Notes From The Chair
by Sharon Ladenson (she/her/hers)

Dear WGSS Members and Friends, As always, I hope that you and yours are as safe and well as can be. First, congratulations to our recently-elected WGSS officers! Caitin Shanley has been elected as Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Erin Hvizdak has been elected as Secretary, and Monica Porter has been elected as Member-at-Large. Furthermore, a hearty congratulations to our 2021 WGSS award winners. Nicola Andrews won the Significant Achievement Award for writing a powerful article, “It’s Not Imposter Syndrome: Resisting Self-Doubt as Normal for Library Workers” (published in the June 10th 2020 issue of In the Library with the Lead Pipe). Jane Nichols won the Career Achievement Award for her abiding commitment to women and gender studies, social justice, critical pedagogy, and feminist publishing. Again, many congratulations to all!

WGSS committees continue to be highly engaged and active, and I’d like to share a few selected examples of our current projects and programs. The Collection Development Committee recently completed a well-organized Libguide to showcase various Open Access and Open Educational Resources in women and gender studies. In planning for next year, our Collection Development Committee is aiming to develop a toolkit focusing on methods and resources to facilitate discovering and purchasing materials in equity, diversity, and inclusion for women and gender studies collections. Our Membership Committee developed and distributed a survey to assess the need for a mentoring program in WGSS, and is organizing an upcoming virtual social (Drag Queen Bingo)! Our 2021 Conference Program Planning Committee has also been busy developing a forthcoming program of abiding importance: Transforming our Libraries for Everyone: Decolonization Trials, Tribulations, and Successes. Also in anticipation of the 2021 ALA Annual Conference, our Research Committee has solicited and reviewed poster session proposals in women and gender studies. WGSS also recently partnered with the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship to offer a powerful and engaging program on Bridging the Gap: In Support of Female Librarianship. Many thanks to everyone involved for their hard work in making these programs and initiatives happen. Also, a huge thanks to Jennifer Gilley and Nicki Loder for rebuilding the WGSS website!

Thanks so much as always to Tara Baillargeon (our current Past-Chair), Julie Adamo (our current Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect), and the entire WGSS Executive Committee for their wonderful leadership and collaborative work.

It has been an honor to serve as Chair of WGSS and a real pleasure to work with all of you! Please don’t hesitate to reach out at any time with questions or suggestions.

Sharon Ladenson (she/her/hers)
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WGSS OFFICERS, 2020-2021
• Sharon Ladenson, Chair
• Julie M. Adamo, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
• Ms. Cindy Ingold, Secretary
• Elizabeth Raub, Member-at-Large
• Caitlin Shanley, Member-at-Large
• Dr. Tara Baillargeon, Past Chair

Listserv archives (1999 - present):
http://lists.al.org/sympa/arc/wgss-l

WGSS Newsletters (1986 - present):
https://acrl.ala.org/wgss/publications/

ACRL’s traveling RoadShow workshops are on hold until it’s safe to resume large in-person gatherings, but we’re working to bring you the same great content through virtual experiences. These “Off-RoadShows” will continue to help academic library professionals tackle the greatest issues facing the profession today.

Host a multi-day virtual workshop for your library or organization! Learn more at: ala.org/acrl/offroad

ALA Annual Virtual Conference
Join your colleagues for the 2021 ALA Virtual Annual Conference, June 24-29, 2021! This event is packed with educational programming, Featured Speakers, 250+ exhibitors, and so much more. Be sure to check out the listing of high-quality programs and discussion forums from ACRL member units!

Register today!
Nicola Andrews, instruction and first year experience librarian at the University of San Francisco has won the 2021 Significant Achievement in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship Award for her publication “It’s Not Imposter Syndrome: Resisting Self-Doubt as Normal for Library Workers” (In the Library with the Lead Pipe, June 10, 2020).

Jane Nichols, associate professor and head of the teaching and engagement department at Oregon State University, has won the WGSS Award for Career Achievement in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship. Nichols was selected for her tireless commitment to women and gender studies, social justice, critical pedagogy, and feminist publishing.
In April 2021, the chapter I co-wrote with my colleagues, Torie Quiñonez and Dr. Antonia Olivas, was published in Knowledge Justice: Disrupting Library and Information Studies through Critical Race Theory, eds. Sofia Leung and Jorge López-McKnight. Our chapter is titled, “The Praxis of Relation, Validation, and Motivation: Articulating LIS Collegiality through a CRT Lens.”

Abstract:
“In this chapter, we use Critical Race Theory (CRT) to demonstrate how our critical raced/gendered epistemologies are supported by validation theory within a relational-cultural mentoring framework, and how they work to empower both students and librarians to assert their rightful places as scholars and members of a larger academic community.

We also borrow from Latina/o Critical Theory (LatCrit), which, in concert with CRT, emerged as a theoretical framework from legal studies, to theorize issues particular to the Latinx identities shared by many of our students, such as language, immigration and citizenship status, and identity. A LatCrit analysis is especially valuable now, in a place and time where students and their families are literally criminalized and targeted for deportation. For ourselves and for our students, the axis of citizenship/legal status intersects with language, class, and phenotype to articulate a specific raced subjectivity that is politically targeted. All of these intersections impact both our worldview and the ways we are perceived by our students and colleagues.”

Lalitha Nataraj, Social Sciences Librarian, California State University, San Marcos
ACRL’s Awards program will be on hold for the 2021-2022 award season, during which time nominations will not be accepted or juried and no recipients will be chosen for any ACRL awards. The ACRL Board has formed a task force to undertake a critical review of the awards program and will submit its recommendations to the Board in fall 2021.

This gives you more time to write a nomination for someone and be ready to send your nomination when the program resumes.

The **WGSS Career Achievement Award in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship** is designed to honor individual career achievement in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship. Nominees should have demonstrated sustained achievement in one or more of the following areas:

- Service within the organized profession through ACRL/WGSS and/or related organizations
- Academic/research library or archival service in the area of women and gender studies
- Research and publication in areas of academic/research library or archival services in women and gender studies
- Planning and implementation of academic/research library or archival programs in women and gender studies disciplines of such exemplary quality that they could serve as a model for others

The award is sponsored by Duke University Press and includes a $750 check plus a plaque for the winner.

The **WGSS Award for Significant Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship** recognizes one-time achievement, by an individual or a group, during the year of the award. Achievement may be in any area of academic, women and gender studies librarianship, including, but not limited to:

- Publication of a monograph, journal article, website or media product
- Talk or other presentation at a nationally recognized conference
- Innovations in women and gender studies librarianship, including but not limited to instruction
- Development of an exemplary program, collection, digitization project, or access tool to serve women and gender studies students and/or faculty
- Significant creative and innovative contribution to the work of the ACRL Women & Gender Studies Section

The award is sponsored by Duke University Press and includes a $750 check plus a plaque for the winner.

[https://acrl.ala.org/wgss/awards/](https://acrl.ala.org/wgss/awards/)
Sarah Dahlen and Ryne Leuzinger of California State University, Monterey Bay recently published an article describing their research related to teaching synthesis of information from sources and citation practices:

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2020.102254

Abstract: This paper details the process and results of a multistep assessment project addressing senior Social and Behavioral Science majors’ proficiency in information synthesis in capstone papers and source attribution in oral presentations. The study entailed using results from a campus-wide assessment project to identify challenging areas of information literacy for students and subsequently designing and implementing an instructional intervention focused on those areas. The intervention was assessed through a rubric-based evaluation of student work, and the resulting data suggest that the intervention was effective in enhancing students’ proficiency in the areas targeted. Our strongest result was an improvement in citation practices in capstone presentations; while improvements in synthesis of information from sources were not as large or definitive, they were still suggestive of the potential that librarians have to increase students’ skills in this area. This paper may prove useful for those seeking inspiration for providing instruction on synthesis in written work or attribution in presentations, or those interested in a model for using campus-wide or academic program assessment to measure the impact of library instruction.
Open Education Resources Libguide

Collections Committee Publishes Libguide on WGS Open Resources

This guide contains resources in Women’s and Gender Studies that are “Open Access” (OA). Open Access materials are distributed in a manner that makes them openly accessible, and free of cost to all who have the technology available to view the materials. The main principle of OA is to remove the financial barrier to accessing these materials. This promotes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) by opening up the free-flow of information and increasing its accessibility, making research more available to a greater number of people regardless of status and/or resources. This approach to information distribution has become increasingly important as publisher fees have increased exponentially, placing the purchase of materials out of reach for many institutions and individuals, concentrating information in the hands of the few. This guide seeks to highlight open access resources specifically in the area of women’s and gender studies. OA resources here are broadly defined, and include journals, research guides/LibGuides, books, websites.

This guide also provides links to Open Educational Resources (OER), the broad category of digital teaching/learning materials that includes textbooks, videos, images, quiz banks, curriculum, activities, and course modules. OER can be widely-used in higher education by faculty in all disciplines to provide students with low-cost and free alternatives to expensive textbooks and course packages. OER adoption and creation also allow faculty to have the flexibility to create and customize course materials. Each OER is governed by a license, set by the creator, that allows the user certain levels of the 5R activities: retain, reuse, revise, remix and redistribute (Opencontent.org). For more information on the types of licenses that can be applied to each work and their restrictions, see Creative Commons Licenses. WGSS Collections Committee members have not investigated each individual work in this guide or the license applied; it is up to the user to investigate this on their own.

Have you come across an open educational resource you think would benefit members of the Women and Gender Studies Section? Visit the guide and complete the suggestion form.

https://acrl.libguides.com/WGSScollections/home
**Hirsch elected to CLS Executive Board**

Elaine Hirsch, Associate Director of Watzek Library at Lewis & Clark College, was elected Member-at-Large on the ACRL College Libraries Section (CLS) Executive Board and will begin her two year term July 1, 2021. She recently served as Guest Editor of a special issue of Collection Management 46 (3-4) focused on Children’s and Young Adult Literature Collections in Academic Libraries.

Elaine Hirsch
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at Lewis & Clark College
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**Brown to be Student Success Librarian**

Kelsey Brown is transitioning from her role as a library assistant at the University of California, Irvine Libraries to the Student Success Librarian at University of Connecticut Library.

**WGSS HAS A NEW WEBSITE!**

[https://acrl.ala.org/wgss/](https://acrl.ala.org/wgss/)

Many thanks to Jennifer Gilley and Nicki Loder!
ACRL publishes a range of books to assist academic librarians in developing their professional careers, managing their institutions, and increasing their awareness of developments in librarianship, providing timely, thought-provoking, and practical content and research to academic and research librarians worldwide.

Some recent titles:

- **Leading Together: Academic Library Consortia and Advocacy**
- **Creativity: A Toolkit for Academic Libraries**
- **Academic Library Job Descriptions: CLIPP #46**
- **Open Educational Resources: CLIPP #45**
- **Approaches to Liaison Librarianship: Innovations in Organization and Engagement**
- **Faculty-Librarian Collaborations: Integrating the Information Literacy Framework into Disciplinary Courses**
- **Student Wellness and Academic Libraries: Case Studies and Activities for Promoting Health and Success**
- **The Library Outreach Cookbook**
- **Reflections on Practitioner Research: A Practical Guide for Information Professionals**

Interested in writing for ACRL? Contact Erin Nevius, ACRL’s Content Strategist, at enevius@ala.org for more information, or visit [www.ala.org/acrl/publications/publishing](http://www.ala.org/acrl/publications/publishing) to learn more about our book publishing program and submit a proposal.