

# ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Women's Studies Section  
Deb Biggs, Editor  
Betty Glass, Asst. Editor

Vol. 3, No. 1

June 1988  
ISSN 0895-691X

## From The Heads Of The Table

*HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!* Five years ago this Midwinter a small but determined group of pioneers started the wheels in motion that resulted in the establishment of the ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group, the proud foremother of the Women's Studies Section. Since that 1983 day in San Antonio our membership has grown from that core of women seeking colleagues to sign a petition for a women's studies group within ACRL to a large and active force within the Association and the profession. Congratulations to us all, and a particularly heartfelt thank you to the "women of the winter of '83" for leading the way.

In terms of my own experience with the phenomenon that is the Women's Studies Section, I think that there are two ways one can view a year spent as chair of an ACRL section: as the longest sentence possible for committing a victimless crime or as one of the most exhilarating ways to serve yourself and your profession. To be perfectly honest, I had both reactions during my tenure as chair of the Women's Studies Section. Returning from a day away from the library frequently meant wading through a deluge of paper from 50 E. Huron St. My phone machine became a veritable WSS-central as officers, committee chairs, and other interested folks joined in endless games of telephone tag. Work that I deemed crucial in October dropped lower and lower in my in-basket (I even added an additional tier) as Midwinter approached. I lived in fear of the dreaded memo from the **Newsletter** editors, quaking at the thought of reading the sentence which inevitably began "Your article for the **Newsletter** is due..." In short, I had a wonderful year!

The barrage of mail from headquarters

frequently contained information of critical importance to our section. The numerous missed connections and phone machine exchanges always resulted, eventually, in speaking with section members whose ideas, advice, and just plain kind consideration have made serving as chair an unexpected pleasure. I learned to "prioritize" (although I have yet to learn to like that word). I discovered that some activities could fall to the bottom of the pile and the world would still manage to limp along. I even began to look forward to the opportunity to compose what one of the **Newsletter** editors has labeled my "swan song."

If the above sounds like an advertisement (albeit an odd one) for active involvement in the Women's Studies Section, that's because it is. I honestly can't think of a more fulfilling way for librarians interested in women's studies and the position of women in academic and research libraries to be active in ACRL. And we certainly are active! Given the generally light turnout at Midwinter (compounded this year by horrendous travel conditions) and the conflicting demands on people's time, attendance at our meetings was nothing short of outstanding. And people came to work! We had some lively discussions about program planning for the '89 Dallas conference and formed, in addition to our regular standing committees, several ad hoc committees charged with specific projects or tasks. The ad hoc committee on the ACRL Conference and the ad hoc committee on the Women's Studies Conspectus promise to be especially challenging and engaging projects.

WSS will present its first program as an official ACRL section at New Orleans. Since the announcement for the program appears elsewhere in the **Newsletter** I won't describe it

## From the Heads of the Table (Cont'd)

here. However, I do want to take this opportunity to thank publicly the members of the New Orleans Program Committee for all their incredible work. Chair Pat Kreitz and her group not only put together an incredible program, but applied for and received special funding from ALA to help us offset the cost of the program. We're clearly making our mark in ACRL.

In addition to the New Orleans program, the section is moving ahead with several exciting projects. Our membership keeps growing and becoming more diverse; we have truly found a need and are striving to fulfill it. While occasionally crowded and chaotic, our meetings are always interesting and generally productive. We are learning the organizational ropes while at the same time maintaining the feminist vision and energy that brought us together initially. I thank you for your support and encouragement this past year. It has been a privilege to chair the ACRL Women's Studies Section. I look forward to working with in-coming chair Beth Stafford and remaining active in the group.

--Ellen Broidy  
Chair, WSS '87-'88

As the incoming chair of the Women's Studies Section, I'd like to welcome newcomers and to urge all members to participate in our activities. As you can see, our first program as a formal section on Saturday, July 9th will again focus on an area that has not been touched before. Currently as our first year as a section, we've grown from somewhat under 400 members in 1987 to over 500 now. That indicates a sizeable pool of resources and interests.

Our New Orleans meetings will be stimulating, generating much discussion of ways to meet our goals. Various possibilities for projects might include, among others, discussions or surveys of existing collection development policies or of collections themselves.

Plan now to come to our meetings in New Orleans with your suggestions, ideas, and critical skills.

--Beth Stafford  
Chair, WSS '88-'89

## WSS Logo Alert!

Once again the call goes out (via the Communication Committee) for a logo for the Women's Studies Section. **Newsletter** readers, we are in need of an official WSS identifier for not only the **Newsletter** but for all WSS publications and letterhead. Help make our section even more distinctive than it already is! Put on your thinking caps, put pencil to paper and send us your idea! Critical fame and acclaim can soon be yours!

Please mail your logo entries to Betty Glass, **ACRL WSS Newsletter**, Serials Department, Morris Library, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901-6632. We look forward to an overwhelming response from our talented readers!

--The Editors

## WSS Committee Reports

### Communications Committee

At the committee's midwinter meeting four areas were targeted for discussion and subsequent action--the **WSS Newsletter**, a logo for WSS to be used on the **Newsletter** and all section publications and letterhead, communications with other women's groups in ALA, and orientation for new WSS members. The **Newsletter** will continue to report on the activities of the section and its members. A form for soliciting information from the membership has been developed and will be distributed at each section meeting. The **Newsletter** editors 2 year terms will now be staggered to provide continuity. A WSS member will be appointed editor by the section chair for a 2 year term and will serve as asst. editor in the first year and editor in the second. The committee recommends that the section adopt a logo for all its publications and will be subsequently promoting this idea. WSS members are urged to submit their ideas for such to the **Newsletter** editor. A member of the committee will assume responsibility for communicating news from the section to the Feminist Task Force newsletter **Women In Libraries** and the committee will pursue further ways of connecting with other women's groups within ALA. The committee has also developed a section orientation whereby new or prospective

## **WSS Committee Reports (cont'd)**

members will be sent a welcome letter with an invitation to participate actively in the section. The committee also hopes to organize an informal WSS dinner in New Orleans.

### **Technical Services Committee**

The first committee project is LC subject heading changes. Using Women in LC's Terms and A Women's Thesaurus, the committee will do an analysis and coordinate proposals to submit to LC for suggested revisions in terminology and references.

### **1989 Dallas Program Committee**

Open and lively discussion about program ideas for the Dallas Conference resulted in a long list of possible topics. The unfinished agenda of subject headings, mainstreaming women's studies, the economics of libraries vis-a-vis women's studies, and education and training for women's studies librarianship among others were discussed. The committee will meet officially in New Orleans to continue its planning.

### **Women's Studies NCIP/RLG Conspectus Ad Hoc Committee**

The task of developing a conspectus for Women's Studies has been assigned to the Library of Congress and Sarah Pritchard is coordinating this project. The conspectus will include classification number ranges plus supplemental guidelines for collection evaluation. Sarah will send drafts to all those who signed up at the Midwinter WSS meeting and will have extras available at Annual. WSS will host a special meeting to discuss the progress of the conspectus on Saturday, July 9th from 8-10 p.m.; check the conference program for location. Sarah in the meantime can be reached at (202) 287-2726.

### **1989 ACRL 5th National Conference/WSS Program Ad Hoc Committee**

Section members enthusiastically agreed that WSS should present a program at

the 5th National ACRL Conference next year. Sue Searing will chair the committee with members Joan Ariel, Deb Biggs, Ellen Broidy, Barbara Dean, Nancy Luikart, Sarah Watstein. The program will include a panel tentatively entitled "Women's Studies in Academic Libraries: Current Research and Implications for Service." Other papers and poster sessions may be included as well. The committee will meet in New Orleans for further planning.

### **Women's Studies in Academic Libraries Survey--A First!**

Those of you who recall that the Women's Studies Section conducted a survey of library services in women's studies last year might be glad to know that some of the findings of that dual purpose survey will appear in the first central extensive guide to women's studies programs and libraries, to be published early in 1989.

The guide, a directory, will be organized by state and alphabetically by institution within each state. Several indexes will provide access by institution, names of individuals (including women's studies librarians), degrees, certificates, areas of concentration/minors, academic disciplines, and subject strengths of library collections.

The main section of the directory will list academic programs by institution. A separate section is to include institutions that offer academic courses, but not established programs. Each listing will also include a brief description of library support where known, e.g. whether there is a separate book budget for women's studies.

It will be the most complete description of U.S. women's studies programs and courses extant as well as the first description of library services and resources supporting the field. This directory will greatly facilitate communication and dissemination of information about the field among those teaching and doing research in the area or seeking to establish programs as well as for those seeking to provide supportive library services for the women's studies community.

Additional information on trends, needs, degree of communication between libraries and

## WS Survey (Cont'd)

women's studies scholars and more will appear in library literature after publication. More analysis of the survey of libraries at over 2400 institutions of higher education will be done in the fall of 1988.

--Beth Stafford  
University of Illinois

## Information Exchange & Member News

**Jacquelyn Marle**, Reference/Women's Studies Bibliographer at McHenry Library, University of California at Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA, CA1. 95064 reports that she has handouts on "Women and Health"; "Women of Color in the United States"; "Guide to Women's Studies" which she will send (one copy each) per request. Jacquelyn has also published an article entitled "Women of Color in the United States," in The Women's Annual, No. 4, 1983-1984.

**Cheryl Knott Malone**, formerly an assistant librarian in Preservation and Collection Development at the University of Michigan, is now History, Government, and American Studies bibliographer in the Reference Services Department at the University of Texas-Austin.

**Ruth Dickstein**, Reference Librarian at the University of Arizona Main Library reports that she will be participating in a Department of Education Summer Institute, "Teaching Women's Studies from an International Perspective," to be held at the University of Arizona from June 20-24, 1988. Ruth's co-authored book, Women in LC's Terms is now available from Oryx Press.

**Sarah Pritchard**, Library of Congress and **Sarah Watstein**, Hunter College will participate in CLR's Academic Library Management Internship Program. Pritchard's internship will be at Princeton University and Watstein's will be at the University of Connecticut-Storrs.

**Eva Sartori**, University of Iowa, reports that the ACRL/Western European Specialists

International Conference in Florence, Italy this past April included a successful and informative women's studies session for which she served as moderator. Sarah Pritchard, Library of Congress examined the extensive resources in microform available for the study of western European women's history, literature, work, and political activities; she also discussed the problems of acquisitions, cataloging, subject access, and public service. Simone Blanc, Bibliotheque Marguerite Durand (Paris), described the evolution of the Marguerite Durand Library, its holdings and the library's acquisitions methods and policies. Claire Posthumous, International Archives for the Women's Movement (Amsterdam), discussed the difficulties of finding funding for women's libraries and information centers. WESS plans to publish the proceedings of the conference, including the above mentioned papers.

## The Editor's Turn

With this my last issue of the **WSS Newsletter**, I am pleased to tell our readers what a fine experience it has been. The first issue of the **Newsletter** debuted in December 1986, pre-official section, in fact, and since then we have continued to refine both our content and format. The WSS Communications Committee will continue to guide the **Newsletter** to ensure continuity and content.

So this edition of the **WSS Newsletter** is my "swan song." I hope you enjoy it and become informed by it. I look forward to seeing the **Newsletter** grow and mature under future editors with input, of course, from our readers. Betty Glass, now Asst. Editor will take over the blue pencil, keyboard and computer as Editor. She will be joined by Nancy Knipe from Colorado College as Asst. Editor. I leave this post in very capable hands and with my very best wishes.

--Deb Biggs  
Editor, '86-'88

The Association of College & Research Libraries Women's Studies Newsletter (ISSN 0895-691X) is a semi-annual publication of the Women's Studies Section of ACRL. It is a communications vehicle for section members and other interested individuals. Short articles on topics of interest to the membership will be reviewed for publication. Longer articles are welcome, but should be discussed with an editor in advance. Inquiries may be made to the Editors: Deb Biggs or Betty Glass c/o ALA/ACRL, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. The WSS Newsletter is published twice annually in June and December. Editorial deadlines for each issue are April 15 and October 15 of each year. This newsletter is available to all section members at no additional charge. Policy for purchase by non-section members is currently under review.

## Publications of Interest

Bibliography on Women and International Studies is available from SIROW (Southwest Institute for Research on Women), University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ 85721.

Women in LC's Terms: A Thesaurus of Library of Congress Subject Headings Relating to Women compiled by Ruth Dickstein, Victoria A. Mills, and Ellen J. Waite is available from Oryx Press. Price is \$28.50.

Building Women's Studies Collections: A Resource Guide (the long-awaited "Checklist" which began in 1983 as a collective project of the Women's Studies Discussion Group) is published and available from CHOICE. Price is \$12.00. For a review of this publication see Feminist Collections, Vol. 9, No. 3, Spring 1988.

The History of Women and Science, Health, and Technology: A Bibliographic Guide to the Professions and the Disciplines (1988) edited by Susan Searing and Rima Apple is available from the Women's Studies Librarian's office at the University of Wisconsin, 112A Memorial Library, Madison, WI 53706; single copies while supplies last.

Library and Information Sources on Women: Guide to Collections in the Greater New York Area, is now available from the Feminist Press at the City University of New York. At least 171 collections on women are detailed in this guide. Price is \$12.95.

Women Library Workers Journal has resumed a regular publication schedule. WLW publishes articles and reviews; the editors can be contacted at WLW, c/o Women's Resource Center, Bldg. T-9, Room 116, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720.

Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography, 1980-1985, Abridged Edition by Catherine Loeb, Susan Searing, and Esther Stineman is available from Libraries Unlimited. Price is \$23.50/paper.

## ALA Annual 1988-New Orleans Events

### Program News

The Women's Studies Section will co-sponsor a program entitled "**Librarians as Colleagues Across Racial Lines**", on Saturday, July 9th from 12:30-4:00 p.m. in the Hilton Grand Ballroom C. This is an action-oriented program which will focus on strategies for combating racism in the profession. All librarians and trustees are encouraged to attend. Prior registration is not required. Keynote speakers are Aileen Hernandez, former president of NOW and Elizabeth Martinez-Smith, director of the Orange County (CA) Library System.

The Women's Studies Section's 1988 Conference Program "**Women in Third World Countries: Research Trends and Collection Development Challenges**", will be held on Saturday, July 9th from 9:30-12:30 p.m. (See page 6 for full details.) In addition to a wonderful roster of speakers, an information/exchange table will be available. The Program Committee urges WSS members to bring any bibliographies, handouts, or publication notices on third world women that you might have to share with conference participants. We expect a minimum attendance of 50 people, so if possible, please bring that amount. Our thanks!

### Celebrating Women!

The SRRT Feminist Task Force is sponsoring a walking tour on "**Women in New Orleans History**." This tour, which lasts about 3 hours and includes a stop for beverage and pastry at a French cafe, will begin on Tuesday, July 12th at 11:00 a.m. Participants are to meet at the foot of the statue in the center of Jackson Square. Cost is \$15.00. For additional information--i.e. where to mail the registration fee, contact Betty-Carol Sellen, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, NY 11210. (718) 780-5618.

"**Women's Night Out**" at Annual will be on Monday, July 11th at 10:00 p.m. The club selected in the French Quarter is "The Other Side", 621 Elysian Fields, (504) 944-9428. Drinks, food, music, dancing, and conversation available.

# Women in Third World Countries

Research Trends and Collection Development Challenges

ALA/ACRL Women's Studies Section  
1988 Conference Program

Saturday, July 9 • 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

## Keynote Address:

*"Through a Glass, Darkly: Women and World Change"*

Kate Cloud, Director  
Office of Women in International Development  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

## Research Trends in:

### *African Women's Studies*

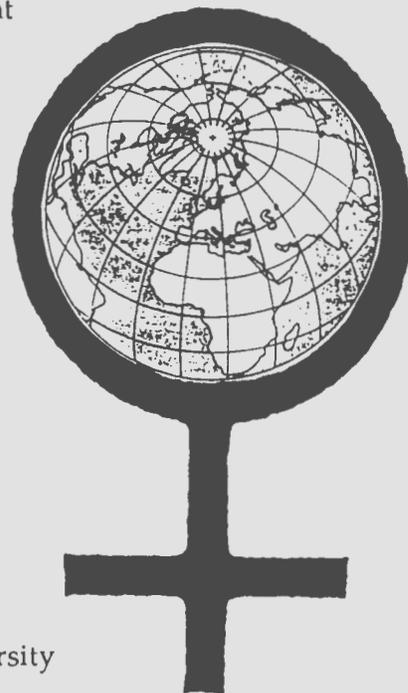
Pauline Manaka  
Georgia State University

### *Latin American Women's Studies*

Asunción Lavrin  
Department of History, Howard University

### *South Asian Women's Studies*

Jyotsna Vaid  
Department of Psychology, Texas A & M University



## Collection Development Challenges:

Merry Burlingham  
South Asian Librarian, University of Texas at Austin

Thomas Niehaus, Director  
Latin American Library, Tulane University

Beth Stafford, Women's Studies/WID Librarian  
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

## News Notes

The *National Council for Research on Women* has submitted a new grant request to NEH to encompass three projects: 1) a directory of computer-based resources for women's studies in the humanities; 2) creation of a database of women's studies work-in-progress which RLG has expressed interest in mounting; and 3) a directory of fugitive/ephemeral women's studies resources to be made available through ERIC. Many WSS members are included in the grant as advisors.

CHOICE editor Pat Sabosik has proposed that WSS assist in the development of a series of interdisciplinary checklists. When speaking at a WSS meeting at Midwinter '88, she noted two relevant trends: 1) the narrowness in publishing in certain disciplines; 2) the broadening of the interdisciplinary scope of others, e.g. anthropology, economics, psychology. CHOICE has identified 5-6 areas, including women's studies, for which there is an information and market need for checklists to assist faculty and libraries in curriculum and collection development. CHOICE would like WSS to help establish criteria for selection of titles to be included in these new checklists.

The *National Women's Studies Association* announces its 10th annual conference, "**Leadership and Power: Women's Alliances for Social Change.**" The University of Minnesota will host from June 22-26, 1988 in Minneapolis. The conference will address differences of race, class, and ethnic background so as to effect multi-level change in the personal, social, and political spheres.

The *Third International Feminist Book Fair* will be held at the University of Montreal (Canada) from June 14-19, 1988. Book, magazine, and newspaper editors along with writers, translators, distributors and booksellers worldwide will come together for conferences, readings, and panels. For registration information write to the Third International Feminist Book Fair, 4060, boul. St-Laurent, Suite 204, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2W 1Y9, or call (514) 843-3169.

## Article Highlight

Searing, Susan E. "Fighting Sexism in the Stacks: The Library Response to Women's Studies." MPLA Newsletter 32 (December 1987), p. 1-2, 4, 6.

Women's studies, through the application of gender analysis, provides a fresh outlook in all areas of intellectual inquiry. The interdisciplinary nature of women's studies reflects the intricate weaving of women's issues between subject areas that are, on the surface, quite distinct.

After two decades of development, a wide spectrum of women's studies programs exists. These range from separate, fully-staffed departments to single course offerings or curriculum enhancements through an individual's initiative. While all areas of collection development suffer during times of restricted acquisitions budgets, the widespread policy of allocating library budget lines only to bonafide departments makes women's studies particularly vulnerable to neglect. Few Libraries have a full-time women's studies librarian position.

Systematic selection of women's studies materials is dependent upon access to titles from small, feminist presses which are often reviewed only by independent women's reviews. New resources to aid collection development in women's studies are, however, being developed.

Standardization of subject headings by the Library of Congress has been very beneficial for U.S. libraries. The lag time for LC in adopting current usage, however, is problematic for women's studies materials. While many sexist and racist terms have been replaced and more precise headings have been developed, many earlier works are still virtually inaccessible under very general subject headings. In a similar vein, the LC classification system creates physical access problems for women's studies materials as well.

Librarian Connie Miller argues that librarians are "gatekeepers" and that our decisions in building and organizing collections not only effect the potential of feminist scholarship but also determine whether women's words will be read or lost in the stacks.

--Article abstracted by  
Betty Glass, Asst. Editor

**ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES SECTION ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

Friday, July 8, 1988

2:00-4:00 p.m.

**WSS Executive Board**

Saturday, July 9, 1988

9:30-12:30 p.m.

**WSS Conference Program**

8:00-10:00 p.m.

**WSS NCIP/RLG Conspectus Committee**

**Please check the Conference  
Program for meeting locations.**

Sunday, July 10, 1988

9:30-11:00 a.m.

**Feminist Task Force Coalitions Program**

Monday, July 11, 1988

9:30-11:00 a.m.

**WSS General Membership Meeting**

11:30-12:30 p.m.

**ACRL Conference Committee**

**Communications Committee**

**Nominating Committee**

**Dallas Conference Planning Committee**

**Technical Services Committee**

**Deb Biggs/Betty Glass, Editors**  
**WSS Newsletter**  
**c/o ALA/ACRL**  
**50 East Huron St.**  
**Chicago, IL 60611**

First Class  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Chicago, Illinois  
Permit No. 2737