



WOMEN'S
STUDIES
SECTION

WOMEN'S STUDIES SECTION NEWSLETTER

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

1997 San Francisco Program



“HIV/AIDS Information for Women: From the Archive to the Street”

**Monday, June 30, 1997
9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

What are some of the most effective and original means of providing information on AIDS and HIV to women today? Come to the Women's Studies Section program and learn how libraries and other organizations are delivering crucial facts to diverse populations. Ellen Broidy, History and Film Studies Librarian at University of California, Irvine, will moderate a panel of four presenters addressing a range of ways in which information on HIV and AIDS is collected, disseminated, received and used.

Will Walker, the original project archivist for the AIDS History Project at the University of California, San Francisco, will talk about the challenges of the project, such as collecting material on a comparatively new area and will describe the methodology used.

Cristina Campbell, librarian of the Public Health Library at Berkeley, will approach the subject from the

perspective of an academic life sciences librarian who also works closely with local health departments.

The program focus will move outside libraries with the final two presentations. Irma Torres, an HIV counselor and case manager at the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services in San Francisco, a community-based, service-oriented organization, will speak about her role as an HIV public speaker and educator.

The program will conclude with a San Francisco group that does safe sex education through performance art. The Safer Sex Sluts will perform one of their educational pieces.

*submitted by Bonnie Jean Cox
Chair, Women's Studies Section*

Women's Studies Section Newsletter

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

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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
Shelly Arlen, Secretary
Bernice Redfern, Member-at-large
Theresa Tobin, Member-at-large



Visit the WSS website at

<http://www.lib.siu.edu/dcallaha/wsshp.html>

Notes from the Chair

Dear Section Members:

As annual conference draws near, WSS is actively preparing for its program "HIV/AIDS Information for Women: From the Archive to the Street," to be held on Monday, June 30, from 9:30-12:30.

As we work on this outstanding program for San Francisco, WSS is also completing final revisions of its Strategic Plan. We have received suggestions from members as the plan has been presented in the newsletter, at meetings, and through the listserv. These suggestions will be reviewed and used in the revision over the next few months. Copies of the final document will be available at annual.

It has been a busy year for the section. I think the program and our Strategic Plan make fitting conclusions for it.

See you in San Francisco!
Bonnie Jean Cox,
Chair, WSS

1997 Corelists are now available!

The 1997 edition of the ACRL-WSS Corelists is now available from the University of Wisconsin System Women's Studies Librarian's Office. The Corelists are annually updated bibliographies of in-print materials on various women's studies topics, and are maintained by ACRL-WSS members.

The current topics are Aging, Anthropology, Arts in England and the U.S., Education, Family, Feminist Movements in the U.S., Feminist Pedagogy, Feminist Theory, Film Studies, Health, International History, International Politics, Language, Law and Legal Studies, Lesbian Studies, Literature in England and the U.S., Management, Mass Media, Mental Health, Music, Politics, Philosophy, Reference Works, Religion, Science, Sexual Abuse, Sociology, Sport, U.S. Women's History, and Women of Color.

The lists are available either via the web:

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/core/coremain.htm>
or in paper form:

University of Wisconsin System Women's Studies Librarian's Office
430 Memorial Library
728 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706
email:wiswsl@macc.wisc.edu

We need volunteers to update four lists for next year: Arts in England and the U.S.; Family; Language; and Literature in England and the U.S. If you are willing to maintain any of these lists, or would like to create and maintain a list on another topic, please email either of the co-editors: Judith Hudson (JH492@cnsvox.albany.edu) or Rachel Murphree (notrcm@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu).

Judith Hudson, The University at Albany
Rachel Murphree, Louisiana State University

Collection Development Committee Unveils Website

The Collection Development Committee's Women and Gender Studies website is now available at
<http://www.library.yale.edu/wss/>

It is an attempt to organize and provide links to a broad range of women and gender studies material on the net. It consists of separate sections devoted to material on women in a number of different disciplines.

Committee members are each responsible for maintaining pages devoted to particular subject areas. There is also a large section devoted to more general sources. Pages on women and literature and women and business are in the works. Everyone is invited to take a look at the website and provide some feedback. If you know of relevant links we have not included, please let us know. If you would like to contribute a section, we would also be interested to hear from you.

Marlene Manoff
Chair, Collection Development Committee
mmanoff@mit.edu

Opportunities Abound!

The 1997 - 1998 Nominating Committee is looking for candidates for eight positions, Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Member-at-Large. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for any of the positions or would like more information on any of the positions, please contact

Mila C. Su
Chair, Nominating Committee
Robert E. Eiche Library
Penn State Altoona
Altoona, PA 16601-3760

mcs@psulias.psu.edu

(814) 949-5255

These positions are a great way of becoming further involved in ALA, ACRL and the Women's Studies Section. Thank you for this consideration.

Mila C. Su
Chair, Nominating Committee

*You Are Invited
to a Special Reception*

Sunday, June 29, 1997

6-8 pm

2180 Bryant St.

San Francisco, Ca 94110

Aunt Lute Books, Feminist Bookstore News, and the Women's Presses Library Project invite the members of the Women's Studies Section, Feminist Task Force, and other librarians to a special reception in our offices during the ALA Convention in San Francisco.

The evening will feature a (short!) program with special guests discussing censorship in publishing, a wonderful collection of feminist publishers, and informal book signings by writers published by these feminist presses.

We see this as an evening of appreciating librarians and their work on the forefront of the censorship battles -- and for all of their work that has, for so many years, benefited the work of our organizations (feminist presses and feminist bookstores). --And, of course, as a chance to meet with other Women's Studies Section members and friends, to network, meet feminist publishers and writers, and to have a good time in a wonderful atmosphere.

We encourage you to make an evening of it: come for the party, the program, the publishers and writers.... meet friends and colleagues, then explore one of the excellent neighborhood restaurants for a relaxed dinner. Restaurant suggestions and phone numbers to make reservations will be provided at the party.

Our offices are in a lovingly renovated warehouse where the SOMA (South of Market) meets the Mission. Look for an old red brick building on the corner of 20th and Bryant streets when you arrive. We're a quick cab ride (\$6 including tip?) from the Moscone Center and a 7 block walk from the 24th Street BART station. The building is wheelchair accessible.

This event is sponsored by the Women's Presses Library Project and hosted by Aunt Lute Books and the Feminist Bookstore News.

ALA Midwinter Discussion Washington, DC February 1997

"Comparing the New Women's Studies CD-ROM's"

Members of the Women's Studies Section Technical Services Committee presented preliminary results of their evaluation of new CD-ROM products for Women's Studies. During an informal discussion at Midwinter, the group examined two bibliographic databases, "Women's Studies on Disc" and "Women's Resources International," and two full-text databases, "Contemporary Women's Issues" and "Women 'R'." In addition to background information on publisher, cost, coverage, and content of the four products, the evaluation included a comparison of search software and searching capabilities. Committee members ran comparative searches across the databases using similar search topics covering the humanities, health, social sciences, lesbian issues, and international issues. The presenters were Ruth Dickstein, Marcia Evans, Lisa German, Jessica Grim, and Rita Pelen.

"Women's Studies on Disc," published by G.K. Hall, was released in 1994 and is based on Women's Studies Index. While its source list is lengthy, not all titles are currently indexed. The database will include abstracts starting in 1997, but at present contains only bibliographic citations. Popular magazines make up a large part of the database. The focus is primarily American publications, but there are plans to include more international titles at a later date. The search software offers one search mode and is easy to use, if somewhat cumbersome in displaying results. Subject access is based on Library of Congress Subject Headings, supplemented by A Women's Thesaurus (M.E. Capek). Cost for a single workstation license is \$495 for the first year.

"Women's Resources International" incorporates several existing databases: "Women's Studies Abstracts," "Women's Studies Database," "Women of Color and Southern Women," "New Books on Women & Feminism," and other publications from the University of Wisconsin System Women's Studies Librarian's Office. A number of abstracts are included in addition to the bibliographic citations. Coverage includes a wide range of materials and is international in scope. This database is produced by National Information Services Corporation (NISC) and uses the NISC search software. Users have a choice of three search modes, Novice, Advanced, and Expert. The Advanced Search screen consists of a template, which features numerous search

fields with on-screen help, indexes, and a thesaurus. If the user executes a search using more than one search field, the default Boolean connector appears on the screen with the option to change it. The Expert Search mode allows users to save search results and search by sets. A single station license is \$895. Both bibliographic databases include semi-annual updates.

"Contemporary Women's Issues," published by Responsive Database Services (RDS), employs the same powerful NISC software as "Women's Resources International." The database includes over 15,000 full-text articles from sources ranging from journal articles and newsletters to hard-to-find reports. The materials come from over 130 countries; most are scholarly. RDS offers the database at a 50% discount to high school libraries and a 40% discount to organizations in developing countries. A Web version is expected by early May. "Contemporary Women's Issues" will be available on FirstSearch later this year. CD-ROM subscribers will be able to convert their subscriptions if desired. "Contemporary Women's Issues" is priced at \$600 a year for one license on a stand-alone system.

"Women 'R'" is published by Softline Information. A pre-publication disc containing 6000 articles was available for review. The first release, scheduled for February 7, should be twice the size. This database incorporates articles from the ethnic and minority press, including a collection of articles from "Ethnic NewsWatch" that focus on women. Geographic coverage is primarily U.S., although there are plans to add more international sources. There is a lack of coverage of scholarly journals, and almost a third of the sources on the trial disc are book reviews. The search software is easy to use. With a Windows interface, the database offers one search mode with six search fields including a browsable index for each field. Cost for a single workstation for one year is \$1495, and there is a 10% discount for a three-year subscription. Both full-text databases include quarterly updates.

The committee's work on this project continues; final results of their study will be published later this year in an issue of *Serials Librarian* devoted to the topic of Women's Studies.

*Submitted by
Ruth Dickstein
Marcia Evans
Emily Silverman*



Internet Sources of Interest

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

Full-text resources are rapidly becoming widely available over the Internet, and as a result, our clients increasingly expect to find whatever information they need "on the net." Although it will inevitably be a quite a while before a student can complete her dissertation without opening an actual journal or book, here are some resources that may entertain and inform you in the meantime.

A Celebration of Women Writers is a listing of already existing digitized full-text works by women writers, plus an effort to organize further digitization of public domain works by women. This site also includes links to biographical information on women writers, relevant bibliographies, and special collections. Currently, the only index is by author's name. A search engine would make this site more navigable, as would some additional indexes, such as title and nationality. The links from this page draw from a wide variety of sources, and the quality of the bibliographic or biographical data depends on the outside source from which it comes. However, this site is the first I've seen that draws together such a large collection of digitized complete works by women writers. You can find A Celebration of Women Writers at

<http://www.cgi.cs.cmu.edu/afs/cs.cmu.edu/user/mmbt/www/women/writers.html>

Eldis is a clearinghouse for online information on development and environment issues, which is hosted by the British Library for Development Studies. They have a page devoted to gender-related resources, which highlights general electronic sources, full-text WWW resources (primarily documents related to women and development), holdings in the BLDS, and the full text of relevant publications from BRIDGE: briefings on development and gender. In the "Gender Sources" listing, an internal page describing each resource is provided before linking to the actual site. The Eldis Gender page can be found at

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/eldis/gender/gender.html>

Since I have profiled University of Maryland's "inforM" here in the past, I will just briefly remind you of their Women's Studies Reading Room, which has links to full text items in the categories of "Academic Papers and Articles", "Fiction", "History", "Nonfiction", and "Poetry", including such gems as "100 full-text poems by Emily Dickinson". You can find this page at

<http://www.inform.umd.edu/EdRes/Topic/WomensStudies/ReadingRoom/>

There are a few period specific sites that compile digitized

full-text works by women. One of these is the Victorian Women Writer's Project, which focuses on "literary works by British women writers of the late 19th century." The works included here are selected "with the assistance of an Advisory Board." The Victorian Women Writer's Project is at

<http://www.indiana.edu/~letrs/vwwp/>

Another, which I have reviewed here previously is the 19th Century American Women Writers Web, at

<http://clever.net/19cwww/>



Feminist Collections Introduces Website Evaluation Column

Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources announces a new and ongoing feature. In addition to our regular "Computer Talk" column that scans for new e-mail lists and websites, our new feature discusses and evaluates key websites on particular topics related to women/gender issues/studies. The feature comes in response to requests for help deciding which sites are worth visiting based on their content, authority, timelines, etc.

The debut article covering grants and other funding sites is by Elizabeth Breed, University of Wisconsin-Madison Memorial Reference Librarian. This article can be found in print in the current (Winter 1997) issue of Feminist Collections or on our website, along with selected other articles and tables of contents from Feminist Collections:

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/fcmain.htm>

We have several other review articles lined up (breast cancer, women and information technology, lesbian studies, eating disorders, and measuring how well other reviewing sites cover women/gender focused information), some of which will be mounted directly on the above website without appearing in the print publication.

For information on how to subscribe to Feminist Collections, contact

Phyllis Holman Weisbard
Room 430, Memorial Library
728 State Street
Madison, WI 53706
pweis@doit.wisc.edu

Linda Shult

Phyllis Holman Weisbard
co-editors, Feminist Collections

Kudos and News

Please send news items to Emily Silverman at essilverman@library.umass.edu

Martha Bailey, retired from Purdue Libraries, is preparing a companion volume for American Women in Science: A Biographical Dictionary (ABC-CLIO, 1994) of which more than 4,500 copies have been sold. The new volume will concentrate on women born after 1920 and will include those in the social and behavioral sciences as well as engineering, physical and natural science, and math. Send suggestions for women to include to:

Marth Bailey
4039-C Willow Bend Drive
Beech Grove, IN 46107

GraceAnne A. DeCandido is working as a free-lance editorial and web consultant. Her website is at <http://www.well.com/user/ladyhawk/gadhome.html> She can be reached through more traditional means at her home office

350 E. 236th St
Bronx, NY 10470-2104
718/994-7794
ladyhawk@well.com

Betty Glass, Instructional Services Librarian at University of Nevada, is pleased to announce that her chapter, "Women's Spirituality: A Burgeoning Microcosm of Women's Studies," has been published. It covers from prehistory into the 1990s. It is in Genre and Ethnic Collections: Collected Essays (1996) Greenwich, CT: JAI Press (Foundations in Library and Information Science, vol. 38, Part B).

Ellen Greenblatt, formerly Catalog Editor at SUNY Buffalo, will be starting a new job as Coordinator of Cataloging Services and Special Collections at Auraria Library in Denver, Colorado, on May 5.

Sarah Pritchard, Director of Libraries at Smith College, received two awards this Spring. She was given the 1997 ALA Equality Award (for outstanding contributions to the promotion of the equality of men and women in the library profession); and she was named the 1997 Outstanding Alumna by the University of Wisconsin School of Library and Information Studies, for distinguished leadership and accomplishment in the profession.

Lynn Westbrook, Assistant Professor, School of Library and Information Studies at Texas Woman's University, announces publication of the following article: "User Needs." Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science. Volume 59, supplement 22 (1997), pages 316-347.



Advice for Aspiring Women's Studies Librarians

This article was derived from the text of a discussion about women's studies librarianship which took place on the Feminist-L listserv. Thanks to Sarah Pritchard for allowing us to extract some of her comments here and to the person who originally raised this question.

For those of you who are hoping to build a career as a women's studies librarian, here are a few tips from a "first generation" women's studies librarian.

In terms of course work, I don't think there are many things in library school that would *not* be relevant to a good WS librarian! But I'd try to take something covering bibliographic instruction; government documents; advanced issues in collection development; and perhaps something that that would give you tools to do analysis of your user community, outreach, etc. (I'm assuming that database searching/design, Internet/HTML are "standard" these days!)

A second master's degree is not usually mandatory for entry-level jobs, but it is increasingly so if you want to advance. A second masters in any field of the humanities or social sciences, with some minor/concentration in women's studies, would give you a good basis for arguing that you bring the necessary background to the job. It's equally valuable in this field to show an active participation in things like conferences and organizations, not necessarily in librarianship but in women's studies and women's issues. At some stages of a career, that can help as much as a second MA.

Not all academic or special libraries will have a job they are already calling "women's studies;" it might be a generic subject bibliographer, instructional, or outreach position, to which any librarian is expected to bring her specialty, and then you can be ready to bring this one.

Finally, networking is key. You needn't wait for a national-level opportunity; just start talking to your colleagues, teachers, working librarians, take advantage of local groups and events and let your interest be known!

*Sarah Pritchard
Director of Libraries, Smith College*

GET INVOLVED!!

The **Collection Development Committee** monitors collection development issues and resources in women's studies. It recommends research and implements projects to meet needs in this area including the creation of bibliographies, guides, and instructional materials.

Marlene Mannoff, Chair
mmanoff@mit.edu



The **Communications Committee** facilitates communication about the Section and its activities through a newsletter and brochure. It is responsible for conducting orientation sessions for new members, providing opportunities for further involvement, communicating with other professional women's groups and planning the social hour at the annual and midwinter conferences.

Daren Callahan, Chair
dcallaha@lib.siu.edu



The **Program Planning Committee** plans, implements, and evaluates Women's Studies Section programs for the annual conference and coordinates Section participation in coalition programming.

Bonnie Jean Cox, Chair
bjcox@pop.uky.edu



The **Publications Committee** develops and coordinates publication activities of the section and its committees and advises the WSS Executive Committee on publication projects. It endeavors to stimulate and encourage research projects which may lead to publication under WSS auspices. It assists the section and its committees in finding appropriate avenues for publication. The committee develops and maintains standards and guidelines for WSS publications and also serves as liaison on publication projects with ACRL and ALA.

Argent Sue Gibson, Chair



The **Social Issues/ Education Committee** informs the section about social, political and educational issues which affect section administration and women's studies librarianship in general. It communicates with other library and women's groups addressing these topics and coordinates the Section's work in this area.

Theresa Tobin, Chair
tat@mit.edu



The **Technical Services Committee** monitors technical services issues and practices having an impact on women's studies. It recommends and implements projects to meet needs in this area.

Ruth Dickstein, Chair
dickstei@bird.library.arizona.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

For more information, contact Bonnie Cox at: <bjcox@pop.uky.edu> ☎ (606) 257-4351

🕒 WSS MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE*

SUNDAY, JUNE 29	9:30a.m. - 12:30p.m. [†] 6:00p.m. - 8:00p.m.	All WSS Committee Meetings WPLP Reception (see story on p. 3)
MONDAY, JUNE 30	8a.m. - 9a.m. 9:30a.m. - 12:30p.m. 2p.m. - 4p.m.	General Membership Meeting WSS Program (see story on p. 1) Executive Committee Meeting

**Check conference schedule for locations and room numbers*

†Note: your committee can meet at any time within this period. You do not have to start at 9:30.

ATTENTION!!!

Please be aware that the new General Membership Meeting time, 8 - 9 a.m. on Monday, is immediately prior to the WSS Program time. We apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause.

WSS Co-sponsors Alternatives in Print Task Force Programs

The Women's Studies Section is proud to be co-sponsoring the following Social Responsibilities Round Table Alternatives in Print Task Force programs at ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco:

Sunday, June 29	9:30-11:00 a.m.	Watching the Left: What Librarians Need to Know with Michael Parenti and David Barsamian
Sunday, June 29	2-4 p.m.	Outsourcing Book Selection and Cataloging in Hawaii: A Critical Examination
Monday, June 30	9:30-11:00 a.m.	Beyond the Valley of the Mega-Publishers: Dangerous Reviews
Monday, June 30	6-9 p.m.	Free Speech Buffet

See your preliminary Conference schedule for descriptions of these exciting and timely programs!

Women's Studies Section Newsletter

Charlene Hovatter/Emily Silverman, Editors
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