



WOMEN'S
STUDIES
SECTION

ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Vol. 10, No. 1
April 1995

Jill Morrissey, Editor
Daren Callahan, Asst. Editor
ISSN 0895-691X

ACRL Women's Studies Section 1995 Chicago Program

*New Feminist Research in Library and Information Science:
Implications for Women's Studies and Librarianship*

Monday June 26, 1995
9:00-11:00 a.m.

What research is being done in the field of Library and Information Science from a feminist perspective? Three faculty members from schools of Library and Information Science will present research they have done linking questions or problems found on women's issues:

Roma Harris, University of Western Ontario. She will present on "Gender Relations and Information Technology," which is also a focus of her book *Librarianship: the Erosion of a Woman's Profession* (Ablex, 1992). Over the last few years, Ms. Harris has examined how information technology is redefining librarianship, especially by ridding it of the characteristics which made it a female-intensive profession. She argues that we must define a new librarianship which will embrace and value female professionalism.

Nancy Becker Johnson, Wayne State University. Her presentation, "For Want of a Nail: Implications of Bibliographic Control and Publication Prestige," will address how problems of bibliographic control and publication prestige may be stopping researchers in Library and Information Science from contributing directly to the whole of women's studies.

Hope Olson, University of Alberta. She has done research on the patriarchy implied in traditional subject headings and classification systems and will discuss this in "Patriarchy, Hierarchy, and Subject Access." Ms. Olson notes that current (patriarchal) subject access schemes, whether verbal (subject heading lists and thesauri) or notational (classification) follow an established tradition of assuming that information can be described using some universal language. By using feminist deconstruction, she argues for not creating new universals but proposes strategies for subject access techniques which will de-center (or throw off balance) existing schemes by extending their limits to make space for the voice of those previously excluded.

This event is generously co-sponsored by:
Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL)
Feminist Task Force (FTF) of the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT)
Support Staff Interests Round Table (SSIRT)

-Cindy Faries, WSS Conference Program Planning Committee Chair, 1995 csf@psulias.psu.edu

From the Editor

The Women's Studies Section, now over 950 members strong, has accomplished so much! The dedication of its members, enhanced by electronic communication (both email and the Internet) has both unified and elevated our goals. In particular, we are pursuing an active mentoring program for all Women's Studies Section members and a recruitment program with library schools. Citing the dramatic increase of Women's Studies programs and women's studies-related topics in all subjects, especially in literature, psychology, sociology, and education, we make the case that knowledge of women's studies resources is a vital part of being a librarian today.

Let me take this opportunity to encourage you to be active and to contribute! Judging from our high membership rate, we indeed have the interest, and now with easier communication methods, it would serve us to put our knowledge to good use! A useful forum is the listserv FEMINIST, sponsored by the Feminist Task Force of ALA (address: listserv@mitvma.mit.edu. In the message area, type *subscribe feminist firstname lastname*). It is dedicated to women's studies and librarianship. Also, the University of Wisconsin and University of Maryland have excellent gophers that offer resources in women's studies (see page 5 for more information)

I am very pleased to announce that several members of the Women's Studies Section met with others from the Feminist Task Force and COSWL at the recent ALA midwinter conference. The meeting is a great way to hear of other projects and to meet other colleagues with similar interests. We decided on two projects: to have a combined meeting of *all* members of WSS, FTF, and COSWL (it will be on Saturday morning from 11:00 to 12:30) and to write a description of all ALA women's related groups to be distributed in the New Members Round Table packet.

We are active and we are strong! Power to the sisters.

Women's Studies Section Newsletter

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ARE YOU GOING TO THE ALA ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN CHICAGO?

IF SO, CONTACT

Jessica Grim at
pgrim@ocvaxa.cc.oberlin.edu
and give your address

so that we can send you an information
packet which includes
a checklist of meetings for all women-
studies related groups and a
Women's Studies Section sticker
for your nametag.

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Notes from the Chair

First of all, thanks to Women's Studies Section committee members for braving the elements at Midwinter in Philadelphia! I think we had a productive conference and have many activities and projects to look forward to in the coming months. Here are a few highlights of the Midwinter Meeting.

PROGRAMS

The WSS Executive Committee voted to co-sponsor a preconference organized by the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force called "Reaching Inside-Reaching OUT: Supporting Growth in Libraries and Society." The preconference will feature Donna Minkowitz, columnist for the Village Voice and a frequent contributor to OUT magazine, as the keynote speaker. The preconference is part of the GLBTF's 25th anniversary celebration.

WSS received co-sponsorship, including financial support, from COSWL and FTF for our program at the upcoming annual conference. Both of those women's groups decided not to sponsor programs in Chicago and generously threw their support our way.

Finally, COSWL brought together representatives from various women's groups in ALA to discuss collaborative efforts. Resulting from that discussion is a revitalized "Introduction to Women's Groups" that will be held in Chicago to bring members from the various groups together to discuss common interests and concerns.

OTHER SECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Midwinter was WSS's first attempt at a combined committees meeting, and the feedback I have received suggests that the new arrangement worked pretty well. We will follow the same schedule for the annual conference in Chicago.

The Executive Committee discussed various ideas for the ACRL Initiatives Fund, and Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Grace Jackson-Brown agreed to prepare a proposal for a recruitment/ mentoring campaign.

LONG RANGE PLAN

Grace and I attended an ACRL Planning Session where a process for developing a long-range plan was discussed. In an effort to get the jump on things, the Executive Committee spent some time discussing elements of such a plan for the section. Three key areas emerged from that discussion:

1. Monitor the national political environment, assess its implications for women's studies (e.g., program cutbacks in NEH and other federal funding, changes in information availability), and provide input to the ALA Washington Office.
2. Increase membership recruitment and mentoring efforts, particularly for women of color, recent college graduates, and library school students. This goal is seen as a foundation for coalition-building with other ALA women's groups.
3. Initiate internal re-education of our membership regarding our goals and purpose via the newsletter and more frequent communications with members via FEMINIST-L.

We will continue to develop and refine our long-term goals for the section when we meet in Chicago. I look forward to seeing you in the Windy City!

-Lori Goetsch, Chair, ACRL Women's Studies Section
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ACRL Women's Studies Section Committees: We want you to be involved!

These sections, Collection Development and Bibliography, Communications, Social Issues/Education, and the 1996 Program Planning Committee are only part of the WSS section. The other sections, Nominating, Publications, and Technical Services, will be profiled in the fall newsletter.

Collection Development and Bibliography Committee

contact: Judith Hudson at
jh492@albany.vms

The Collection Development and Bibliography Ctte. has made available Core Lists in Women's Studies, bibliographies of resources via the Internet: gopher to wiscINFO.wisc.edu/library catalogs and services/journal and info databases/ UW Women's Studies Librarian's Office/Core Lists in Women's Studies

Feminist Movements	Health	Language	Management	Mental Health
Philosophy	Politics	Reference Works	Religion	Science
Sexual Abuse	Sociology	Sports	Women of Color in the U.S.	

Other subjects "in hand" are Anthropology, Arts, Literature, and Music.

In preparation are lists on Aging, International Politics, Lesbians, and Media.

Volunteers are sought to compile Core Lists in Education, Employment (other than Management), and Family. Anyone who is interested in adding to the Core List should contact Bernice Lacks at Bernice_lacks@csu.fresno.edu

Communications Committee:

contact: Jessica Grim, Co-Chair, ggrim@ocvaxa.cc.oberlin.edu
or Jill Morrissey, Co-Chair, jmorrissey@marakon.com

So how has the information highway affected women's studies librarians?

**communication, communication, communication*

The Communications Committee has three main projects in progress:

1. Organizing the combined meeting of all Women's Studies-related groups: Women's Studies Section, Feminist Task Force, and the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship. We will have our first meeting on Saturday June 23rd at the ALA annual conference in Chicago (see page 7 for details).
2. Creating distribution lists of Women's Studies Section members, starting with the Committee members. This will facilitate and encourage communication.
3. Asking publishers of women's studies related information to donate materials and/or sponsor the Social Hour on Sunday night.

Social Issues/Education Committee

contact: Barb Stevens at stevensbr@uwec.edu

This group is focusing on a proposal for the ACRL Initiatives fund. Some ideas:

- * Make an effort toward recruiting minority women into the profession.
- * Work on attracting women to various ACRL committees; women should be more informed about funding within ALA.
- * Establish librarians' groups within other professional organizations. The American Anthropological Association, for example, has a new library-related interest group.
- * Begin an ongoing program such as mentoring. The Feminist Task Force has such a program now. We could concentrate on graduates of women's studies programs.
- * Offer a leadership of 'woman of the year' type award
- * Establish a formal affiliation with the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA). Designate members of each organization to attend the other's conference and provide a stipend.
- * Engage in liaison work with publishers and vendors to raise their awareness of women's studies issues.
- * Hold a program examining the conflicts between women's and men's studies (or gender studies).

Long-range goals for the Social Issues/Education Committee include identifying issues, such as child care, ALA resolutions or proposals, that are of concern to the Section. The educational role of the Committee consists in part of informing the Section of these issues.

1996 New York Annual Program Planning Committee: Contact Grace Jackson-Brown at jacksonb@ucs.indiana.edu to help with finalizing topic ideas and with organizing the program.

Internet Sources of Interest

Please send Internet "finds" to Column Editor Charlene Hovatter at cehova@oms.cis.pitt.edu

The current issue of **Feminist Collections: a Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources** (Fall 1994) contains a very informative review by Terry Brown of fifteen texts suitable for use in an Intro to Women's Studies course. Thanks for the generosity of the author, who is director of Women's Studies at the University of Wisconsin - River Falls, and Phyllis Holman Weisbard, the Univ. of Wisconsin System Women's Studies Librarian and publisher of *Feminist Collections*, an electronic copy of this article is available via the WMST-L archives. To retrieve a copy, send the message GET INTRO TEXTS@WMST-L to LISTSERV@UMDD.UMD.EDU. If you want to see the entire list of available files, add a second line that says INDEX WMST-L.

On February 15, 1995, in commemoration of the 175th birthday of Susan B. Anthony, the **National Organization for Women** placed its World Wide Web Page on the Internet. To access NOW's homepage, the address is: <http://now.org/now/home.html>. The NOW homepage includes useful information about the members and directors of the organization, brief synopses of the issues NOW is currently addressing, NOW press releases, and the text of NOW's monthly newspaper. Also, the homepage includes a link to other feminist resources on the net.

The United Nations has added a folder to its gopher site on the **Fourth World Conference on Women**, to be held September 4-15 in Beijing, China. Address: [gopher gopher.undp.org/ United Nations Conferences/Fourth World Conference on Women](http://gopher.gopher.undp.org/United%20Nations%20Conferences/Fourth%20World%20Conference%20on%20Women).

The **University of North Carolina** has put together a page on women's resources. Most of the items on their page link to local resources, but they have a collection of pointers to Women's Studies pages at other universities and colleges, a cool link to collections of information on famous women writers, which include portraits or photos, and links to an extensive list of various women's studies resources available on the Internet. To reach UNC's WWW browser: <http://www.clark.net/pub/s-gray/feminist.html>

Ginny Daley, Women's Studies Archivist and Bibliographer at **Duke University**, has begun work on a virtual women's studies library web site. While it promotes Duke University libraries' holdings and services (bibliographies with Duke call numbers, email to reference librarians, requests for purchases, etc.), it can serve as an example for your own library! (And of course as a testament to Ginny's hard work). Address: <http://odyssey.lib.duke.edu/women>. She can be reached at vld@mail.lib.duke.edu

BASIC SOURCES OF WOMEN'S STUDIES INFORMATION:

- 1) gopher to info.umd.edu/ academic resources/ resources by subject/ women's studies
included here under Computing/ Guides to the Internet are two guides to WS Internet sources.
- 2) gopher to wiscinfo.wisc.edu/ library catalogs and services/ journal and information databases/UW system Women's Studies Librarian's office
- 3) listserv on women's studies librarianship (called FEMINIST): listserv@mitvma.mit.edu
To subscribe: type *subscribe feminist firstname lastname* in the message area.
- 4) listserv on women's studies (called WMST-L): listserv@umdd.umd.edu
To subscribe: type *subscribe wmst-l firstname lastname* in the message area.

KUDOS ... *News and accomplishments of Women's Studies Section Members*

Please send information to Daren Callahan at dcallaha@lib.siu.edu

Kristine Anderson (Purdue University) has published an article, "Lesbianizing English: Wittig and Zeig Translate Utopia" in *L'Esprit Createur*, 34:4 (Winter 1994).

Joan Berman and **Ilene Rockman** presented at the ACRL conference on "The Potential of ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) Technology for Sharing Library Resources and Broadening Access to Information" and also explained its application for distance learning.

Sara Brownmiller (University of Oregon) and **Ruth Dickstein** (University of Arizona) have published *An Index to Women's Studies Anthologies*, which documents the "original writing and research about women published in anthologies and collections - not just in scholarly journals. This wealth of information, however, has been virtually inaccessible in periodical indexes or library catalogs." The index provides multiple points of access for nearly 500 anthologies published between 1980 and 1984. It is available for \$150 (list price) from G.K. Hall: ISBN# 0-8161-0589-8

Meredith Butler, directory of the SUNY Albany Library School, explained the role of entrepreneurship in library management sources in an ACRL conference session titled "Entrepreneurial Leadership for Tomorrow's Academic Research Libraries."

Daren Callahan had two articles published, "Thinking Visually: the Production of Library Videos," *Illinois Libraries*, 77:1 (Winter 1995) and "Educators and Practitioners Reply: an Assessment of Cataloging Education," (with Judy MacLeod), *Library Resources and Technical Services*, 39:2 (April 1995).

Bonnie Cox, (University of Kentucky - Lexington), has written the foreword to *Eliza Obenchain's Aunt Jane of Kentucky*. Obenchain was a late 19th-early 20th century feminist who wrote woman-centered short stories in the local color genre. This reprint edition is available from the University Press of Kentucky.

Cindy Faries (Penn State) presented a paper titled "Invisible Collections within Women's Studies: Practical Suggestions for Access and Assessment" at the ACRL conference in March.

Lori Goetsch (Univ. of Tennessee, Knoxville) has been accepted to participate in the Senior Fellows Program, to be held at Long Island University July 12-August 4th. The program, limited to 15 participants, is for the development of advanced management and leadership skills for current or potential library administrators.

Laura Hunt gave a presentation on her *Guide to Women's Studies/Feminist Resources on the Internet* at the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing Conference in Washington, D.C. She will also be moving in June from the Colorado College Tutt Library in Colorado Springs, CO to a new job at the Meem Library at St. John's College in Santa Fe, NM. Laura is also an intern in the WSS Communications Committee and is helping to monitor the FEMINIST listserv.

Kathryn Hammell Carpenter published the *Sourcebook on Parenting and Childcare* from Oryx Press.

Emily Horning is now a Reference Librarian in Sterling Memorial Library at Yale University.

The second edition of *Electronic Access to Research on Women: a Short Guide*, by **Judy Hudson** and **Kathleen A. Turek** of SUNY Albany's Center for Research on Gender, is now available. Another great Internet resource guide on women is by **Laura Hunt**. Both guides are available through the University of Maryland gopher: gopher to UMDD.UMD.EDU. Choose Educational Resources/ Academic Resources by Topic / Women's Studies/ Computing/ Guides to the Internet.

continued on next page

KUDOS continued (from previous page)

Linda Krikos (Ohio State) has an article in *Research Strategies*, 13:2 (Spring 1995) titled "BI Challenges in Women's Studies: the Gateway Answer."

Renee McBride started a new job in August as the West European Studies Cataloger at UCLA.

Jill Morrissey is now a Research Librarian at Marakon Associates, a management consulting firm in Stamford, CT.

Emilie Ngo-Nguidjol was a presenter at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Conference on African Americans in Education: the Challenge of Educating our Future in February. The title of her paper was "New Connections: Using Electronic Resources."

Priscilla Older compiled a survey of 623 women members of the New Members Round Table, asking their views on issues such as what topics they would like to see COSWL address in its programming, publications, and research. For a complete overview of the study, or if you have ideas you would like to contribute, please contact the WSS newsletter editor Jill Morrissey at jmorrissey@marakon.com

G. Margaret Porter presented a paper at the ACRL conference on "Making the Interdisciplinary Multicultural: Collection Building for the New Millenium."

Mary Jane Scherdin presented at the ACRL conference session "Personality Types of Librarians: Implications for the Library as an Organization and for Recruitment to the Profession" which was based on the 1992 ACRL Vocational Interest Inventories Task Force data on 2000 librarians' test results from Myers-Briggs and SII.

Jane Sloan is now a tenured faculty member of the Rutgers University library. Her book, *Alfred Hitchcock: Filmography and Bibliography*, was published this year by the University of California Press.

Peggy Warren-Wenk presented her findings on "The Impact of the Internet on the Scholarly Research Process in the Social Sciences and Humanities" at the ACRL conference in March.



Of Particular interest at the Chicago annual conference:

Women's Issues at ALA: HotTopics and Discussion

To unify the strength of women's groups in ALA, there will be a "first annual" meeting for ALL members in the Women's Studies Section, Feminist Task Force, and the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship. We will have presentations on projects and issues of ALA women's groups, then we will have separate tables for the Internet, Career Services, and Feminist/Women's Studies Presses. It will be held on Saturday June 24th from 11:00 to 12:30.

It is a great opportunity to meet colleagues who have similar interests in women's studies librarianship! If you know of someone who will be attending the Annual conference for the first time, please invite them to this meeting and to the Feminist Author's Breakfast on Sunday morning. Or if you are a first-time attendee, please contact Jessica Grim (see page 2), who will link you with a WSS member in your area.

Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Task Force Preconference and Gala Dinner

The Gay, Lesbian, & Bisexual Task Force (GLBTF), the nation's first gay, lesbian & bisexual professional organization, will celebrate its 25th anniversary during the ALA conference in Chicago. A preconference entitled "Reaching Inside -- Reaching OUT: Supporting Growth in Libraries and Society" featuring keynote speaker Donna Minkowitz, columnist for the *Village Voice* and the *Advocate* will be held Friday, June 23, 1995. The cost is \$90 and preregistration is required by May 24, 1995. In addition, a Gala Dinner (\$50) followed by the annual book awards, will be held Saturday, June 24, 1995. To order tickets for the Preconference and/or the Dinner, contact Michael Miller at ALA Office of Outreach Services, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. For more information about GLBTF, contact Wendy Thomas at wendy@harvarda.harvard.edu



**ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES SECTION
1995 ANNUAL (CHICAGO)
COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE**

SATURDAY JUNE 24	11:00 -12:30	<i>ALL</i> members in ALA/ACRL Women's Groups: WSS, FTF, COSWL
	2-4	WSS Executive Committee
SUNDAY JUNE 25	7:30	Feminist Author's Breakfast (FTF)
	9:30-12:30	All WSS Committee Sections Mtg.
	4:30-5:30	WSS General Orientation & Membership Meeting
	6-7	WSS Social Hour
MONDAY JUNE 26	9:30-11	WSS Program: New Feminist Research in Library and Information Science: Implications for Women's Studies and Librarianship
	2-4	WSS Executive Committee

The ACRL Women's Studies Newsletter (ISSN 0895-691X) is a semi-annual publication of the Women's Studies Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries, a division of the American Library Association, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. It is a communication vehicle for Section members and interest to the membership will be reviewed for publication. Inquiries may be made to the editors: Jill Morrissey and Daren Callahan. The WSS Newsletter is available to all Section members at no additional cost. © American Library Association, 1995.

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