

# WGSS Newsletter

## women & gender studies section

published by the Women & Gender Studies Section of the Association of  
College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association

volume 26, no. 1  
Spring 2011  
ISSN 0895-691X

### Notes From The Chair

With this issue you'll notice our name change to Women and Gender Studies Section. This change was approved by the ACRL Board this Spring after being voted upon by membership last fall and then approved by the section's Executive Committee at Midwinter. The Publications Committee is taking the lead on developing a new logo and hopes to have that ready by Annual 2011. Thanks to Piper Martin our listserv has been updated to WGSS while Erin Stalberg is working to update our web site. Our new name brings up questions for section and committee work, such as how will committee work change in order to represent both Women and Gender Studies? As we incorporate this new aspect into our section activities and work, other questions will likely come up. Many of the academic departments that we work with have already successfully grappled with similar questions, so I am confident we will as well.

In other news, WGSS has been approved to have National Women's Studies Association as an official target organization to liaise with as part of ACRL's liaison program. I'm also very happy to share that Cindy Ingold has been selected by ACRL as the liaison. Our most recent WSS Career Achievement

Award recipient, long-time member and contributor to WSS, Cindy is an excellent choice for this position. Read on for her report.

Midwinter 2011 included a fantastic discussion led by, Vice-Chair/Chair Elect Pamela Mann. Titled, *Digital Natives: The Myth of the Millennial Student*, the well-attended discussants debated who our users really are and myths about their abilities to locate and use information as well as their access to and facility with smartphones and other devices. It became apparent that the myth is just that-a myth and that the term *Millennial Students* has socio-economic aspects to it that are under-examined. Though librarians face a myriad of challenges because the myth and reality are so distinct; many excellent strategies for working with students and faculty were shared.

Based on attendance at Midwinter I believe we are continuing to see a trend towards virtual participation as most of our committees met virtually. As we experience the challenges and benefits that meeting in person or virtually present, let's share what works (or what doesn't) and consider whether changes are needed to the Midwinter or the Annual conference schedules.

*(continues, p. 2)*

#### *inside this issue*

Notes From the Chair	1	WGSS at Annual: Program Highlights	3
NWSA Meeting Report	3	Member Profiles	7
Awards Update	4	New Member Welcome	8
Committee Reports	5	Notes From the Editor	8

The *Women & Gender Studies Section Newsletter* is published semi-annually by the Association of College & Research Libraries', Women & Gender Studies Section, a division of the American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, 1.800.545.2433, ext. 2523. The *WGSS Newsletter* is available to all section members at no additional cost.

#### EDITOR

Marissa C. Ball, MLIS  
Florida International University  
305.348.8030  
ballm@fiu.edu

#### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Beth Strickland, MA, MLIS  
University of Michigan  
734.647.2630  
strickl@umich.edu

The *WGSS Newsletter* welcomes contributions from its members. Please send articles, items of interest, and news to the editors, preferably in electronic format.

©American Library Association, 2011  
ISSN 0895-691X

#### WGSS OFFICERS, 2010-2011

- Jane Nichols, Chair
- Pamela Mann, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
- Heather Lee Tompkins, Secretary
- Phyllis Holman Weisbard, Member-at-Large
- Jennifer A. Nace, Member-at-Large
- Kayo Denda, Past Chair

List archives have moved, visit them here:  
<http://lists.ala.org/www/arc/wgss-l>

(continued from p. 1)

Looking ahead to ALA Annual in New Orleans, planning is underway and the WGSS preliminary schedule is set. You'll find it's quite similar to past years, so look for it on our web site as the conference draws nearer. I'm looking forward to learning more about scholarly communication and open access through the lens of feminism at our program, *21st Century Scholarly Communication: Conversations for Change*. The program will be held Monday, June 27th, 8:00 - 10:00 a.m., and features panelists Jennifer Laherty, Digital Publishing Librarian, IUScholarWorks, Indiana University at Bloomington; Marta L. Brunner, Head of Collections, Research, and Instructional Services, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California at Los Angeles; and Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo, Senior Fellow and Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, UC Santa Barbara. WGSS Member Sherri L. Barnes, Humanities Collection Coordinator, University of California, Santa Barbara will moderate. Prior to the panel presentation, the WGSS Career Achievement award will be presented to Kay Cassell, director of the Master of Library and Information Science Program and lecturer at the School of Communication and Information, Library and Information Science Department at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Sponsored by ABC-CLIO Greenwood, the award honors significant long-standing contributions to women's studies in the field of librarianship over the course of a career. Hope to see you there!

Last, special thanks to Kayo Denda and Diana King, past chairs, and Pamela Mann, Vice-Chair, for their guidance and support over the past year during my tenure as Section Chair.

*Jane Nichols*  
2010 WGSS Chair

#### **interested in serving?**

volunteer for ACRL committees at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/resources/forms/volunteer.cfm>  
serve your division or your section!

## REPORT: ACRL Liaison to the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)

*Overview:* This was my first time attending the National Women's Studies Association conference as an ACRL liaison. My goal at this conference was to observe, attend as many sessions as possible, and begin networking with NWSA members. The theme of the conference was Difficult Dialogues II which follows up on the 2009 conference: "In response to wide demand, NWSA 2010 builds on conversations that began in Atlanta at the 2009 conference. Difficult Dialogues II will explore a range of concepts and issues that remain under theorized and under examined in the field of women's studies. Although the problem of omissions, silences, and distortions in women's studies has been analyzed for decades, too often feminist scholarship continues to theorize on the basis of hegemonic frameworks, false universals, and a narrow range of lived experiences" (accessed from NWSA website <http://www.nwsa.org/conference/index.php> Nov. 24, 2010).

I attended the opening keynote session which featured Renya Ramirez and Andrea Smith, and the plenary session given by Chandra Talpade Mohanty and M. Jacqui Alexander. The paper and panel discussions centered around five themes: Indigenous Feminisms; Complicating the Queer; the Politics of Nations; "Outsider" Feminisms; and the Critical and Creative. I attended between 3-4 sessions each day and did try to attend sessions on a variety of topics to better understand the current trends in research by women's studies scholars

*Discussion and Recommendations:* While none of the panels/papers had a direct link to library services, the breadth and depth of the subjects covered reveals Women's Studies is a highly interdisciplinary mature discipline. NWSA does not

have any committees relevant to scholarly communication or open access issues. A Librarian's Taskforce is listed on the website but it has been inactive for quite some time. Phyllis Weisbard and I would like to revive this group and have it become more active within the formal structure of NWSA. After attending NWSA, it was quite clear that Women's Studies is a vibrant, socially relevant academic discipline. With shrinking state revenue and with many universities and colleges looking to cut marginal or less cost-effective programs, women's studies librarians need to be advocates on their campuses not only for the academic discipline but also to maintain collection budgets for women's studies resources. The field is not going away; it is in fact growing.

### Continuing Liaison Activities after the NWSA Annual Meeting:

- Share information with the Council of Liaisons and ACRL Board, as well as interested groups within ACRL, such as the Women's Studies Section (WSS). To this end, I will submit articles to CR&L News and the Women's Studies Section Newsletter.
- Report to the WSS Executive Committee.
- Encourage WSS members to submit posters, panels and papers to the 2011 NWSA conference.
- Along with Phyllis Weisbard, work to revive the Librarian's Task Force. This group was once quite active in NWSA but it has not been active over the past several years.
- Begin to be more active on NSWA forums and blogs to promote collaboration between the association and ACRL.

To contact me:

Cindy Ingold  
Education and Social Science Library  
100 Main Library  
[cingold@illinois.edu](mailto:cingold@illinois.edu)  
217-344-8254

*Cindy Ingold  
Abbreviated Report from the  
31st Annual NWSA Meeting in  
Denver—Nov. 11-14, 2010*

## Awards Update

Since 2000, the Women and Gender Studies Section has been proud to recognize greatness in our field by bestowing the Career Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship and Significant Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship Awards. As the term of obligation of the award's current sponsors comes to an end, we seek new partners able to aid us in honoring noteworthy contributions to our profession.

Being an interdisciplinary field by nature, women's and gender studies has fostered unique yet fulfilling challenges for its practitioners. In offering these awards, WGSS recognizes those working to turn the challenge of interdisciplinary curriculum into an asset, and encourage the development of innovative library collections and creative and cutting-edge academic services applicable across a wide range of disciplines.

WGSS is extremely grateful to ABC-CLIO/Greenwood and Routledge for their sponsorship of the Career Achievement and Significant Achievement awards respectively since 2000. However, ABC-CLIO/Greenwood will cease sponsorship after 2011, and Routledge, now Taylor and Francis, withdrew its support in 2009. The Awards Committee is currently working to restore the monetary portion of the award, and in the interim is requesting the ACRL Board approval to change the awards' status to "name only."

Please join us at the annual conference in New Orleans to honor Kay Cassell (Rutgers University), the winner of the WGSS 2011 Career Achievement award.

*Submitted by Kayo Denda,  
Committee Chair  
Rutgers, The State University of NJ*

## Stay Connected!

There are numerous ways to keep in touch with us...

For news and updates on Section happenings, catch us online via our Website, the section listserv, section blog, and even Twitter!



website: <http://www.libr.org/wss>



listserv: [wgss-l@ala.org](mailto:wgss-l@ala.org) (find us at <http://lists.ala.org/>)



blog: <http://www.acrl.ala.org/WSS/>



twitter: [http://twitter.com/wss\\_acrl](http://twitter.com/wss_acrl)



## Committee Reports from ALA Midwinter, San Diego

### AWARDS

(see previous page)

### PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Committee held its Midwinter committee meeting virtually using I-linc, an online meeting product currently offered by ALA. I-linc worked well and all members attended. The meeting minutes are on ALA Connect in the WGSS section.

During 2010, the committee made recommended revisions to the section's publications manual. The revised manual was approved by the WGSS executive committee during Midwinter 2011. The updated manual has been submitted for posting to the section website. We are excited that the new manual, a long-term project, will now be available. The executive committee also approved a 3-year section blog master position, who will be appointed this spring. A new assistant newsletter editor will also be appointed this spring. Remember that you can view our section newsletters here:

<http://libr.org/wss/newsletter/index.html>

The committee is now working on changes related to our section

name change to the Women and Gender Studies Section. We are working with Dawn Mueller from ALA to come up with some new section logo possibilities. We will share the draft logos with the section for review by the members. We are also changing the section name in the blog, newsletter, and will be revisiting the section brochure once the logo decision has been made.

*Submitted by Jennifer Mayer,  
Committee Chair  
University of Wyoming*

### NO REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Collection Development  
Electronic Resources & Access  
Instruction  
Membership  
Nominating  
Program Planning  
Research

## See you at Annual!

preliminary program information for WGSS

(note, some program info for Annual will still list the section as WSS)

### *21st Century Scholarly Communication:*

*Conversations for Change*

*Monday, June 27, 8.30am*

As the Open Access movement ramps up in the humanities and social sciences, librarians need to be aware of the initiatives that are altering traditional scholarly publishing. Open access journals, monographs, presses, and more, are changing librarians' roles and the scholarly communication landscape. This panel will discuss the progress and impact of this important reform movement from the perspective of feminist librarians and other stakeholders.

*Visual Literacy Competency Standards for Higher Education: Introducing a New Interdisciplinary Information Literacy Standard for 21st Century Learner (ACRL)*

*Sunday, June 26, 4pm*

Visual literacy experts and practitioners will introduce a working draft of the new Visual Literacy Competency Standards, and discuss implementation strategies for higher education. Sponsored by the ACRL Image Resources Interest Group. Co-sponsored by Arts & WSS

*Introduction to Women's Issues*

*Co-sponsored by ACRL-WSS & SRRT-FTF*

*Saturday, June 25, 1.30pm*

Caregiving is a work life balance for all of our librarians and library workers- male and female; young and old. Hear the survey results and contribute to ways to improve support regarding caregiving.



WGSS General Membership meeting  
Saturday, June 25, from 4-5.30 pm

WGSS Social  
Saturday, June 25, 6pm  
details, TBA

## Annual Conference Information Online



Find updated program details and speaker information on the ACRL at Annual Conference Web page. Go to [www.acrl.org](http://www.acrl.org), select "Conferences & Events," and click on "ACRL @ ALA Annual Conference" for the latest!

Locations for programs and meetings will be available on the ALA Web site approximately one month prior to the beginning of Annual Conference; look for the "Event Planner" link on the ALA Annual Conference Web site at [www.ala.org/annual](http://www.ala.org/annual). Fully registered attendees can create a personalized agenda and search for meeting, program, and event times and locations.

## WGSS Member Profiles

### ***Alison Armstrong***

**Collection Development & Cataloging Specialist, Radford University**

*Education:* B.A. Literature (Women's Studies minor), University of North Carolina at Asheville; MLIS University of North Texas

*Current Position:* Collection Development and Cataloging Specialist at Radford University located in Radford, Virginia

*What do you like to do in your spare time?:* I enjoy spending time playing with the dog, knitting, scrapbooking, hiking, traveling, and planning future travels.

*Why did you join WGSS?:* I grew up in a liberal household (I love the fact that both my mom and dad are active in their local Democratic Women organization!) While not the Women's Studies library liaison, I do serve on the University's Women's Studies Committee. I am the library liaison for Sociology, so, Women's Studies is certainly represented in sociology courses and reflected in the material Sociology purchases.



### ***Martinique Haller***

**Head of Information Literacy and Instruction Services, Roosevelt University**

*Education:* B.A. Literature, The Evergreen State College; MLIS, Dominican University; M.A. English, Roosevelt University; Graduate Certificate, Women's and Gender Studies



*Current Position:* Head of Information Literacy and Instruction Services at Roosevelt University

*What do you like to do in your spare time?:* When I am not at work, I am an avid bicycle racer and commuter, story-telling hopeful in a local theatre, and general reader and idler

*Why did you join WGSS?:* In my graduate program I focused on critical literacy, feminist pedagogy in the teaching of writing, and the representation of lesbian and queer women's identities in popular culture. I joined WGSS because I have found that WGS Librarians are an engaged, interesting group of librarians and because the work we do is important to me.

## Welcome New Members!

Alyssa Archer	Barbara Gaubeca	Robin Nelson
Alison Armstrong	Emily Grantz	Jessica D. Osorio Ortiz
Kim Baker	Martinique Marie Haller	Liesl Elaine Prentice
Nora Barnett	Dorothy Jean Hargett	Sarah F. Preskitt
Rachel A. Bicicchi	Linda C. Hayden	Megan Ramsey
Laura Bonella	Ms. Janet Hempstead	Rosalinda M. Rupel
Jonathan M. Bodnar	Jessica L. Howard	Marianne Ryan
Tamara Marlese Brathwaite	Jill Ann Jack	Kalyca Schultz
Valerie M. Buck	Charissa Odelia Jefferson	Jessica Shira Sender
Alex Chappell	Beth M. Johns	Erin A. Shackelford
Sigrid Anderson Cordell	Angelica Johnson	Rachelle D. Shells
Sarah Dahlen	Melanie Therese Kowalski	Rachel K. Stark
Kelly Davis	Jennifer Caroline Lasell	Amy E. Stewart-Mailhiot
Elizabeth Bartlett DeBold	Deborah C. Lee	Julie M. Still
Margaret Dittimore	Judy Lee	Jessica Helen Thorington
Carrie E. Dunham-LaGree	Alisha Marie Linam	Victoria L. Thur
Mara M. Egherman	Theresa R. McDevitt	Crystal White
Mrs. Alexandra Smith Epstein	Amanda Mills	Rose Yndigoyen
Jennifer A. Funk	Rebecca M. Murphey	
Nancy Gallegos	Dana Neacsu	

## Notes from the Editor

### CORRECTION:

In the Spring 2010 (25:1) issue, the article, "Contemporary Feminism: Topic of Midwinter Discussion", was incorrectly credited to Jane Nichols. The article was written by Susan Wood.

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR OPENING:

Marissa C. Ball will end her term as WGSS Newsletter Editor following Annual, 2011. Beth Strickland, Assistant Newsletter Editor, will move into the Editor's chair.

A new WGSS Newsletter Editor will be needed for 2-year term, beginning with Fall 2011 issue.

*Interested in the position?* Be on the look out... a formal call for applications will be forthcoming via the listserv and blog.