

Volume 24, no. 1
 Spring 2009
 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

Creating a Digital Archive of WSS Newsletters

The celebration of the 25-year anniversary of the Women's Studies Section had an unexpected byproduct - the creation of a digital file of the Section's Newsletters back to volume one!

When Dolores Fidishun began to write the latest version of the Section's history she sought information from two main sources: email questionnaires to former Section chairs and members and research into events that had taken place over the years and had been reported in the WSS Newsletter. At the time there were a number of Newsletters online dating back to the 1990s, but access to older issues (for those of us who have not saved all of our back issues) could only be found at the ACRL office or at the University of Illinois archives, home of the WSS archives. Since neither one of these was in easy driving distance of Pennsylvania, Dolores ordered photocopies of the printed issues from the archives at both ACRL and Illinois. With the help of Dawn Mueller at ACRL and Mary E. Miller at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign an almost complete run of the Newsletter was located and they arrived at Penn State Great Valley ready for research.

Unfortunately, one key Newsletter - the first issue - was missing. There had been a few other histories of the Section written to mark important milestones and at least one stated that the Newsletter was first published in December of 1986 and edited by Deb Biggs and Deb Schneider. Dolores put out a call via WSS-L and the Feminist listserv to ask if anyone had a copy of that issue. Amazingly, Sarah Pritchard found it in her files and faxed a copy to Dolores. Thanks to her you can read the original draft of the WSS bylaws as well as an interesting article by 1986-87 co-chairs, Sue Searing and Laurie Goetsch, about the impact of our becoming a Section. Our thanks goes out again to Sarah for providing this all-important special issue.

There are still a few missing issues (although we are not sure if they were published), so if you have back files of newsletters or were a newsletter editor please check for these issues and send a copy to Dolores Fidishun (dx19@psu.edu) so we can add them to the historical run. The issues we need are: volume 7, number 2; volume 5, number 1; and volume 1, number 2 (which was believed not to have been published). Our copy of volume 13, number 2 (1998 Fall) is also missing page 3, though this could just be a typographical error.

As the copies of the newsletters arrived at Great Valley, Dolores became inspired by the Feminist Task Force's recent effort to put their publication, Women In Libraries, on the web (<http://libr.org/ftf/WIL/wil.html>). Her thought was, if we have all the Newsletters why not scan them and put them on the web? After checking with Jennifer Gilley, Section Chair, Stacy Russo, former Newsletter Editor, Julie Biando Edwards, former Assistant Newsletter Editor, and Erin Stalberg, WSS's web *(continued on page 4)*

Inside this issue:

WSS Newsletter Archives	1
Notes From the Chair	2
Multimedia and the Role of Librarians	3
From the Editor	4
WSS Committee Reports at Midwinter	5
WSS Award Winners, ALA schedule	6
WSS Member Profiles	7
Welcome New Members	8

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. 2523

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

Editor

Julie Biando Edwards
Maureen and Mike Mansfield
Library
University of Montana
Missoula, Montana 59812
406-243-4505
julie.edwards@umontana.edu

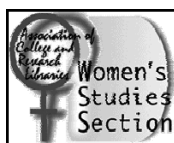
Assistant Editor

Margaret J. Anderson, M.S.
Texan A&M University Libraries
MS 5000 Room 111.1B
College Station, TX 77843-5000
979-862-1893
margaretanderson@tamu.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, 2009 ISSN 0895-691X

WSS Officers 2007-2008:

- ◆ Diana King, Chair
- ◆ Kayo Denda, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
- ◆ Jennifer Nace, Secretary
- ◆ Kimberly L. Clarke, Member-at-large
- ◆ Marilyn A. Dunn, Member-at-large

**Notes from the Chair**

As Spring finally arrives, I want to thank all new and returning WSS members for your interest and participation in the Section. Special thanks also go to those who have chosen to serve on committees or WSS projects this year and next—your work and collaboration is very much appreciated! My hope for the future is that proposed changes in existing guidelines for electronic participation will help facilitate more opportunities for members who cannot attend conferences regularly. This year, a new communication venue named ALAConnect will go live as a replacement for the much older ALA Communities software, to be used primarily as a centralized space where groups can work together online. I will be sending out information on this product as it becomes available.

At the Midwinter Executive Committee meeting, we discussed technology options for potentially expanding the WSS presence and providing new communication venues for the Section. With guidance from the Publications Committee, we decided to explore a WSS blog (<http://www.acrl.ala.org/WSS/>), which will be evaluated at our next meeting in Chicago. Members are encouraged to leave comments on the site and to send posts to Publications Chair Julie Edwards or a member of the Executive Committee. Discussion topics, professional questions, Section issues, and other ideas are all welcome on the blog, as we investigate how we would like to use this new tool.

Before we know it, the ALA Annual Conference will soon be upon us (July 9-July 15, 2009, in Chicago). Though slightly snow-tinged, the WSS Discussion Forum at Midwinter led by Vice-Chair Kayo Denda resulted in a lively conversation about multimedia and classrooms. My hope is that attendees will bring that same energy to our 2009 Annual program, entitled "Gaming, Film, and Ephemera: Women's Studies and Academic Collections." As in the past, the program will take place on Monday morning, July 13, and is preceded by the WSS Awards ceremony from 8:00-8:30 am. More information on the WSS meeting schedule and the program can be found on the WSS website (<http://www.libr.org/wss/conferences/index.html>). This year, WSS is also in charge of planning the annual Introduction to Women's Issues forum, to be held on Saturday, July 11 at 1:30. This session has historically been an informal venue for the discussion of women's issues at ALA, and is co-sponsored with the SRRT Feminist Task Force (FTF) and the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL). We discussed possible topics at the Midwinter Membership Forum, and decided to focus this year's topic on strategies for workload management in the current fiscal climate.

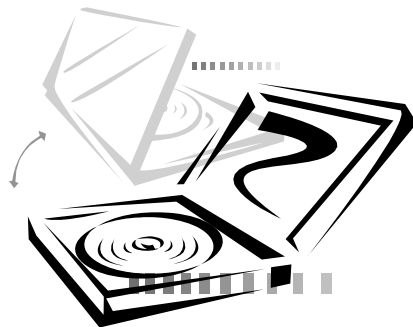
Finally, I want to send out hearty congratulations to our two very deserving 2009 WSS award winners: Linda Krikos for Career Achievement, and Ken Middleton for Significant Achievement. Awards nominations have been very competitive for the last couple of years, and I also want to thank all the nominators for their work in putting together impressive packets in honor of their colleagues' achievements.

Best wishes to all of you, and as always please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Diana King
WSS Chair

Multimedia and the role of Librarians: Topic of Midwinter Discussion

WSS coordinated another successful discussion at ALA Midwinter in Denver. Led by Vice-chair/Chair-elect Kayo Denda, a small group of librarians had a lively and wide ranging discussion on the implications of multimedia use in libraries. The discussion, entitled *Multimedia and Classrooms: Role of the Libraries and Librarians*, explored the ways in which new equipment and software is changing how libraries look, feel, and operate and the ways in which librarians will have to reconsider their own skill sets – from how they keep up with rapidly changing technology to how they interact with patrons.



Librarians from institutions all over the country talked about the ways in which multimedia is reshaping the physical space of the library and much of the discussion was devoted to information and learning commons models that incorporate traditional services with an increasing emphasis on technology, multimedia, and collaborative group space. The general consensus is that librarians are working to integrate multimedia into library services, whether in designated classrooms or through freestanding multimedia stations and tools, though sometimes without the support from other teaching faculty. With the increased focus on learning commons and multimedia space in libraries, librarians have found themselves needing to negotiate issues of space, classroom sharing, regulations, collaborations with faculty over technology, noise levels, food policies and more.

Additionally, librarians are finding that they must develop an entirely new set of skills – whether with the varieties of multimedia software students use or the operation of new printers and scanners. Librarians are educating themselves on the use and maintenance of new technology, sometimes without institutional support. The debate about what the role of librarians should be in the multimedia library centers around whether they should be expected to learn new skills or whether libraries should hire outside experts to specifically work with technology and multimedia.

The consensus of the discussion seemed to be that libraries, as we know, are evolving into places where people don't just seek out information but where they actively create their own knowledge. The current trend towards learning commons and multimedia in the library isn't likely to abate any time soon, and librarians, as always, will have to consider new ways in which to meet the growing challenges of the future.

*Julie Biando Edwards
University of Montana*

WSS has a Blog!

Want to keep up with WSS news and events? Want to talk with your colleagues about issues of interest to Women's Studies librarianship or scholarship? Check out the new WSS blog at <http://www.acrl.ala.org/WSS/> and add your comments to the conversation!



Digital Archive of Newsletters

(continued from page 1)

editor, a project was developed to scan the Newsletters and mount them on the web, creating a digital archive for use by members and others interested in the Section.

Lauren Hix, who at the time was a student in Kutztown University (PA) bachelor's degree in Library Science program and was serving as an intern at Great Valley, had been working closely with Dolores to accumulate the Newsletters and track the ones that had been received. She became the point person for the scanning project. After initial training on use of Great Valley's scanner, she took over ensuring that each of the additional issues was scanned. The scanning project involved making copies of some of the Newsletters to accommodate the individual pages needed to scan, doing the actual scanning, and then cleaning up copies to be sure that the quality of the scan was appropriate for mounting on the web. Digital copies were then saved and Lauren coordinated with Erin Stalberg to transfer the files so that Erin could mount them on the WSS web site. All available back issues of the Newsletter are now a part of the WSS site at <http://www.libr.org/wss/newsletter/index.html>. An additional project being discussed by the WSS Research Committee would involve indexing the newsletters to provide even more access.

Lauren and Dolores were both honored to contribute to documenting the Section's history and making the Newsletter available for everyone to use. As we continue into the future the Newsletters will continue to serve as a reminder of the great projects the Section has undertaken, the wonderful programs we have produced, and the important people who make up WSS.

*Dolores Fidishun, Ed.D. Penn State Great Valley
School of Graduate Professional Studies
Lauren Hix, Avon Grove School District and Penn
State Great Valley School of Graduate
Professional Studies*

From the Editor



Julie Biando Edwards will end her term as Newsletter Editor following ALA Annual 2009. Margaret Anderson, Assistant Newsletter Editor, will move into the Editor's chair.

Newsletter Editor Opening

WSS Newsletter Editor needed for two year term, beginning with Fall 2009 issue.

Responsibilities:

Serve staggered 2-year term: year one as Assistant Editor and year two as Editor. Editors are non-voting ex-officio members of the Executive Committee and of the Publications Committee. Editors may divide up the editorial and text inputting tasks as they choose. Camera-ready copy is sent to ACRL for production and mailing. Editors solicit input and news from WSS Officers, committee chairs and members, and may write original copy. At least one editor should be at the following events:

- ◆ WSS Executive, Publications, and Program Committee meetings
- ◆ Membership meetings
- ◆ Leadership Orientations
- ◆ ACRL meetings for newsletter editors

Qualifications:

- ◆ Knowledge of or willingness to learn Microsoft Publisher
- ◆ interest in increasing one's knowledge of how WSS operates
- ◆ desire to add a national service accomplishment to one's CV

To apply:

please send a brief email regarding your interest to Margaret Anderson at margaretanderson@tamu.edu and Julie Biando Edwards at Julie.edwards@umontana.edu. Applicants are encourage to attach a copy of current CV.

Committee Reports From Midwinter

Collection Development & Bibliography Committee

In spite of a small turnout at ALA Midwinter, the WSS Collection Development and Bibliography Committee meeting was a productive one. Diana King talked to the Committee Chair about membership and meeting participation, and we are looking at ways to increase participation. We are also exploring virtual participation and virtual meeting options. Guest Carrie Kruse of the WSS Core Books project reported on the response to the Core Books survey. The survey will be redistributed in early April and we hope to use this tool to get a better idea of what we are doing right with our online resources and on what we can do better. The WSS Collection Development Resources site continues to be updated, and we are currently recruiting new editors for "Award Winning and Notable Titles" and "Checklist to Evaluate Women's Studies Collections."

Erica Carlson Nicol, Washington State University

Membership Committee

The committee sent out targeted communication to our library school student members highlighting the fact that you don't have to be a women's studies librarian to remain in WSS. We hope to do this every year with the goal of retaining members who join as students. We will move forward between now and Annual on contacting other membership committees from the smaller ACRL sections in order to investigate a collaboration. In addition to our very successful Facebook and MySpace pages, we are also going to set up a Twitter account—look for us! Our social at Trios Enoteca Wine Bar was well-attended and we had a fun time sharing tapas, wine, and great conversation.

Piper Martin, Wright State

Program Planning Committee

The 2009 Program Planning Committee discussed upcoming deadlines for audiovisual requests and room set-up, as well as possible venues for promotion. We also learned that ACRL has a permission form for speakers if a group wants to pursue podcasting of an event; however, the group must provide all of the technology required. To more accurately reflect the content of the Annual program, the committee changed the title to: "*Gaming, Film, and Ephemera: Women's Studies and Academic Collections.*" Speakers will be Diana King (moderator), Marilyn Dunn, Lisa Hinchliffe, and Angela Winand. A page will be established on the WSS website with descriptive

information about the program and speakers, and post-conference supporting materials can also be placed there.

Diana King, UCLA

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee met to discuss a variety of issues at the Midwinter Meeting. Members discussed the option of having a virtual meeting concurrent with the meeting during conference. This would allow members who cannot attend conferences to meet without having to arrange for another virtual meeting time. The committee is looking into this possibility. The two major agenda items included planning for a review and update of the WSS Publications Manual, which will be completed between Midwinter and Annual and then brought to the Executive Committee for approval, and the launch of a WSS blog. Members agreed that a blog could be facilitated by this Committee but would have to have contributors from across the Executive Committee. The blog will be hosted by ACRL and will have a trial run of about six months before being reviewed.

Julie Biando Edwards, University of Montana

Research Committee

Jennifer Gilley updated the *Bibliography of Scholarship in Women's Studies Librarianship*. She will follow up with Erin about uploading the files to the WSS website. We discussed who would like to be reappointed to the Committee. We updated the Call for Proposals for the poster sessions/research forum to be held at annual in Chicago 2009, especially trying to make the call more clear to encourage beginning researchers to apply. The Committee discussed current research projects being done by members, and topics for future agendas, including open access.

Cindy Ingold, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

No Report Submitted by:

- ◆ Awards Committee
- ◆ Electronic Resources and Access Committee
- ◆ Instruction Committee
- ◆ Nominating Committee
- ◆ Program Planning Committee

WSS Program for the 2009 ALA Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL		
Date	Time	Meeting name
Sat July 11	1:30-2:30	Introduction to Women's Issues
Sun July 12	8-10 am	Conference Planning Committee 2009
	8-10 am	Conference Planning Committee 2010
	10:30-noon	Awards (closed)
	10:30-noon	All Committees meeting
	3:30-5:30	Executive Board
Mon July 13	8-noon	Program: Gaming, Film, and Ephemera: Women's Studies and Academic Collections (The Awards presentation will run from 8-8:30; program begins at 8:30)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Meeting locations TBA ◆ For more information: http://libr.org/wss/conferences/index.html 		

2009 WSS Award Winners!

These award winners will be presented with plaques and \$1,000 cash prizes during the WSS Program at 8 a. m. on Monday, July 13, during the ALA Conference in Chicago.

ACRL WSS Career Achievement Award

Linda Krikos was selected for this award to honor her many contributions to women's studies librarianship through her published research and service to the WSS. As faculty emeritus at The Ohio State University Libraries, she has led one of the best women's studies libraries in the U. S. She received both her B.A. and M.L.S. from Kent State University. The ACRL WSS Career Achievement Award is sponsored by Greenwood Publishing Group, Inc.

ACRL WSS Significant Achievement Award

Ken Middleton was selected award in recognition of many contributions to women's history. This award especially celebrates the creation of a digital collection of primary sources in women's history in the electronic resource– Discovery American



Women's History Online at <http://library.mtsu.edu/digitalprojects/womenshistory.php>

After receiving his M.L.S. in 1992 from University of Tennessee, Ken now works as a user services librarian at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). While working on his M.A. in history at MTSU, he became interested in women's history. The ACRL WSS Significant Achievement award is sponsored by Routledge/ Taylor & Francis Group.

Member News and Notes

Stacy Russo (Chapman University) recently presented the poster session "A Space for Reading, Reflecting, Gathering, and Discussing: The Creation of a Librarian Journal Club" at the Southern California Instruction Librarians SCIL Works 2009 program at Cal State San Marcos.

Beth Strickland was hired as the Women's Studies Librarian at the University of Michigan in fall of 2008. She received her MLIS from the University of Denver and holds an MA in Women's Studies from San Diego State University. Beth was previously the Social Sciences Librarian at the University of Colorado.

WSS Member Profiles

Jennifer Nace



Education: MSLIS from Syracuse University and a BA in Modern Dance from CU-Boulder. My imaginary second master's is in American Studies.

What do you do in your current job?: I have just recently changed jobs and am doing much the same thing, just at a very different institution (Hobart and William Smith Colleges). So, reference and instruction are my mainstays, with collection development, web work, usability and assessment tossed in for good measure.

What Books Have You Read Lately?: I am reading the Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath, and I feel such relief to finally set down with her. I love her ongoing litany of self-improvements she must/should make.

What Do You Enjoy Doing in Your Spare Time?: Lately, it's anything to take care of myself physically---walking, yoga, a new recipe. This profession is lamentably sedentary.

Why Did You Join WSS? I was recruited (that's fun to say) and it's been a great experience. The section is very diverse for its small size and it's impressive that members show an active interest in each other.

Stacy Russo



Education: MLIS, San Jose State University; MA English, Chapman University; BA English, University of California, Berkeley

What do you do in your current job? I'm currently Coordinator of Information & Reference Services for Chapman University's Leatherby Libraries. I oversee the reference desk and participate in the teaching and development of our freshman information literacy program. I'm also responsible for collection development and instruction in Education, International Studies, Peace Studies, Political Science, and Women's Studies.

What books have you read lately? I just read three novels by an Italian writer, Francesca Duranti. I recommend her Left-handed Dreams, which was my favorite of the three. I'm currently reading a fabulous collection of short stories and poems titled The Mysterious Life of the Heart: Readings from the Sun about Passion, Longing, and Love and Elaine Showalter's new book, A Jury of Her Peers: American Women Writers from Anne Bradstreet to Annie Proulx.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? I try to make it to yoga every Saturday morning. I also like reading, writing, drinking coffee, watching movies, exploring vegetarian/vegan restaurants with my husband, and hanging out with my three cats.

Why did you join WSS? I joined WSS while in library school. It was a great discovery to find a group of librarians with interests similar to mine. Once I entered the profession, I became involved with the Core Books Project and the Membership Committee. Everyone was so welcoming to a new librarian and there were many opportunities to get involved. I can't imagine not being a member.

Jennifer Mayer



Education MLIS University of Oklahoma; MA University of Wyoming.

What do you do in your current job? I work in the reference department at the University of Wyoming Libraries. I am the liaison with the Fine Arts departments and the Women's Studies program. In a nutshell, I do reference, instruction, collection development, scholarship and service activities.

What books have you read lately? Straight Man, Richard Russo; Digging to America, Anne Tyler; The Corrections, Jonathan Franzen; Madness, Marya Hornbacher and just started Per Petterson's Out Stealing Horses.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time? Road trips, high altitude gardening, movies, working out

Why did you join WSS? I attended a WSS social during the 2007 ACRL conference in Baltimore and was totally impressed. When I found out about all the activities and accomplishments of the section, I knew I wanted to join WSS and get involved.

Women's Studies Section
Julie Biando Edwards, Editor
Margaret J. Anderson, 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!

Allycia Sellie	Donald Keeney	Leslie Firth
Amy Gons	Emily Drabinski	Margaret Anderson
Amy Mark	Fiona Grady	Margie Ruppel
Anna Cook	Gail Roy	Marissa Ball
April Martinez	Jessica Harris	Mary Marix
Asma Jamal Yagoub	Jill Anderson	Melissa Guy
Barbara Schoenfeld	Jill Barr	Nadia Kotula
Barbara Trilhe	Julia McGarey	Nancy Nyland
Betsy Hageman	Julian Prentice	Nicole Vetter
Brenda Rodriguez-Giraldez	Julie Carmen	Nina Clements
Carolyn Pearson Jenkins	Karla Jean Strand	Rebecca Miller
Carrie Bertling	Katherine McCardwell	Robin Blankenbaker
Catherine Crohan	Katie Yockey	Tiffany-Kay Sangwand
Christine Fagan	Kevin Wade Merriman	Tracy Michell Hall
Claudia Holguin	Kristi Kohl	Vesna Ciliz
Debra Gold	Kristin Jacobi	Victoria Koger