiple disciplines.

Sometimes the field provides unique opportunities for interacting with students and faculty. Sara Heitshu sees the information literacy concepts she teaches the same as those taught across the curriculum, but she sees the presentation of these concepts and her interaction with students informed by the field itself.

(Con't on page 7)

(Continued from page 1)

Ariel, Broidy, and Dickstein Retire

Upon retirement, Ruth expects to travel and spend more time with her five grandchildren. She's also committed to writing a history of Temple Emanu-El, the first Jewish congregation in the territory of Arizona that will be celebrating its 100 year anniversary in 2010.

Joan advises: "I can only echo Ruth's advice to follow your personal and professional passions. Real gratification comes from working on what you love and believe, not your career. Hold on to Maggie Kuhn's advice to 'speak your mind even if your voice shakes,' and work to make a difference. Even small changes are cumulative; just look at the current vitality of WSS."

Ellen advises: "Don't let the fact that 'Women's Studies Librarian' isn't in your official job title - or that someone else in your library holds that position - keep you from becoming involved in WSS. The section has benefited enormously from the talents, energy, expertise and insights of librarians coming from all sectors of the library. WSS truly reflects the interdisciplinary nature of women's studies and can provide a wonderful home (and anchor) in both the profession and the association."

Joan, Ellen, and Ruth are recipients of the WSS Career Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship Award. Librarians and researchers have benefited immensely from their foresight, activism, scholarship, and service.

Sherri L. Barnes, University of California, Santa Barbara

Save These Dates

**ALA Midwinter, Seattle, WA
January 19-24, 2007**

ACRL Action Plan & Call for Participation

Background on Action Plan

In September 2005, the WSS Membership Committee was pleased to receive confirmation that the ACRL Action Plan that the committee had submitted was approved and funded for the next two years. The goal of the Action Plan is to provide outreach to library school students and to encourage their involvement in ACRL. During presentations to students, WSS is used as an example of how an ACRL section works. These presentations are the central activity of the plan.

After identifying WSS members at institutions that have library schools, members of the Membership Committee contacted these librarians to explain the plan and see if they would be interested in giving a presentation. The committee also developed an online toolkit of materials for presenters. The toolkit includes a PowerPoint presentation, student feedback form, and other documents.

As of August 2006, five successful presentations have been given to students at Pratt Institute (February 2006), University of Arizona (February 2006), University of Tennessee at Knoxville (April 2006), University of Texas at Austin (May 2006), and Emporia University distance students in Corvallis, Oregon (June 2006). Positive feedback was received from both students and the librarian presenters. Of the 22 student feedback forms received, 18 students reported a greater understanding of ACRL.

Call for Participation

Are you interested in outreach to library school students? The WSS Membership Committee has a goal of 10 presentations for this upcoming year. If you are a librarian employed at a university that has a library school, please contact Piper Martin at piper.martin@wright.edu to discuss the opportunity of presenting at your institution! ACRL Action Plan Toolkit available at: <http://www.wright.edu/~piper.martin/wss/wssactionplan.html>

Stacy Russo, WSS Assistant Newsletter Editor

Research Agenda Available Online

Calling all would-be researchers with an interest in women's studies and librarianship! The WSS Research Committee is happy to announce that the Research Agenda for Women's Studies Librarianship is now available on the WSS web site: <http://www.libr.org/wss/committees/research/resagenda.html>

This agenda is the culmination of a multi-year project on the part of the Research Committee to identify needed research that would benefit women's studies librarians in making decisions about the future of our libraries and services.

In order to determine potential research areas, the committee embarked on a project to first identify the research that had previously been conducted. This project resulted in the Bibliography of Women's Studies Librarianship, available online at: <http://www.libr.org/wss/committees/research/bibmain.html>

After collating this initial bibliography, the committee examined each citation as a means to identify research that needed to be revisited as well as areas of study that had never been explored. This effort, along with brainstorming about cutting edge and emerging issues in women's studies and librarianship, resulted in the research agenda.

The agenda is divided into two headings: intellectual access and professional issues. The subheadings under intellectual access all relate to the collection, maintenance, and organization of information related to women's studies and how that information is made accessible to the users who need it. The subheadings under professional issues relate to librarianship and women's studies librarianship and the practitioners thereof.

Now that the committee has met the first goal of their mission statement, to identify needed research, it is time to move on to the next goal: encouraging collaboration and bringing researchers who need projects together with projects that need researchers. It is the committee's hope that new librarians and graduate students in particular will take advantage of the agenda to get started on tenure research, master's theses, or dissertations.

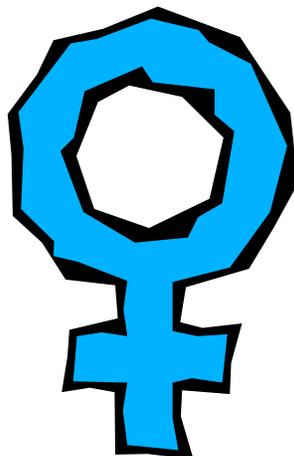
I am additionally happy to announce that an article version of the research agenda, which is enhanced with some preliminary research and case studies, has been accepted for publication by the *National Women's Studies Association Journal*. The article, entitled "Women's Studies Information-Seeking: A State of the Union Address" will come out in Spring 2007 and hopefully gain a wider audience for this project (as well as result in a lot of publicity for the Women's Studies Section in general). This project is the culmination of many years of work on the part of the Research Committee, and we are happy to finally launch it.

Jennifer Gilley, Penn State New Kensington

Announcement

I am pleased to announce that Joy Erickson has filled the open librarian position at the UC Davis Women's Resources & Research Center (<http://wrrc.ucdavis.edu/>). I look forward to working with her to serve the needs of our academic community.

Diana King, University of California, Davis



Committee Reports From Annual in New Orleans

Collection Development and Bibliography Committee

The Collection Development and Bibliography Committee discussed a number of ongoing projects, including the Collection Development Resources web page (<http://www.libr.org/wss/committees/colldev.html>). Some of the pages are in the process of revision, and may have new editors in the future. The committee recently added a new web page of potential use to other committees, which is a guide to resources for the promotion of women's studies projects and publications (<http://www.libr.org/wss/committees/colldevannouncementvenues.html>). We also reviewed the draft of a new women's studies microform guide, which will be sent to the Publications Committee for approval.

The committee met with Core Books representative Carrie Kruse, in order to discuss the organization of topics in the database, potential new topical areas that could realistically be added, and existing topics that could incorporate a slightly different focus. Area studies in particular stood out as topics that could be better developed, including Middle Eastern Women, African Women, East Asian Women, and Literature in Translation.

Diana King, University of California, Davis

Research Committee

At ALA Annual the Research Committee continued discussions about the Research Agenda for Women Studies Librarianship. Now that the agenda is linked on the WSS home page and can be accessed directly from <http://www.libr.org/wss/committees/research/resagenda.html>, the committee brainstormed other ways to promote the agenda. Suggestions included announcing the agenda on several list-servs, such as WSS-L, NexgenLib, and other ACRL research committees. The committee hopes this will encourage librarians looking for research topics to consider tackling these research questions.

Another idea discussed by the committee was enabling others to add to the research agenda. The committee will explore posting the agenda to wiki software so it can be updated communally.

In other business, the committee discussed turnover of committee members and that newcomers to the committee are welcome! If interested, email Jane Nichols at jane.nichols@oregonstate.edu or take a look at all of the WSS Committees at <http://www.libr.org/wss/join.html>.

Jane Nichols, Chair

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee continued to work on our action plan for presenting to library school students. We had five successful presentations last winter and spring, and we are working on doubling that number in the upcoming year. We finalized our PowerPoint presentation for participants and posted it, along with flyers, handouts, and instructions to a toolkit web page. This summer, we also gained administrative control over our listserv, so that we can see how many new members are joining. One of our committee members created New-Orleans themed flyers for the Annual social that we arranged, and the social was very well-attended. At our Annual meeting, we brainstormed for recruitment ideas to increase participants in the action plan. Finally, we are pleased to report that our membership has steadily increased over the past year.

Piper Martin, Chair

Use the Core Books Database at

**[http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/
ACRLWSS/](http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/ACRLWSS/)**

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: Megan Adams Brooks, Research and Instruction Librarian &
Group Manager, Wellesley College, at madams@wellesley.edu.
Deadline: December 3, 2006

Ms. in the Classroom

Ms. Magazine has made it easy to expose your students to a national and global feminist news source. Just as the Wall Street Journal is used in business courses, Ms. can be used as a contemporary reader for classroom discussions, assignments, and extra credit.

Intro to Ms. Program - Each semester Ms. will package together the 3 most recent issues.

Ms. Classic Pak - Two commemorative 30th Anniversary issues of Ms. magazine.

Adding Ms. to women's studies curriculum will spark classroom discussions and connect the student to local, national, and international feminist ideas and actions. Ms. publishes articles that present feminist research in a format that is readily accessible to feminist activists, policy makers, campuses and the general public. Ms. uses race, class and gender in its coverage of a variety of arenas, both globally and nationally, putting a feminist spin on public policy, environment, arts and culture, law, health, money and economics, as well as in its special investigative reports.

Email newsstand@msmagazine.com for more information.

Alicia Daly, Ms. Magazine

(Con't from page 3) Doing Information Literacy Differently

"It isn't that I do anything differently. It is how I approach the students," Heitshu said. Two examples of this are sharing information about her genealogy and the history of her name, and placing the concept of controlled vocabulary within the context of "naming" conventions.

Panelists used information literacy competencies to inform their instructional design in different ways. Barnes views the competencies as goals to be achieved throughout a person's educational career, and reminded attendees to remember this when planning courses. Travis used the standards to organize the modules for the CSU tutorial as each module focused on one standard. Travis also recommended providing faculty with the opportunities to create their own information literacy rubrics. In this way, faculty can define for themselves what information literacy means within their disciplines.

Small groups took up some of the questions raised during the panel presentations and subsequent discussion, including the relationship between cultural values and information literacy, strategic faculty outreach, the challenge of applying standards, and the multiple ways to conceptualize and discuss information literacy.

Heather Tompkins, Carleton College

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

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