

# WGSS Newsletter

## women & gender studies section

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### Notes From The Chair

As I write this letter, we are approaching the end of yet another semester completed amidst a global pandemic and numerous national and international crises. I hope you have all been able to take good care of yourselves and your loved ones during these extremely challenging times.

Since the publication of our Fall 2021 newsletter, WGSS committees have continued to plug away with projects that support women's and gender studies librarianship and research. The Collections Committee has added even more resources to the [WGSS resources guide](#). The Instruction Committee's [Companion Document to the ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education: Women's and Gender Studies](#) on the WGSS website, thanks to our Web Co-Editor Jennifer Gilley. This document is the result of nearly a decade of work by several iterations of the Instruction Committee. Further details about the latest engagements of all of our committees these can be found in the committee updates below.

This winter, as a representative of our Section, I was pleased to contribute to a Women's History Month news release organized by the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL). The news release featured a list of publicly accessible online resources from COSWL, ACRL WGSS, and the Social Responsibility Roundtable's Feminist Task Force (FTF). We look forward to continued partnerships with COSWL and FTF.

Looking ahead to this summer, The WGSS Program Planning, Research, and Membership Committees have

been hard at work planning for our Section's events at the 2022 ALA Annual Conference. The Program Planning Committee's proposal for a panel session entitled Classification and justice: Unfinished work in resource description was accepted and will feature Staci Ross and Emily Drabinski as speakers. Each year the Research Committee organizes a poster session for ALA Annual. This year's session will feature posters related to the themes of the above-mentioned panel. Last but not least, the Membership Committee will soon be announcing details about the annual WGSS social event.

Finally, I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to our newly elected section leaders! Kari D. Weaver is our incoming Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect, Elia Trucks is our incoming Secretary, and Cindy Ingold is our incoming Member-at-Large. Kari, Elia, and Cindy will begin their terms on July 1, 2022 and serve for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Caitlin Shanley, who is currently the Vice-Chair of WGSS, will also begin her term as Chair on July 1st.

I am extremely grateful for the contributions of our volunteers and members. It has been an honor to serve you as Chair of WGSS. I look forward to one day being able to meet and talk with more of you in person. If you have any questions or comments that you would like to share with the Executive Committee, don't hesitate to contact us at [ALA-ACRL-WGSSExec@connectedcommunity.org](mailto:ALA-ACRL-WGSSExec@connectedcommunity.org).

With kind regards,

*Julie Adamo*  
Chair, ACRL-WGSS

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

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#### Follow us!



#### WGSS OFFICERS, 2021-2022

- Julie M. Adamo, Chair
- Caitlin Shanley, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
- Erin Hvizdak, Secretary
- Mrs. Monica D. Porter, Member-at-Large
- Newcomb Archives C/o Elizabeth Raub, Member-at-Large
- Sharon Ladenson, Past Chair

#### WGSS Website:

<https://acrl.ala.org/wgss/>

#### ALA ACRL WGSS Connect Discussion Post:

[ALA-ACRL-WGSS@ConnectedCommunity.org](mailto:ALA-ACRL-WGSS@ConnectedCommunity.org)

#### Listserv archives (1999 - present):

<http://lists.ala.org/sympa/arc/wgss-l>

#### WGSS Newsletters (1986 - present):

<https://acrl.ala.org/wgss/publications/>



### American Library Association 2022 Conference & Exhibition in Washington, D.C., June 23-28, 2022

Join your colleagues for the 2022 ALA Annual Conference, June 23-28, 2022! With high-quality programs and several discussion forums, you'll have plenty of opportunities to learn from and engage with colleagues and experts in the field. Be sure to check out the [listing of high-quality programs](#) from ACRL member units! [Register today!](#)



### RBMS 2022 Virtual Conference (#rbms22)

#### **What now? Reflection, Reckoning, and Recovery**

**June 21 – 24, 2022**

RBMS is where you find content and connections that matter. With the most [relevant sessions](#) featuring diverse and engaging speakers, RBMS 2022 includes programs full of critical thinking, encouragement, and inspiration. [Register now](#) for this virtual gathering where we will take a hard look at our field in the wake of the pandemic. Conversations will focus on continuing actions for racial, social, and environmental justice, along with examining opportunities to focus our efforts toward effecting necessary change. Keep up to date, find new approaches to your work, and connect with colleagues again.

#### **Off-RoadShow Virtual Workshops**

ACRL's traveling RoadShow in-person workshops remain on hold, 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](https://ala.org/acrl/offroad).

## Committee Reports

### Program Planning Committee

The Program Planning Committee is partnering with the Anthropology and Sociology Section (ANSS) program planning committee to collaborate on a joint session at Annual 2022. Our proposed program, Classification and justice: Unfinished work in resource description, has been accepted! Our panel will be held June 25th at 2:30pm. Here is the program description: Five decades after Sanford Berman's influential publication, *Prejudices and Antipathies: A Tract on the LC Subject Heads Concerning People*, there's still much work to do to rid Library of Congress Subject Headings and other schemas of sexism, racism, and other prejudicial language. The words we use to describe people of marginalized identities can have an impact on the internalized bias we hold about them. Outdated and offensive classifications cause real harm to marginalized people by perpetuating harmful stereotypes and feeding bias in research. This panel presentation will explore the longstanding harm of how we categorize people and identities in classification systems. Through panel presentations and discussion, we'll explore actions all librarians can take to further the work of critical cataloging regardless of their day to day work with resource description.

Panelist, Emily Drabinski, will address the role dominant cataloging and classification structures play in the expansion of American empire. How does Library of Congress Classification work when implemented in the Philippines, and how do librarians creatively resist hegemony in resource description? Understanding cataloging through the lens of power changes how we think about this ostensibly neutral work.

Panelist, Staci Ross, will discuss "Black" and other racial terms in Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH). What do these headings reveal about collection development and catalogers' judgment? How can metadata professionals ensure subject access to materials on racial and ethnic groups are meeting the needs of all users?

Panelists will speak to the topic based on their unique research and perspectives. The moderators will have prepared several questions for the panelists to engage with one another, followed by a question and answer period with the audience.

We hope to see you there!

*Renee Kiner, Committee Chair*

### Publication & Communications Committee

The WGSS Publications & Communications Committee has had an active year continuing work on the newly launched website, editing the bi-annual newsletter, and launching new communication efforts on our social media channels. Of particular note is the new WGSS Leadership Profiles series, launched in the past year on Facebook and Twitter, to highlight members of the WGSS Executive Board. Early in the year, the committee discussed the development of a policy for ALA Connect posts but determined none was needed at this time. The committee will continue to monitor and revisit in coming years should a policy become necessary. Any member with concerns about ALA Connect posts are encouraged to reach out to the WGSS Publications & Communications Committee Chair.

*Kari D. Weaver, Committee Chair*

### Volunteers Needed for WGSS Publications & Communication Committee

The Publications & Communications Committee has two openings. The committee is in need of a **newsletter editor** and a **web editor**.

If you are interested in either of these positions, please contact Kari Weaver ([karidweaver@gmail.com](mailto:karidweaver@gmail.com)).

Additional information on the committee can be found at this link:

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/wgss/acr-wgsspb>

## Committee Reports cont.

### National Women Studies Association (NWSA)

The NWSA liaison position is now officially part of the executive committee.

NWSA 2022 Conference  
<https://mailchi.mp/nwsa/nwsa-conference-cfp-2022>

Scheduled to be in-person in Minneapolis, Nov 10-13

Early Bird Submissions will be accepted via All Academic until March 15, 2022 at 11:59 pm EST. Responses will be sent by April 29, 2022 11:59 pm EST. All regular submissions are due by April 15, 2022 at 11:59 pm EST. Responses will be sent by May 31, 2022 11:59 pm EST

Sara Howard and Holly Smith (co-chairs of the Library and Archives Interest Group) are hoping the panelists who intended to present in 2020 are able to do so this year.

*Sara Howard and Holly Smith, Committee Co-Chairs*

### Awards Committee

The WGSS Awards Committee has been on hold during the 2021-2022 year while the [ACRL Awards Task Force](#) reviewed ACRL's awards program. Major goals for the Awards Task Force were focused on determining the value of the awards program to membership, overlap and gaps in award coverage, alignment to ACRL's Core Commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI), and consideration of other models for recognizing achievement. A final report was delivered to the ACRL Board in early 2022.

In April 2022, the ACRL Board reviewed the recommendations and, citing in part the loss of the staff member who was most involved in coordinating awards with sections, voted to pause the awards program "for as long as it takes to fully consider and implement the Task Force recommendations." Awards committee Chairs from sections across ACRL expressed concern that there was very limited collaboration or consultation between the Task Force and the actual Awards committees. Leaders across sections advocated for increased representation of Awards committee Chairs and membership at large in discussions surrounding the fate of the awards program.

In response to raised concerns, ACRL intends to host a Town Hall to communicate the recommendation to pause awards again for the 2022-2023 year, as well as address questions. Feedback will be used to amend the new Task Force charge as needed. WGSS's ACRL Board Liaison Yasmeen Shorish is actively involved in advocating for the interests of our section in regards to this on-going awards revisioning. Plans are still evolving on how Awards committee members can be substantively involved in on-going discussions and planning for the future. Once more concrete information of the path forward is available, WGSS Awards Committee members will be contacted to participate in next steps.

*Jessica Szempruch, Committee Chair*

### Research Committee

We are excited to announce a new section of the Research Agenda, available on our website, entitled Gender, Race, and Sexuality in the LIS Profession. The section is still in draft form and has two unwritten sections, so please let me know if you have suggestions or would like to help complete it.

*Jennifer Gilley, Committee Chair*

### Collections Committee

The WGSS Collections Committee has been busy revising our LibGuide (<https://acrl.libguides.com/WGSScollections>). What was previously an OA/OER-focused guide has been expanded to reflect collections resources in Women's and Gender Studies more broadly. This includes readings lists for Women's History Month and tools/resources for collecting diverse materials for WGS and related disciplines (coming soon!). The committee also hopes to soon send a survey out to librarians regarding their practices and tools for collecting diverse materials for WGS. The committee is also currently reviewing the WGSS list of Core Journals for currency, usefulness, and applicability, and comparing it to other WGS-focused journal lists.

*Erin Hvizdak, Committee Chair*

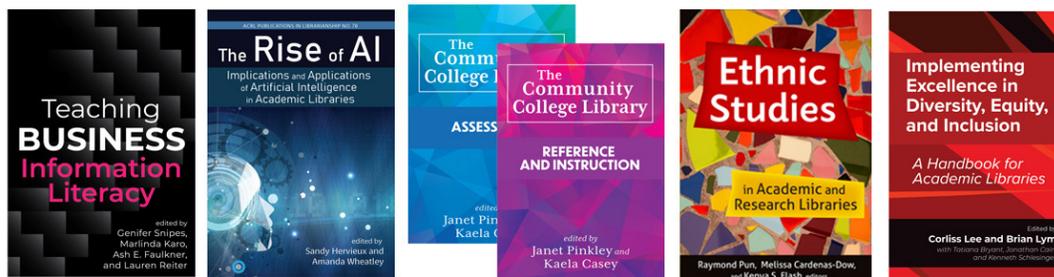
## General ACRL News

### ACRL Books

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. ACRL books provide timely, thought-provoking, and practical content and research to academic and research librarians worldwide. Some recent titles:

- [Teaching Business Information Literacy](#)
- [The Rise of AI: Implications and Applications of Artificial Intelligence in Academic Libraries, Publications in Librarianship #78](#)
- [The Community College Library: Assessment and Reference and Instruction](#)
- [Implementing Excellence in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: A Handbook for Academic Libraries](#)
- [Academic Library Mentoring: Fostering Growth and Renewal, 3 Volume Set](#)
- [Ethnic Studies in Academic and Research Libraries](#)
- [The Scholarly Communications Cookbook](#)
- [Mind, Motivation, and Meaningful Learning: Strategies for Teaching Adult Learners](#)
- [Envisioning the Framework: A Graphic Guide to Information Literacy, Publications in Librarianship #77](#)
- [Teaching About Fake News: Lesson Plans for Different Disciplines and Audiences](#)

Interested in writing for ACRL? Contact Erin Nevius, ACRL's Content Strategist, at [enevius@ala.org](mailto: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.



### ACRL Board of Directors

- Board of Directors Pre-Annual Virtual Meeting (meeting info)– Friday, June 3, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CDT
- Board of Directors Face-to-Face Meeting in Washington, DC (meeting info)– Saturday, June 25, 2022, 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. EDT

During the Pre-Annual Virtual Meeting on June 3, there will be an open microphone period from 11:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. CDT. Note that this period cannot be used to request that the Board take an immediate action. All guests planning to address the Board during the open microphone session are asked to arrive by 11:30 a.m. CDT.

### ACRL eLearning

ACRL's e-Learning program provides a unique opportunity to participate in professional development events that are focused on practical, tangible topics to meet the demands of your schedule and budget. Visit the [ACRL e-Learning website](#) to stay up-to-date on current e-Learning offerings from ACRL!

### Submit an ACRL 2023 Conference Proposal

ACRL invites proposals for the [ACRL 2023 Conference](#) to be held March 15-18, 2023, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Higher education has changed dramatically over the last few years. Academic libraries are addressing an increased emphasis on remote learning, rising calls for social justice, and an acknowledged need for flexibility that supports a sustainable work-life balance. At ACRL 2023, explore these issues and more around the theme of **“Forging the Future.”**

ACRL 2023 features [seven session formats](#) to suit a wide range of presentation and learning styles. Contributed paper, panel session, and workshop proposals are due **June 3, 2022**. Lightning talk, poster session, roundtable discussion, and virtual conference presentations are due **October 13, 2022**.