

“A World in Motion: Refugees and Resources”

**A joint program of the Women's Studies Section and the
Asian, African and Middle Eastern Studies Section
for ALA Annual 1998, “Global Reach. . .Local Touch”**

Monday, June 29, 9:30 am - 12:00 noon, Washington, DC

With millions of people around the world forced to flee their homes due to war, civil strife, persecution or famine, refugee populations have grown immensely in the last years. These populations are living in conditions that are not only marginal in terms of health and safety, but are also lacking in the social structure and services that build and hold communities together.

The global refugee crisis poses specific challenges to libraries and the values of librarianship here in North America in the areas of freedom of information access and promotion as a basis for democratic institutions, intellectual freedom, and diversity of opinion. In this joint WSS/AAMES program, a number of perspectives and information needs are explored by the three panelists.

Carolyn Brown, acting head of the Area Studies section of the Library of Congress, will discuss some of the challenges faced by libraries trying to collect and make available resources relating to refugee populations globally. **Charles Dambach**, CEO of the National Peace Corps Association, will discuss the information needs of organizations involved in placing volunteers in refugee situations, and share the NPCA's experiences in Bosnia and Rwanda. He will provide a perspective for collection development from within the aid community that is not often considered by librarians. **Diana Quick** is from the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. Since its founding in 1989, the Women's Commission has sent more than 35 delegations to visit refugee sites worldwide to report first-hand on the conditions faced by refugee women and children. She will discuss the information needs of these populations, and will describe a Women's Commission project to compile a database of resources with the goal of providing information to assist refugee women and children in bettering their circumstances.

—Jessica Grim, Chair, WSS/Co-chair Conference Program Planning Committee

*** For selected Web sites related to refugees, see p. 5. ***

Women's Studies Section Newsletter

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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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Jessica Grim, Chair
Kris Gerhard, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
Bernice Redfern, Secretary
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Visit WSS on the Web:

www.lib.siu.edu/dcallaha/wsshp.html

Notes from the Chair

Greetings all!

It's hard to believe that Annual is right around the corner! But if spring is in the air (and it is, at least for the moment, here in NE Ohio), then ALA must be on its way.

I'm looking forward to a great conference in Washington. WSS is co-sponsoring what promises to be an interesting and eye-opening program (see p.1), a social hour at a wonderful location, and the "Introduction to Women's Groups in ALA" meeting.

Midwinter in New Orleans was wet (!!), but productive. Here are a few highlights from the meetings:

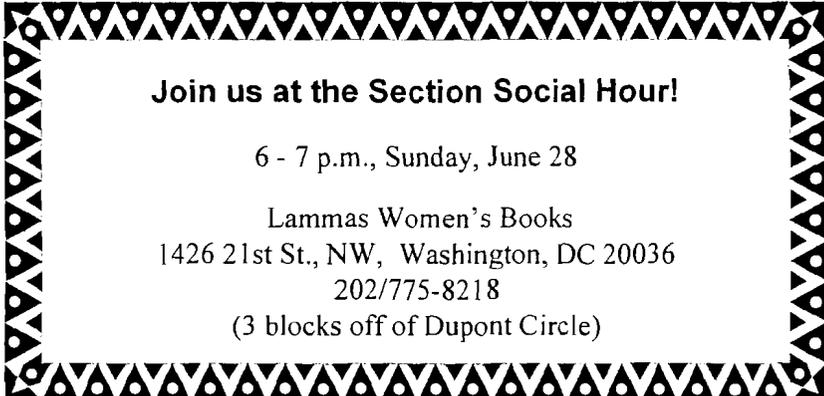
An ad hoc Awards Committee was formed, and is discussing various approaches to giving a WSS award, looking into funding opportunities, etc. The committee will give a report, and put forward their recommendations, at the Executive Committee meeting in Washington. Kris Gerhard (WSS Co-Chair/Chair Elect) and I met with the Co-Coordinators of the Feminist Task Force while in New Orleans to discuss ways to get better attendance at the "Introduction to Women's Groups in ALA" meeting. Lots of good ideas about promotion and publicity came up, so look for some splashy flyers in D.C. And come to the meeting to share your expertise, thoughts, questions and ideas.

It was agreed that we would hold our All-Committee meeting in D.C. from 10:30-12:30 rather than our "traditional" 9:30-12:30 slot, so that we don't conflict with FTF's Feminist Authors' Breakfast. I, for one, am looking forward to attending FTF's breakfast!

If you're new to WSS, coming to your first conference, or just wonder what WSS is involved in these days, I hope you'll come to the WSS General Membership Meeting on Sunday June 28, 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm; and then come along to the Social Hour afterwards. These are great opportunities to meet, network, and learn more about what your WSS colleagues are up to.

See you in Washington!

*Jessica Grim,
Chair, ACRL Women's Studies Section*



Join us at the Section Social Hour!

6 - 7 p.m., Sunday, June 28

Lammas Women's Books
1426 21st St., NW, Washington, DC 20036
202/775-8218
(3 blocks off of Dupont Circle)

Feminism and Librarianship—in Practice!

Intense discussions are buzzing in the ether of the Internet and their focus is the School of Library & Information Studies, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The topics include ghettoization of professions, librarians' image, gendered impacts of information technologies, evaluation of women's studies collections, sexism of subject access tools, librarians' service roles in reference, women in library management and many more. The virtual venue is a course that I teach on feminism and library and information studies.

This experiment is the product of many minds. I originally developed it as a classroom seminar after hearing about similar courses taught by Roma Harris (Western Ontario) and Sue Searing (Wisconsin-Madison). The content matured as I offered it three times at Alberta and once at Wisconsin-Madison (both friendly climates for this kind of work). The impetus to create an electronic version came over lunch with faculty from other schools: Lynne Howarth (Toronto), Christine Jenkins (Illinois), and Lynn Westbrook (Texas Woman's).

I would describe this year's course as nibbling its way to virtuality. It preserves the course content, which is divided into four general parts: samplings of feminist theory, the gendered construction of work and the profession, feminist professional practice, and feminist perspectives on information policy issues. The students, as in previous years, have a wide range of backgrounds and varying knowledge of feminisms. For the students in Edmonton, the course includes face-to-face meetings about a third of the time. Early meetings advanced the students' understanding of feminist theory. The content has since moved online and gatherings are mainly social and supportive. Two students in Lethbridge, Alberta have set up frequent meetings with each other and have virtual contact with the rest of us.

The online discussion is on a listserv. It began with three "virtual guests": Karen Hughes (Alberta, Women's Studies), whose research is on women and work, Dallas Cullen (Alberta, Business), who teaches gender and management, and Roma Harris (Western Ontario), who wrote the book on librarianship as a female-intensive profession. [footnote: Roma's book is OP in paperback and JAI Press is trying to sell the hardcover, which is way out of students' price range.

Perhaps they could be encouraged to discount the hardcover or, better yet, reprint the paperback.] Each week starts with readings and discussion questions from the guest for that week. After the three weeks on women, work, and the profession, we began to discuss how feminist conceptions can be applied in practice. "Virtual guests" have been: Cindy Faries (Pittsburgh), Kris Gerhard (Iowa State), and Lori Goetsch (Maryland). Students were eager for practical details that can only be offered by the kind of professional knowledge that these women have brought us.

We will have an onsite class discussing intellectual property and intellectual freedom, and Sue Fisher (Alberta, Orlando Project on British Women Writers) will be our virtual guest to discuss information technologies. Sarah Pritchard (Smith), our last scheduled guest will discuss with us developing a feminist agenda in librarianship and information studies. She has already contributed to the discussion with Cindy, Kris, and Lori, helping to build a big picture as we go. And, to end we will probably have a party. In all of this the students have been insightful, fearless, and mutually supportive. While having the feelings of neophytes in feminist thought, librarianship, or both, they have applied intellectual and emotional energy to the topics and the interactions.

I use no embarrassing, expensive, or experimental technology. Eschewing video and fancy software, we rely on a simple listserv for discussion and Web pages for materials (where copyright permits). The dynamics of the discussion have gradually relaxed as topics overlap and everyone becomes more comfortable. The course has developed an independence that, as the instructor, I find very exciting. I feel that I have provided fallow land and the participants, students, and guests, have grown a magnificent garden on it. To get a taste for what we have done, see our Web pages, beginning with the course outline at: www.ualberta.ca/~holson/589/outline.htm

—Hope A. Olson, PhD, Assistant Professor
School of Library and Information Studies
University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, CANADA
<http://www.ualberta.ca/~holson/>

ALA Midwinter Discussion New Orleans, January 1998

More than 30 members of the WSS got together at Midwinter for a wide-ranging discussion on Women's Studies librarianship, and trends and news in the field. Among the many topics touched on were strategies selectors use to address WS collection development needs, integrating the library into instruction, and the growing number of graduate programs in WS.

Most of us confront budget constraints. We try to add new journals, while facing serials cuts, and continue to refine the ratio of serials to monograph purchases. Few of us can purchase major microform sets on our own, though some institutions are buying such sets through consortia. We recognized that few full-text electronic resources meet the needs of WS, and discussed putting more pressure on vendors to include WS journals in their products. Despite the many challenges we discussed, the collegiality and brainstorming were energizing and helpful.

—Emily Silverman

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ Research Study on Women's Studies Library Services

ALA has funded the first national research effort to focus on the information needs of WS faculty. Academic librarians across the country have created services and built collections for people in this field since the mid-1970s. This research project is designed to support those librarians in their effort to better serve scholars in WS.

As one part of that study, I am interested in hearing from librarians who provide reference service (formally or informally) for WS faculty. I ask you to contact me and volunteer to take a twenty-minute survey via email. Your participation is, of course, completely voluntary and your information will be kept completely confidential at all times. Please be assured that your name, institutional affiliation, and any other identifying information will be kept confidential. As a small gesture of appreciation, I will be happy to send you a summary of the results. If you are interested, please contact me directly by email. I would be happy to discuss any aspect of the work with you, and I hope you will find the time to contribute to this study.

—Lynn Westbrook, Assistant Professor
School of Library and Information Studies
Texas Woman's University
l_westbrook@twu.edu

Feminist Voices and Visions from the Pacific Northwest

The University of Oregon Library has prepared both a physical and virtual exhibit in celebration of Women's History Month. The exhibit highlights two recent acquisitions in the Library's Special Collection: the papers of Abigail Scott Duniway and the archives of CALYX: A Journal of Art and Literature by Women.

The URL for this exhibit is:

<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/exhibits/feminist-voices/>

The exhibit on Duniway emphasizes her contributions to the efforts to gain the vote for women in Oregon. Included in the exhibit is the original proclamation giving women the vote written by Duniway and signed by the governor, as well as Duniway's voter registration card.

The CALYX exhibit provides a flavor of the many creative works published in CALYX, as well as the efforts of both the staff and volunteers to produce this journal. As part of the exhibit for CALYX, a Web-based Index has been created, which provides access to the works of both the authors and artists published in CALYX. The CALYX Index URL is:

<http://libweb.uoregon.edu/exhibits/feminist-voices/calyx-index/>

The Feminist Voices & Visions Exhibit has been a collaborative project of several librarians in the UO Library System and the Center for the Study of Women in Society at the University of Oregon. We invite you to visit our exhibit.

—Sara Brownmiller
Women's Studies/Systems Librarian

Welcome to WSS!

The Communications Committee of WSS will sponsor the New Member Orientation on Saturday, June 27, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. as part of the Introduction to Women's Groups in ALA. In addition, join us at the annual WSS Social Hour, 6-7 p.m., Lammas Women's Books, 1426 21st St. NW, Washington, DC (near the Dupont metro stop and many restaurants). The social hour is a nice opportunity to get acquainted with other WSS members in a casual atmosphere.

New WSS brochures have been created, if you would like copies, please contact Robin Paynter at rpaynter@oregon.uoregon.edu. Copies will also be available at the ACRL booth at Annual and Midwinter. We have a new batch of WSS stickers for your nametag. Stop by the ACRL booth to pick one up!

—Robin Paynter, Communications Committee Chair

1997 ACRL President's Program "Imagining the Learning Library" Available on Videotape

Complete and abridged versions of the 1997 ACRL President's Program in San Francisco are now available for borrowing by ACRL chapters wishing to use these as part of local programming, as well as by libraries and individuals. The program, "Imagining the Learning Library," features presentations by Betsy Baker, of Northwestern University, and by several members of the Disney "Imagineers."

The full program runs 2.5 hours on two half-inch tapes; the abridged version runs 72 minutes on one half-inch tape. ACRL encourages state and regional chapters to bring this program to those of their members who may not have been able to travel to ALA last summer.

To borrow the tape for a 3-week period, send an ALA-approved interlibrary loan form to the ALA Headquarters Library, 50 East Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2795. A nominal fee may be charged to cover postage. Advanced reservations for the tapes will be honored by calling 312-280-3277 or via e-mail at larc@ala.org. Questions regarding the program contents should be addressed to Elisa Topper, Member Services, in the ACRL Office, 312-280-2523 or etopper@ala.org.



Presenters needed for ACRL 9th National Conference, April 8 - 11, 1999

June 15 is the deadline for submitting proposals for papers and panel sessions for ACRL's 9th National Conference, which will be held in Detroit, Michigan, April 8 - 11, 1999. The conference theme, "Racing Toward Tomorrow," is explored in six subthemes: creating lifelong learners; shaping the changing environment; changing work roles; developing alternate resources; expanding knowledge base; and creating alliances and partnerships.

Details about preparing a proposal and attending the conference are available on ACRL's Web site (<http://www.ala.org/acrl/preindex.html>). The "Call for Participation" was also published as an insert in the January issue of C&RL News.

Selected Web Sites on Refugees

- ♦ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

<http://www.unhcr.ch>

Information on UNHCR programs, reports, and funding, with photos, press releases, and articles arranged by topic; provides the text of UNHCR official publications such as *Refugees* magazine (and its 1995 special issue on refugee women), country reports, and the agency's biennial report *The State of the World's Refugees*.

- ♦ InterAction--Refugees, American Council for Voluntary International Action

<http://www.interaction.org/refugees.html>

Includes country situation reports and statistics. Useful primarily for its substantial number of links to refugee-related sites of governments, NGOs, academic programs, clearinghouses, and periodicals.

- ♦ Refuge! Amnesty International

<http://www.refuge.amnesty.org>

Focuses on Amnesty campaigns and the personal experiences of refugees, with stories, photos, and screens questioning "How is a refugee made?" and "What would you take if you had just 10 minutes to leave your home?"

- ♦ Refugees International

<http://www.refintl.org>

Information on the activities of this independent advocacy group for refugees worldwide, with up-to-date field reports/alerts, publications, congressional testimony, press releases, and media coverage.

For more information,

attend the WSS/AAMES program on June 29,

9:30 a.m. - 12 noon at ALA.

Kudos and News

Please send news items to Marilyn Dunn at dunnm@hartwick.edu

In November 1997, **GraceAnne A. DeCandido** spoke at a study group of Oxford University librarians in England; her talk was called "Words Are All We Have: A Very Brief Disquisition on Librarians, Access, Feminism, and the Truths of Things" (www.well.com/user/ladyhawk/pasadena.html). She gave the same talk the following week at the California Library Association conference in Pasadena. The Association of Research Libraries recently published SPEC Kit 226, *Transforming Libraries: Issues and Innovations. After the User Survey, What Then?* which she wrote (www.arl.org/transform/us/).

Marlene Manoff has been appointed Associate Head of the Humanities Library at MIT. Previously, as Collections Manager in the Humanities Library she developed collections to support the teaching and research programs of the School of Humanities and Social Science. She has trained and coordinated the work of all humanities subject specialists and selects materials in literature and women's studies.

Lynn Westbrook is the author of the chapter, "Qualitative Research," in Ronald Powell's *Basic Research Methods for Librarians*, 3rd ed. Greenwich: Ablex, 1997.



WSS Committee Reports

The **Collection Development Committee**, building upon the success of WSSLinks Webpage, is planning a new Web publication. The site, called WSS: Resources for Women's Studies Collections Development, Assessment, and Instruction will be aimed at selectors. Members are currently organizing a group of online resources to help in managing women's studies collections, emphasizing development, assessment, and instruction.

WSSLinks (www.library.yale.edu/wss/) continues to develop with the guidance of Marlene Manoff. It was cited in the Internet Scout Report and has an OCLC# 36716238.

—Flora Shrode
Collection Development Committee Chair

The **Technical Services Committee** is currently working on a project to evaluate coverage of women's studies journals in a number of multidisciplinary full-text databases. Databases included in the review are Periodicals Abstracts Research II (Proquest Direct), Expanded Academic ASAP (Infotrac Searchbank), Academic Search FullText Elite (Ebscohost), and WilsonWeb OmniFile V (Wilson). The study includes coverage of women's studies core journals, inclusion of women-related titles, depth of indexing, and other criteria.

Depending on findings, the committee may write to publishers suggesting additions to the databases. We also hope to make the results available in a public forum.

—Marcia Evans
Technical Services Committee Chair

The **Social Issues/Education Committee** has been researching the District of Columbia--its politics, culture, educational institutions and organizations--for our ALA Annual Conference site report. We hope to increase awareness of local issues affecting women and libraries, and to help you explore Washington's resources. Watch the FEMINIST listserv shortly before the Conference, when we will post information on events sponsored by local bookstores, museums, political groups, and the like.

Selected DC Resources from Social Issues

Women's Studies Programs: American Univ. offers B.A. in women's & gender studies, minor in women's & gender studies; George Washington Univ. offers M.A. in women's studies, M.A. in women's studies & public policy, Ph.D. concentration in gender & social policy, & minor in women's studies; Georgetown Univ. offers B.A. in women's studies, minor in women's studies; Trinity College offers minor in women's studies.

Special Libraries: In addition to the universities' women's studies collections, several organizations have libraries that may be of interest. American Association of University Women, 1116 16th St. NW, (202) 785-7763; Feminists for Life of America, 733 15th St. NW, (202) 737-3352; International Center for Research on Women Library, 1717 Mass. Ave. NW, Ste. 302, (202) 797-0007; National Abortion Federation (Resource Center) 1436 U St. NW, Ste. 103, (202) 667-5881; National Right to Life Library, 419 7th St. NW Ste. 500, (202) 626-8800 ext.119; National Women's Health Network (Health Clearinghouse) 5141 10th St. NW, Ste. 400, (202) 628-7814.

—Julie Miliman
Social Issues/Education Committee Chair

Get Involved in Section Committees!

Collection Development 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.

*Flora Schrode, Chair
fschrode@utk.edu*



Communications facilitates communication about the Section and its activities through a newsletter and brochure. It conducts orientation sessions for new members, provides opportunities for further involvement, communicates with other professional women's groups and plans the social hour at the annual and midwinter conferences.

*Robin Paynter, Chair
rpaynter@oregon.uoregon.edu*



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

*Jessica Grim, Co-Chair
jessica.grim@oberlin.edu
Charlene Hovatter, Co-Chair
cehova@vms.cit.pitt.edu*

Publications 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



Social Issues/Education 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.

*Julie Miliman, Chair
milimanj@gunet.georgetown.edu*



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

*Marcia Evans, Chair
mbevans@gorgas.lib.ua.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 (For more information, contact Jessica at
Oberlin College Library jessica.grim@oberlin.edu
Oberlin, OH 44074

 **WSS Meeting Schedule for the Washington, DC Conference***

Saturday, June 27	11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Intro to Women's Groups in ALA
Sunday, June 28	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	All WSS Committee Meetings
	2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
	4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	General Membership Meeting
	6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Social Hour (Lammas Women's Books, 1426 21st St NW)
Monday, June 29	9:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon	WSS/AAMES Program (see p.1) "A World in Motion"

**Check conference schedule for locations and room numbers*

Women's Studies Section Newsletter
Emily Silverman/Marilyn Dunn, Editors
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