

Volume 21, no. 1  
Spring 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*

# ACRL WSS Award Winners

The 2006 Women's Studies Section Career Achievement Award is being presented to Dr. Marlene Manoff, Associate Head, Collection Manager, Humanities Library at MIT and former chair of the Women's Studies Section. Dr. Manoff's career exemplifies academic and research library service in women's studies. She is the women's studies subject specialist at MIT's Humanities Library, has been a founding member of MIT's Women's Studies Faculty Committee, and has taught several formal academic courses in women's studies. Her many contributions, print and electronic, to the bibliographic corpus of women's studies and the broader frameworks of library science, address and critique the nature of library collections, issues of bias and the nature of publishing. Dr. Manoff has led the ACRL Women's Studies Section as chair, has served on and chaired several key committees, and initiated and edited WSSLINKS, a well recognized Section Web project. Throughout her career, Dr. Manoff has been a leader and scholar in both the disciplines of Librarianship and Women's Studies.

The 2006 Women's Studies Section Significant Achievement Award is recognizing two different but exceptional projects this year. Katherine Kraft receives this Significant Achievement Award for her leadership in the processing of the papers from the National Organization for Women (NOW), Women's Equity Action League (WEAL), and the Boston Women's Health Collective. Cynthia Johnson and Carrie Kruse are being recognized with the Significant Achievement Award for their work in the creation of the database for the WSS Core Books project. Katherine Kraft is senior archivist at the Arthur & Elizabeth Schlesinger Library. Katherine Kraft was the lead archivist of an NEH grant to process over 800 linear feet of documents which included the records of National Organization for Women (NOW), Women's Equity Action League (WEAL), the Boston Women's Health Collective and other feminist activists. Kraft oversaw the project, trained the project staff, and with them created finding aids that are extremely detailed, carefully  
*(Continued on page 4)*

**Inside this issue:**

ACRL WSS Award Winners	1
Notes From the Chair	2
<i>You Mean I Can Use a 'Zine in a Research Paper?</i>	3
The Women's Studies Core Books Project: A History	5
Annual Program	5
Committee Reports	6-7
New Members	8

**New Assistant Newsletter Editor**

Stacy Russo, Reference and Instruction Librarian, at California State University, Fullerton will become the new Assistant Newsletter Editor. She provides instruction in multiple disciplines and maintains the women's studies and English research guides. Stacy is on her library's Editorial Board, which publishes a fall and spring newsletter for the campus community. She is a literature book reviewer for *Library Journal* with an emphasis on women writers. She has recently reviewed literary biographies on Virginia Woolf and the Russian poet Anna Akhmatova. Stacy also has a research interest in the concept of "library as place". She is currently writing a book, *Library as Place in California*. She received a 2006 Junior Faculty Grant to fund two research trips to visit libraries throughout California.  
*(Continued on page 7)*

**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

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

**Editor**

Sherri L. Barnes  
UCSB Libraries  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, CA, 93106  
(805) 893-8022  
barnes@library.ucsb.edu

**Assistant Editor**

Jennifer Nace  
Library 108, Campus Library  
Penn State Worthington Scranton  
120 Ridgeview Drive  
Dunmore, PA 18512  
570-963-2633  
jxn19@psulias.psu.edu

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:**

Megan Adams, Chair  
Kelly Hovendick, Vice-Chair/  
Chair-Elect  
Susan Kane, Secretary  
Carrie Kruse, Member-at-large  
Pamela Mann, Member-at-large

**Notes from the Chair**

In the last WSS newsletter, I lamented the destruction of the city of New Orleans. While the scope of the devastation is still beyond my comprehension, I am very much looking forward to ALA Annual this June in New Orleans. If you are still debating whether or not to come to New Orleans, I'd like to encourage you to do so. First off, there will be a great awards ceremony celebrating the accomplishments of exemplary women's studies librarians. Second, there will be a great program entitled "Doing Information Literacy Differently: The View from Interdisciplinary Studies". The program will consist of a panel of teaching librarians, and will be followed by break-out discussion groups.

If you are unable to come to ALA this summer, do remember that there are many ways to participate in WSS, including:

~Join the WSS-L list. Send a message to listproc@ala.org with the message "subscribe WSS-L [your name]". Remember, you must sign yourself up (we can't do it for you and neither can ALA).

~Write an article or review for the newsletter. Let us know about your women's studies related activities. Tell us about a new women's studies resource. Share your latest feminist ways of librarianship. Share teaching strategies, new blogs, or feminist ways of cataloging!

On a different participatory note, I know that many of you are patiently waiting for ALA's Online Communities to debut. I'm happy to report that I've seen and briefly used the communities, and once ALA has a more robust support network in place, WSS committees will be able to use them. These communities promise to be very helpful to our section work.

With that, I bid you farewell, and hope to see you all in New Orleans this summer.

*Megan Adams, WSS Chair, Wellesley College*

**From the Editors**

Sherri L. Barnes's term as Newsletter Editor ends following Annual. Jennifer Nace, Assistant Newsletter Editor, will move into the Editor's chair. Newsletter Editors serve two-year terms, year one as Assistant Newsletter Editor, and year two as Editor. Newsletter positions are official ALA appointments.

## You Mean I Can Use a 'Zine in a Research Paper?

The title of the 2006 ALA Midwinter Women's Studies Section discussion was, "You Mean I Can Use a 'Zine in a Research Paper?" The discussion focused on how librarians can use alternative resources and other grey literature in the classroom. Kelly Hovendick, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, explained that the topic was chosen because it is fun and has been in the press lately. Other groups were holding similar discussions at Midwinter. The WSS discussion group focused on two main threads, 'zines and electronic media.

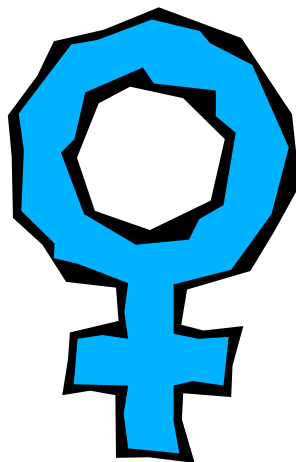
There are major 'zine collections at Barnard College and Duke University. Jenna Freedman spoke about her experience with the 'zine collection at Barnard and Laura Micham spoke about her experience with the Sarah Dyer 'zine collection at Duke. They focused on the technical aspects of their collections (budgeting, cataloging, archiving, inter-library loan), and the uses of 'zines in the classroom. Freedman pointed out that libraries interested in starting a 'zine collection should develop a strong collection development policy. She recommended that when developing their collections, libraries should choose to collect 'zines focusing on specific themes, such as urban women or women of color.

The value of 'zine collections was discussed. There are some kinds of information that can only be found in 'zines. 'Zines can also be used as primary sources. They are original documents that deal with a particular subject, and are like diaries and other creative works. Generally, 'zines are inexpensive. The real expense comes with original cataloging, which makes it harder for some libraries to collect 'zines than others. This heightens the need for good archiving and unrestrictive interlibrary loan policies for the libraries that are able to collect 'zines.

'Zines are also useful in the classroom. It was suggested that 'zines can be used to illustrate evaluating sources for perspective, especially in terms of author,

audience, cultural context, and currency. 'Zines can also be used to discuss copyright and copyleft.

Electronic media was also discussed. The group talked about using del.icio.us and Furl, social bookmarking Web sites, to find new resources. The group also talked about using EndNote and RefWorks, which are citation management programs that can be used to collect similar resources and create bibliographies. Also briefly discussed was Facebook, a social networking site, and course management systems, generally.



Much of the discussion focusing on electronic media centered on blogs and wikis. Blogs, or Web logs, are Web pages of brief, usually thematic, entries in reverse-chronological order. They are useful for current information, opinions, news and insider commentary. Like 'zines, blogs can be excellent sources of first-person experiences and personal narratives.

Wikis are different from blogs in that they are Web sites that serve as reference resources. The different pages within a wiki contain links to other pages within the wiki for further explanation. The most well known wiki is Wikipedia. Group members had encountered a wide variety of experiences with students and Wikipedia, from students who follow the Wikipedia controversy and question the resource to students who believe that they could do all their research using Wikipedia. Megan Adams suggested teaching students who use Wikipedia to focus on using the resource to find relevant keywords and tangential sources for further research.

The WSS Midwinter discussion was filled with interesting perspectives on grey material in libraries. From 'zines to blogs to wikis, it's clear that there is a lot of curiosity and interest about how to use these "alternative" literatures in libraries.

*Lauren Pressley, Wake Forest University*

(Continued from page 1)

### ACRL WSS Award Winners

arranged, housed in proper archival format, and accessible through the special collections catalog OASIS (oasis.harvard.edu).

Moving over 800 linear square feet into finding aids that total hundreds of pages with scope notes that are histories in their own right pays tribute to the foresight and understanding of the relationship of archival materials to researchers and more specifically feminist history to feminist, social, or cultural researchers to name a few. With the finding aids accessible through the Web, the collections are further enhanced by making these primary source materials known to researchers.

The *Women's Studies Core Books* database is a testament to the editorial leadership of Carrie Kruse and Cynthia Johnson, who spearheaded its conversion from static HTML pages to a functional and attractive database with multiple access points, hosted at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The database assists librarians in building Women's Studies collections and also serves as a guide for instructors and students. A long-time project of the ACRL Women's Studies Section, the database identifies the best in-print titles, selected by academic librarians who volunteer to maintain a subject area.

Carrie and Cynthia not only ably led the transition to the dynamic database format, but also coordinated the bibliographic efforts of more than forty contributors. In the process they forged a community of dedicated volunteers and created a streamlined system for ongoing maintenance of the database, which will assure its continued high quality and utility. The documented increase in usage since the conversion of the book lists to a database is proof that Carrie's and Cynthia's diligence and dedication has had significant impact on the field of Women's Studies. Cynthia Johnson is Head, Langson Library Reference Department, University of California, Irvine, and Carrie Kruse is Director, College Library, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

*Ruth Dickstein, University of Arizona*



**Katherine Kraft,**  
Recipient of the 2006 Women's Studies Section  
Significant Achievement Award



**Carrie Kruse,**  
Co-Recipient of the 2006 Women's Studies Section  
Significant Achievement Award



**Marlene Manoff,**  
Recipient of the 2006 Women's Studies Section  
Career Achievement Award  
(shown here at the opening of MIT's Women's  
Studies Program in 1984)



**Cynthia Johnson,**  
Co-Recipient of the 2006 Women's Studies Section  
Significant Achievement Award

## The Women's Studies Core Books Project: A History

Based on information shared by Bernice Lacks at Midwinter, the following preliminary history of the Core Books project has been pulled together. Not all dates were readily available, but we will pursue filling in such details as we discover them in the materials we have and that will soon be sent to the ACRL archives.

In 1991, Sue Searing, then University of Wisconsin Women's Studies Librarian, was contacted by a group of Russian feminists seeking information about core titles in American feminism. Sue brought their request to the WSS Collection Development Committee with the idea that pulling together information to respond to the Russian feminists' request might result in a set of bibliographies that were useful to others. Thus, the *Core Lists in Women's Studies* were born. Bernice was a member of the Committee and took on the initial project of creating five subject lists.

The subject coverage was expanded over the next few years while the Section pursued avenues for publishing these bibliographies. For the first couple of years, Joan Ariel, at University of California, Irvine, distributed paper copies of the bibliographies. In the third year, a compiled version was published by ACRL and sold through ALA publications. However, the price of the publication was steep and the Section decided to pursue electronic distribution to make the bibliographies freely available to a wide audience.

The first electronic distribution of the *Core Lists* was hosted by the University of Wisconsin Women's Studies Librarian's Office gopher server, followed by Web site hosting. Web distribution of the *Core Lists* as HTML pages continued through 2003. In 2004, the *Core Lists* were converted into a database hosted by the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections Center and renamed *Women's Studies Core Books* due to the change from being strictly "lists" of books.

Throughout these years, subjects were expanded, volunteers were solicited to update and maintain these subjects and an editing process was put in place. The 2006 update of the *Core Books* database features 48 subjects. Early editors were Ju-

dith Hudson and Rachel Murphree. In 1998 Bernice Redfern and Megan Adams became the general editors, followed by Carrie Kruse and Cynthia Johnson in 2003. In 2006, Kim Clarke replaced Cynthia Johnson as co-editor.

*Carrie Kruse, University of Wisconsin*

### Use the Core Books Database at

<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/ACRLWSS/>

### Annual Program

#### *Doing Information Literacy Differently: The View from Interdisciplinary Studies*

Please join us on Monday, June 26, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to noon in New Orleans for the WSS awards ceremony and conference program.

Interdisciplinary areas like women's studies, African-American studies, Chicana/o studies, and American Indian studies present unique opportunities and challenges for using and adapting the ACRL Information Literacy Competency Standards. Panelists Sherri L. Barnes (University of California, Santa Barbara), Tiffani Travis (California State University, Long Beach), and Sara C. Heitshu (University of Arizona) will discuss using and adapting the standards in interdisciplinary areas focusing on undergraduate credit bearing courses, online modules, and work with graduate students. Following the panel, break-out groups will discuss and share further ideas for using and adapting the standards in interdisciplinary areas.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Megan Adams, co-chair, 2006 program planning committee; for the committee: Phyllis Holman Weisbard (co-chair), Marilyn Dunn, Cindy Ingold, and Jane Nichols.

## Committee Reports From Midwinter in San Antonio

### Electronic Resources and Access Committee

The Electronic Resources & Access Committee has a new project with the move of *WSSLinks: Women & Gender Studies Web Sites* to the committee for oversight and management. The new editor of *WSSLinks*, Jennifer Weintraub, joined the committee as an ex-officio member. The group came up with a number of ideas to improve the site and encourage authors to become more engaged in the project. We are interested in determining if there is a need for/interest in this resource. Jennifer will be checking into this so if you want to weigh in, please contact her at: Jennifer.Weintraub@yale.edu.

Another Section Web publication, *Electronic Resources, Information and Assessment*, resides with the committee. This site is ordinarily annually updated, but you will find that the current editor, Toby Matoush, has made additional changes recently. Two new indexes, *Gender Studies Database* and *Left Index*, have been added to the Citation Databases section. Reviews for the new databases are included on the site. Check back after the Annual Conference for more additions!

A project that was conceived quite some time ago is coming to fruition. The Publications Committee had valuable feedback on the draft for *Women's Studies in Digital Archives*, and at our meeting, members of Electronic Resource & Access came up with additional improvements to the draft. This project, which consists of reviews of women's studies coverage in digital archives, has generated a lot of interest. The universe of digital archives has grown exponentially since the committee began work, and in the future, it's likely the project will be opened up to other contributors.

*Marcia Barrett, Chair*

### Instruction Committee

The Instruction Committee discussed a group of exciting projects at the Midwinter Meeting. In draft form at Annual, our Instruction Committee page (link: [http://www.tc.umn.edu/~clark078/wss\\_instr.htm](http://www.tc.umn.edu/~clark078/wss_instr.htm)) is now up and running, and is filled with important and useful resources to support Women's Studies instruction. We are considering

methods to both increase its visibility and gather feedback on the sources listed there. Further, we continue to add relevant Women's Studies database guides and tutorials to our page, and discussed the development of re-purposing our guides into self-contained instructional packages. Ideas for these packages include: a guide centered around the question "How can I do good WSS research if my library can't afford all of the databases listed on your site?"; a guide specific to women's studies on information literacy, utilizing a variety of sources from databases, primary source materials, online journal collections, indexes/abstracts, and Web sources; and a guide on using new technologies to teach Women's Studies, such as blogs, chat, and Camtasia. Building on this last idea, Co-Chairs invited the committee to consider starting a blog to raise ideas and share dialogue on best practices and resources, as well as examine the future guide/lesson plans mentioned above. Investigation is currently underway to determine which blog might be best suited to our purposes. Considering our interests and surplus of great ideas, we expect to have a fun and productive year!

*Kimberly Clarke, Chair*  
*Deborah LaFond*

### Membership Committee

In September, we were pleased to discover that our ACRL Action Plan promoting outreach to library school students was approved and funded for the next two years. Our plan uses the Women's Studies Section as an example of how an ACRL Section works, and why it is important to be active in the profession. We have spent most of our time contacting WSS members at institutions that have library schools to ask them if they would give an informal presentation introducing and attempting to demystify ACRL. At Midwinter, we finalized the contents of an adaptable Powerpoint presentation, and will offer it along with flyers and general information on a toolkit webpage. We discussed plans to do another mailing to library schools, detailing the WSS meetings and program at ALA's Annual Meeting and one of our members created wonderful flyers advertising our Midwinter meetings and social, which were very successful.

*Piper Martin, Chair*

## More Committee Reports

### Research Committee

The Midwinter meeting in San Antonio provided the Research Committee with a great opportunity to discuss several issues. The committee discussed ways to communicate calls for papers and conferences to the WSS community and ultimately decided to link to existing resources, such as blogs, that currently track these announcements. The committee also discussed surveying WSS members about their research interests and the need to clearly identify what information a survey would target. This discussion will be continued at Annual. Jennifer Gilley reported on her work towards getting the Research Agenda for Women's Studies Librarianship.

*Jane Nichols, Chair*

### Core Books Midwinter Meeting Report

The ACRL WSS Core Books Project held a brief, informal meeting at Midwinter. Kim Clarke was welcomed as the new Co-Editor of the project. She replaces Cynthia Johnson, who has been the Co-Editor since the 2003 edition of the project, and joins Co-Editor Carrie Kruse.

The group also welcomed Bernice Lacks as a guest to the meeting. Bernice was the original compiler of the first five *Core Lists in Women's Studies* and brought a 1991 copy of the WSS Newsletter announcing the new project. She shared with us some history, including the origin of the bibliography project (see related article on page 5).

We also discussed the update cycle, which runs January 15 - February 20. Carrie has updated and reorganized the online guidelines and included screen capture movies to help explain using the remote FileMaker Pro database for adding, updating and deleting records.

Finally, the WSS Core Books editors and contributors will work on a side-project once the annual update cycle is completed in February 2006. This Scope Coverage project will review the current depth and breadth of subjects covered in the Core Books lists, note any gaps in the lists as well as emerging or new areas of Women's Studies scholarship that should be

covered. Adjustments to the lists will be made when deemed necessary by the editors and contributors. This project will be done in conjunction with the WSS Collection Development Committee.

*Carrie Kruse, University of Wisconsin  
Kim Clarke, University of Minnesota*

### Awards Committee

See ACRL WSS Awards article on page 4.

### Collection Development Committee

No report submitted.

### Publications Committee

No report submitted.

### Nominating Committee

Closed deliberations.

### Program Planning Committee

See Annual Program article on page 7.

### See Committee Descriptions at:

<http://libr.org/wss/committees/comm.html>

### Save These Dates

**NWSA Conference, Oakland, CA  
June 15-18, 2006**

**ALA Annual, New Orleans, LA  
June 22-28, 2006**

### (Continued from page 1) New Assistant Newsletter Editor

Stacy's credentials include a BA in English (UC Berkeley), a MA in English (Chapman University), and a MLIS (San Jose State University). Stacy is a member of the Membership Committee and recently became a Core Books contributor. She maintains the spirituality titles. Stacy has found Section members to be a creative, exciting, and highly collegial group of librarians. She welcomes the opportunity to become more involved with the Section and will work to continue the tradition of the WSS Newsletter, which she has found to be an informative and well-designed publication. The Women's Studies Section is lucky to have someone of Stacy's experience and credentials involved in the production of the newsletter.

*Sherri L. Barnes, WSS Newsletter Editor*

**Women's Studies Section**  
*Sherri L. Barnes, Editor*  
*Jennifer Nace, Assistant Editor*  
c/o ACRL / ALA  
50 East Huron Street  
Chicago, IL 60611

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
American Library  
Association

## Welcome New Members

### May 2005

Deborah J. Mason, Beth Evans, Jerry Raye Brown, Sara R. Marks, Sybil B. McNeil, Elizabeth Uzelac, Erin E. Gratz, Margaret Ragland, Suzan Antoinette Altieri, Julie Gilbert, Jodi Berkowitz

### June 2005

Pauline D. Manaka, Alida Field, Margaret Packard Menchen, Margaret Atwater-Singer, Jennifer Lynn Hootman, Majid A. Badahdah, Maryann Putt, Michelle Marie Paquette, Mary E. Barbosa-Jerez, Jodilyn Abrams Solomon, Meredith L. Bowermeister, Allison Marie Roronda, Katie Blake

### July 2005

James A. Overbeck, Robin C. Kinder, Linda Stern, Jodi L. Carlson, Adriene I. Kim, Kristin L. Partlo, Moira Fitzgerald, Yolanda Retter

### August 2005

Jennifer R. Duncan, Emilie Nora Satterwhite, Emily Winburn, Thu-cue C. Haines, Catherine Irene Eisenhower, Jaime Haire, Amy Marshalek, Amina Lawson

### September 2005

Loralyn A. Whitney, Howertine Leona Farrell Duncan, Naomi McClellan

### October 2005

Elizabeth R. Fox, Brenda Booker, Jan D. Tidwell, Candice Gruver Kail, Lalitha Nataraj, Cristina Lynn Minter, Venus Elizabeth Fasce, Michele Mizjejewski, Karen L. Corday, Mary Elizabeth Strickland, Meredith Lindsey Kahn, Erin Rushon, Christine D. Tuttle

### November 2005

Daphne G. Selbert, Joan G. Cohen, Anahlee Panigabutra-Roberts