

# ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER



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Dawn McCaghy, Editor  
Bonnie Jean Cox, Asst. Editor

## "ACCESS OR IMPASSE: MEETING THE RESEARCH NEEDS OF WOMEN'S STUDIES"

The ACRL Women's Studies Sections' Chicago Program "Access or Impasse: Meeting the Research Needs of Women's Studies" was held on Sunday, June 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Well over 100 Women's Studies enthusiasts turned out to hear Catherine Stimpson, dean of Graduate Studies at Rutgers University, and a panel of three WSS members, Cheryl Kern-Simerenko, Susan Searing and Sarah Pritchard, discuss the evolution of Women's Studies in academic institutions: what we are, where we've been and where we're going.

Dr. Stimpson, a founding editor of *Signs* and the 1990 president of the Modern Language Association, pointed out that, perhaps even more than faculty, librarians are the bridge between students and the materials on women and gender that are currently available. She reminded the audience that Women's Studies is now 20 years old and that it is now time to begin to collect our history, not only syllabi, reports and memoranda, but also oral history. Dr. Stimpson went on to note that Women's Studies has had a significant impact outside the academy as well, mentioning such publications as *off our backs* as examples of what the "blasphemous energy" generated by the movement can inspire. International Women's Studies, Dr. Stimpson pointed out, is the real growth area now for the movement; although it is an area which will increase the studies of diversity among women, it is also an area which will make our task of collecting and assessing materials even more difficult.

As we move into the 90's, Dr. Stimpson remarked, Women's Studies is only one of four ways of studying and talking about women. There are other voices, all of which speak as if they were feminists, but not all are. Feminist scholarship takes as underlying principles: 1) the fact that women are capable of agency; 2) that, despite this, they are subject to the power and whims of both individual men and the patriarchy; 3) the lives of men and women have been changed in quite different ways by the immense social and political forces that have acted on them in history, and 4) that the social relationships between men and women are the result of the social construct that we call "gender."

In addition to these underlying principles, feminist scholarship and thinking also holds certain collective ideals. Feminist scholarship should be transgressive, rather than sedate, maintaining its cutting edge even as it is imported into the mainstream of the academy. It should remain impatient with the nature and boundaries of the traditional disciplines which historically either omit women or relegate them to stereotyped roles. Not only should our thinking be transformational of the disciplines, it should also attempt to modify the policies and practices of our institutions to meet the needs of all persons, not just the privileged. Finally, Dr. Stimpson warned, feminist thought must always test the tension between the norms of feminism and professionalism and continue to cultivate the boundaries beyond the academy. The price, she pointed out, of the academic legitimacy which Women's Studies has gained, is the temptation to succumb to play by the rules of the discipline or the institution.

Catherine Simerenko spoke of the challenges and growth of collection development in the area of Women's Studies. For librarians the challenges include the interdisciplinary nature of the field, the fact that it includes radical social and political materials which are not covered by the traditional review media and the ephemeral nature of many of the activist materials included in the field, such as short-lived journals that were never indexed.

She then went on to describe the history of the growth of tools to aid the librarian in dealing with these challenges, beginning with the first appearances for feminist review media in the 70's and continuing into the "explosion" of published aids that occurred in the 80's, including such documents as Joan Ariel's Building Women's Studies Collections and the new Women's Studies Conspectus just accepted by RLG. In spite of the many new aids, Kern-Simerenko pointed out that we will always need to employ eclectic strategies and sources, since the nature of WS materials means that they will always be on the cutting edge and involve non-mainstream materials.

Kern-Simerenko also pointed out some of the problems WS materials encounter in the library: having to deal directly with publishers, since many materials are not handled by our ordinary vendors; the need of many materials for original cataloging which often leads to backlogging; the fact that many WS periodicals exist in short or broken runs which are often questioned for preservation. She also addressed the problem of access and the need for access in a woman-centered way and mentioned such new access tools as Joan Marshall's On Equal Terms and Ruth Dickstein's Women in LC's Terms.

The future holds four challenge areas, she concluded. We must address both the diversity of women's experience and the internationalism of the women's movement. We must face the problem of who makes decisions about the preservation of our WS materials and the fact that for WS collections without our documents there is no history. Finally, we face the challenges for WS information needs and access in the electronic library.

Susan Searing, WS Librarian for the University of Wisconsin system, looked at the who, what and where questions that must be asked in WS reference and public services. Who are WS librarians? How do we assess and serve our patrons needs? What do we have to work with? In general most WS librarians are self-taught and hold split assignments, usually having volunteered for the WS portion of their jobs. There is no generic job description -- and probably couldn't be one.

Searing then outlined the time-line of the major reference sources that helped shape later publishing. WS reference tools began to become both specialized and interdisciplinary in the 70's and in the 80's began to look at neglected groups of women such as women of color, other ethnic groups and women in science. The 90's will bring new needed reference tools such as the projected three-volumes Women's Studies Encyclopedia and the Women's Studies Index.

She stressed the importance of sources from alternative and small presses as well as self-published materials, institutional and organizational publications and checklists and federal government publications. Searing concluded by pointing out reference tools that are still needed, such as non-print review media, a "Who's Who in WS", a global statistical database on women with user-friendly software and updating and revising current tools.

Sarah Pritchard concluded the program by talking about networks, connections and international developments in WS, including such national projects as WLW Journal, S.H.A.R.E. and Beth Stafford's recent Directory of Women's Studies Programs. She identified several current and future needs or possible projects: identifying collections; evaluating and assessing collections (which will be possible with the RLG conspectus for WS) and developing our own databases and indexing systems.

She also talked about ways of networking and building communication. Writing for non-library journals and serving on editorial boards with a subject specialty provide an excellent way to make connections with other WS scholars and develop channels of communication. Another channel is attending international conferences and congresses which have sessions on WS topics. It was pointed out that IFLA could be a force to provide more linking of US and international WS librarians, but that little has been done so far. Another possibility for creating linkages with the international community is librarian exchanges.

## REACH OUT AND TEACH SOMEONE

To encourage librarians' active involvement in non-library professional associations, ACRL's Professional Association Liaison Committee (PALC) will make ten awards of up to \$300 each to support efforts that contribute to the understanding or use of academic library resources or services. Presenting papers,

The Association of College & Research Libraries Women's Studies Newsletter (ISSN 0895-891X) 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: Dawn McCaghy or Bonnie Cox 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 1 and October 1 of each year. This newsletter is available to all section members at no additional charge or by subscription for \$5/yr. Subscription requests should be sent, with prepayment, to George Eberhart at the ALA address above.

organizing workshops, mounting poster sessions, or creating interest groups within a discipline are some of the activities eligible for funding. Applicants must be ALA members (ACRL members have an edge) and must apply one month before the Midwinter Meeting or Annual Conference. Actual awards are made after the event, following submission of receipts and other documentation. Travel, accommodations, and registration are reimbursable expenses. For further information, contact Melvin George, Director of Libraries, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331; telephone (503) 737-3411.

## AIDING WOMEN'S STUDIES IN THE U.S.S.R.

The newly-established Center for Gender Studies in Moscow is the Soviet Union's first scientific, informational, and educational center to focus attention on issues of gender. Because the center is not located on a university campus, scholars there lack ready access to a good research library and wish to develop their own resource collection. Members of the WSS Collection Development and Bibliography Committee are developing core lists of books in the following areas: classic women's studies texts; women, politics, and policymaking; women and labor; history of Western feminism; new social movements involving women (e.g., peace, ecology); images of women in mass media; women and language; masculinity and femininity as cultural symbols; women in management, especially in government; and sexual abuse. Susan Searing, committee chair, plans to ask publishers to donate core list titles to the Center. Please help by sending citations to: Susan Searing, Women's Studies Librarian, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

The Graduate Program in Women's History of the University of Wisconsin-Madison is pleased to announce the inauguration of a new series, "Working Papers in Women's History." The current list of available papers includes:

Landon R.Y. Storrs, "The Feminism of the National Consumer's League" [No. 1, 1990]

Florencia E. Mallon, "Constructing Third World Feminisms: Lessons from Nineteenth-Century Mexico (1850-1874)" [No. 2, 1990]

Mary L. Peckham, "Reemergence and Early Development of Women's Religious Orders in

Ireland, 1770-1850" [No. 3, 1990]

Leslie A. Schwalm, "African-American Women and Their Transition from Slavery to Freedom in Lowcountry South Carolina" [No.4, 1990]

Papers are available for \$6 each to individuals. Institutions may purchase the full 1990 set for \$30. Send orders to Jeanne Boydston, Working Papers in Women's History, Department of History, The University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.

**Adams, Margaret O.** "Electronic Records at the National Archives: Resources for Women's Studies." NWSA Journal 2, no. 2 (Spring 1990):269-272. A brief introduction to machine-readable datasets held at the Center for Electronic Records at the National Archives, citing examples from the Army, the National Institutes of Health, the Social Security Administration, and other sources.

**Olin, Ferris.** "A Synergistic Experience: Curriculum Transformation and the Library." In The New Jersey Project: Integrating the Scholarship on Gender, 1986-1990, pp. 26-31. Edited by Carol H. Smith, Ferris Olin, and Wendy Kolmar. [New Brunswick, NJ]: Institute for Research on Women, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 1990. A report on the library component of the New Jersey Project, the first state-wide and state-funded curriculum integration project.

Women's World no. 23 (April 1990): "Documentation and Information Exchange." A selection of papers from an international conference of women's documentation and information centers held in Geneva in fall 1989. Includes information on groups in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America, as well as thoughtful discussions of classification systems, networking, and information technologies.

## ACRL-WSS SOCIAL HOUR IN CHICAGO

The Women's Studies Section social hour for ALA Midwinter will be held on Friday, January 11, 1991 from 5-7 p.m. in the Windsor Lounge of the Palmer House Hotel. WSS Communications Committee members will serve as hostesses and will welcome old, new, and prospective members of the section, as well as anyone interested in women's studies and women's concerns in ALA. The social hour provides an opportunity for members to meet informally before the official round of Midwinter meetings gets underway, and for non-members to learn about the section and its activities. Everyone is welcome! So gather together your friends and colleagues on Friday evening and come in out of the Windy City's

icy blasts to share a cup of cheer in the Windsor Lounge, just off the lobby of the Palmer House Hotel, 17 E. Monroe Street.

## REPORT ON IFLA CONFERENCE STOCKHOLM, AUGUST 1990

At the IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) Conference in Stockholm, August 18-24, 1990 two impromptu meetings were held in order to try to establish a Women's Interest Group within the organization. Over 80 members responded to a pre-conference inquiry by indicating that women's issues should be an important component in IFLA's future programs. Several issues were discussed at the two meetings:

- \* increasing women's visibility in IFLA;
- \* bringing papers on women's issues forward and understanding the existing referee process for conference papers;
- \* advocating for women candidates in IFLA;
- \* establishing an international women's network in IFLA;
- \* focusing on women in librarianship issues such as unionization; equal pay for equal work; library services for returning women in the workplace; continuing education of women; and worldwide literacy for women.

An effort will be made to establish the Women's Interest Group within the IFLA structure in time for the 1991 conference to be held in Moscow. For information, ideas, and suggestions contact Suzanne Hildenbrand, School of Information and Library Studies, SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14230.

--Margaret Porter  
Communications Committee

## MEMBER NEWS AND INFORMATION EXCHANGE

**Thura Mack**, reference librarian at the University of Tennessee and 1990-91 chair of the WSS Communications Committee, has developed "A Model Methodology for Selecting Women's Studies Core Journals." The results of her research have been presented at her home institution and other locations, and her poster session at the Annual ALA Conference in Chicago (June 1990) generated a great deal of positive response and interest. She has been invited to present her work at forthcoming women's conferences, and her manuscript has been accepted for publication in the April/June 1991 issue of *Library and Information Science Research*. Currently, Thura is working

with a colleague on a research project designed to survey the information needs, habits and activities of various women's studies faculty at the University of Tennessee--Knoxville. They will also examine the formats (serials, technical reports, documents, monographs, journal articles, etc.) of materials used by faculty members doing women's studies research. The aim of the project is to develop a model for investigating the research needs of particular disciplines and to determine how libraries can help to meet those needs.

**Dawn McCaghy**, Reference/Women's Studies Librarian at Bowling Green State University, has presented "The Image of Working Women in Popular Song" to several community groups, including a business and professional women's organization, a county nursing association, and the volunteer staff of a domestic violence shelter. The presentation includes taped excerpts of 23 songs in many styles, from ballads and novelty tunes to country/western, rock, and rhythm and blues. Besides being fun, these occasions offer the opportunity to acquaint audiences with BGSU's Women's Studies Program and the library's Sound Recordings Archive. Copies of complete song lyrics are available from Dawn at the address given in the list of WSS officers.

**The SUNY Librarians Association Women's Studies Interest Group** is collecting library pathfinders for topics related to women's studies. Please send any you are willing to share to Judith Hudson, University Libraries, University at Albany, Albany, NY 12222.

**Betty Glass**, formerly at Southern Illinois University, is now Instructional Services Librarian at the University of Nevada-Reno. Betty went the U-Haul route for the move, but her cat went by air. Who says it's a dog's life???

New or updated reference guides compiled by **Joan Ariel** include: *Women's Studies*; *Women's History*; *Women of Color in the United States*, and *Lesbian and Gay Studies*. Copies are available upon request from Joan Ariel, Women's Studies Librarian, Main Library, University of California, Irvine, CA 92713.

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Before describing section events and activities, I would like to take a moment to thank Sarah Pritchard, 1989-90 WSS Section Chair, for her dynamic leadership and wise counsel during her term of office. Sarah combined a thorough knowledge of women's studies issues with an unerring ability to wend her way successfully through the sometimes bewildering structure of ALA. During her year as chair she contributed significantly to the section's success and visibility. Thank you, Sarah!

**WSS Midwinter Plans:**

There are many ways section members can get involved in the section's activities. Those of you coming to Midwinter will want to check the schedule of meetings in this issue of the newsletter. I encourage you to attend any of the meetings that interest you and to assure you that not only your presence, but your active participation, will be welcomed. The informal social hour held on Friday is a great way to get to know officers, committee chairs and section members. A number of people will be on the lookout for new attendees and will be interested in showing you around! Our business and orientation meeting is an excellent chance to gain an overview of section concerns and activities. At this meeting, we schedule plenty of time to share information and announcements; we will also be looking for suggestions for the 1992 Annual Program. At our general meeting on Sunday morning we will be discussing information literacy from a feminist perspective. Please come and share your ideas with us.

**Committee Activities:**

Another good way to become involved in section work is to volunteer to serve on a committee. Vice Chair/Chair-Elect Jacquelyn Marie will be soliciting volunteers at Midwinter for the 1992 Program Committee and will make additional committee appointments during and after ALA 1991 Annual. Even if a committee you are interested in is full, you may be welcomed to participate as an intern or on a special project. For further information, contact Pat Kreitz, Jacquelyn Marie, or individual committee chairs listed in this newsletter.

WSS Section committees were very active at ALA 1990 Annual. The Technical Services Committee put into effect its new charge to emphasize liaison activities with other technical services units in ALA; the committee's final report to the Executive Committee indicated that this new direction is proving fruitful.

The Ad Hoc Publications Committee is developing a formal charge to be discussed at Midwinter 1991. The committee also gained approval to work on publishing a women's studies anthology; anyone interested in this project should contact Joan Ariel, committee chair.

The newly-formed Collection Development and Bibliography Committee has a number of exciting projects under consideration and will be discussing them further at Midwinter.

The Communications Committee was applauded for the attractive and informative portable display they created to highlight the WSS Section's purpose and recent activities. The display was on view for the first time at our 1990

Section Program and will be used again at future section meetings and programs. It is designed to be transported by WSS members who attend non-ALA women's studies meetings to publicize our existence and our achievements.

**ALA 1991 Annual Program Funded:**

I am pleased to announce that the program planned for ALA Annual in Atlanta, "Women's Studies and Cultural Diversity: Turning Competition into Coalition," has been funded from the ACRL budget and the ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship. We look forward to an exciting and challenging program on this important topic.

**Section Bylaws Revision:**

At ALA 1990 Annual, the Executive Committee approved revision to the Section Bylaws which clarify the role of the Section secretary and provide for election of a second member-at-large. This will give the Executive Committee more representation from the membership and will provide greater continuity because member-at-large terms of office will be staggered. If you are interested in being involved in the WSS Section but don't know where to start, please consider running for Member-at-Large. This position is one in which a person's "newness" to the Section is an asset, because the member-at-large can offer the Executive Committee a fresh perspective on issues and needs.

**Strategic Planning:**

At ALA Midwinter, the Section will be planning for the 1991-92 year. We have been asked to submit our plans to ACRL; doing so will give us an opportunity to shape the direction of ACRL itself. Please let me know if you have concerns or ideas you would like to see the Section address. The Section is here to serve your needs, but we need to hear from you to serve you better. Please call, mail, fax or e-mail your ideas for next year's Section activities to me at the following address: Pat Kreitz, Superconducting Super Collider Laboratory Library, MS-2010, 2550 Beckleymeade Ave., Dallas, TX 75237; (214) 708-6093; Fax (214) 708-0016; E-mail BITNET: PKreitz@SSCVX1.

--Pat Kreitz  
Chair, WSS, 1990-91

**COMMITTEE REPORTS****Collection Development and Bibliography Committee**

The new WSS Collection Development and Bibliography Committee will meet at Midwinter to review the committee's charge and discuss goals and directions, as well as to plan particular projects. One possible role of the committee might be to monitor the implementation of the women's studies conspectus prepared by Sarah

Pritchard for the Research Libraries Group. The committee might also create "verification" bibliographies and undertake arrangements for cooperative collection development, once various collections' strengths and weaknesses have been identified.

Other ideas raised at the 1990 annual conference addressed the area of reference and included: (a) identifying gaps in the reference literature and communicating needs to publishers; (b) creating a list of potential reviewers for manuscripts and book proposals; (c) investigating, and perhaps developing guidelines for, the relationship of academic libraries to resource collections in women's studies offices and campus women's centers; (d) gathering and sharing information about archival and microform holdings.

Persons interested in the work of the committee will find tentative Midwinter meeting times on the last page of this newsletter.

#### **Ad Hoc Publications Committee**

The WSS Ad Hoc Publications Committee had two lively and productive meetings at the Chicago Conference in June. While topics were wide-ranging, the two major items of discussion were the Publishing Opportunities Project and the Women's Studies Librarianship Anthology.

#### **1) Publishing Opportunities Project**

Susan Williamson and Susan Baer presented a draft list of journals apparently interested in publishing material related to Women's Studies librarianship, information issues, bibliographies and other related information. The list will be revised slightly, arranged in categories as appropriate, and sample citations added. The Committee will investigate publishing an abbreviated version in an upcoming issue of the WSS Newsletter and perhaps inclusion on BITNET. The full list will be available for distribution in the spring.

#### **2) Women's Studies Librarianship Anthology**

After extensive discussion, the Committee agreed to proceed with this project in stages. The first stage will be publication of WSS conference papers since these are unavailable elsewhere and many of the presentations provided invaluable information and insights. We will be getting in touch with past program chairs and speakers before Midwinter to solicit participation and papers. The publication will also include an introductory essay on Women's Studies librarianship (perhaps comprising an overview or highlights of the included papers) and an expanded and annotated version of the bibliography included in Building Women's Studies Collections.

Other Committee business included the draft WSS

Publications Policies and Procedures Manual prepared by Ellen Broidy and Lori Goetsch. We expect the final draft to be submitted to the WSS Executive Committee at Midwinter 1991. We also reaffirmed our recommendation that Publications become a standing WSS committee. It is expected that the Executive Board will formally approve this at Midwinter and that new appointments will be made by Chair-Elect Jacquelyn Marie in the spring.

### **INFORMATION LITERACY FROM A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE**

The Women's Studies Section general meeting scheduled on Sunday, January 13 will be an open discussion of the concept of information literacy from a feminist perspective. Information literacy, the ACRL President's theme for 1991, will also be examined in a variety of other arenas. College & Research Libraries is carrying a series of articles defining the concept and discussing its implications for various disciplines and/or areas of library service. The ACRL President's program will focus on this topic; and it will be the theme of a poster session hosted by ACRL committees and sections featuring different definitions and approaches to the challenge of information literacy. The planners of our general meeting on this topic would like to suggest some questions you might wish to think about: What does information literacy really mean? Is a feminist definition possible, or is this concept inherently elitist and thus antithetical to feminism? What would it mean to be "information literate" in women's studies, or a particular area of women's studies? If we could define information literacy from a feminist perspective, what products or strategies would be required to implement the concept in practice? Jacquelyn Marie, UC-Santa Cruz (408) 459-3255 and Betty Glass, University of Nevada-Reno (702) 784-1604 comprise the ad hoc committee arranging this meeting. Please call them with any suggestions on this issue. And, mark your calendars and come prepared to enjoy a lively and provocative discussion.

### **GAY AND LESBIAN SERIALS ON MICROFILM**

The San Francisco/Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Serials Microfilming Project is nearing completion. Twenty-eight titles have been filmed and will be available for on-site consultation at the University of California at Berkeley, for interlibrary lending, or for purchase by the end of 1990. A guide to the collection, expected to be available in December, will provide a brief history and full bibliographic description of each title, information about the exact years and issues filmed, and microfilm ordering information. A few of the titles microfilmed are: Amazon

Quarterly, California Voice, San Francisco Sentinel, SF Mattachine Newsletter, and Gay Liberation Press. Many of the titles were deteriorating so rapidly that within the decade they would have been irretrievable. That they have now not only been preserved but also made available to researchers worldwide is a tribute to the innovative, cooperative efforts of the University of California, which funded the project from the statewide Shared Purchase Program, and the San Francisco / Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Archives, which painstakingly acquired these materials and had the foresight to seek assistance in preserving them. If you wish to know when the Guide becomes available, send a note to Pat Kreitz, Manager of Library and Information Services, Superconducting Super Collider Laboratory, MS-2010, 2550 Beckleymeade Ave., Dallas, TX 75237; or BITNET: PKREITZ@SSCVX1.

### **NEW 1991 PROGRAM COMMITTEE CHAIR APPOINTED**

Virginia Daley, Duke University, has generously volunteered to chair the 1991 Program Committee, taking over this responsibility from the former chair, Sherry O'Brien, who has reluctantly resigned because of a heavy workload at Wheaton College and the imminent arrival of Baby O'Brien (due in December). We thank Sherry for the excellent job she has done as chair and anticipate her joining us again in Atlanta for an exciting program.

### **PROGRAM PLANS FOR ATLANTA, 1991**

The Women's Studies Section Annual Program, tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 1 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., will have as its theme: "Women's Studies and Cultural Diversity: Turning Competition into Coalition." The program will examine issues surrounding the trend toward multicultural integration in higher education and the importance of the study of women in all ethnic groups to the academic curriculum. Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Women's Studies Professor at Spelman College and editor of Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women, will address the issues of curriculum development and academic support in light of the competition for resources in higher education. A second speaker will offer suggestions from the perspective of a campus or library administrator on how to avoid competition and build coalitions in the search for scarce resources. There will be ample time set aside for discussion. In fact, the Program Committee would like to encourage comments, ideas, and suggestions from the audience on cooperative strategies that work to build bridges between women's studies and multicultural programs and to help both groups gain access to academic and financial support. The number of program co-sponsors reflects the importance of this topic not only to women's

studies but also to other ALA groups. The co-sponsors (confirmed and pending) include: Afro-American Studies Librarian Section; Black Caucus of ALA; American Indian Library Association; SRRT Feminist Task Force; COSWL; Ethnic Materials and Information Exchange Round Table; Asian Pacific American Librarians Association; Chinese American Librarians Association; ALCTS Asian and African American Materials Section; and REFORMA. Many of these groups will assist us in forming a panel of respondents. COSWL has generously committed financial support to the program; and the Feminist Task Force has indicated an interest in providing financial assistance, if needed.

### **EDITOR'S NOTES**

Becoming newsletter editor without an apprenticeship as assistant editor has proved a bit daunting, but it really is an excellent way to learn about the activities of the WSS Section! Thanks to everyone who sent copy for this issue and responded good-naturedly to my phone calls and reminder letters. Special thanks to my predecessor, Nancy Knipe and to our chair, Pat Kreitz, for their continuing encouragement. And extraordinary thanks to Bonnie Cox, my computer-literate co-editor, for doing the mechanics of putting this issue together. Looking forward to the June newsletter, we invite the membership (nearly 800 strong!) to send us news of their activities.

### **NEWSLETTER DEADLINES CHANGED**

In an effort to get the newsletter to WSS members by early June and early December, the WSS Executive Committee has changed editorial deadlines to April 1 and October 1 each year. The editors would like to hear from the membership. Let us know what you are doing in the areas of instruction, research, publishing, and service. Send your news to Dawn McCaghy or to Bonnie Cox at the addresses given with the list of officers in this issue. We hope to hear from you!

### **PAST NEWSLETTERS WANTED**

The newsletter editors need an archival set of past ACRL Women's Studies Newsletters to guide them in their future efforts. If anyone has volumes 1-3, June, 1986, through December, 1988, (six issues in all), please send originals or copies to the current editor, Dawn McCaghy, BGSU Library, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH 43403.

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## CONFERENCES AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

The North Central Women's Studies Association will host "Revisioning Our Selves: Changing Women, Changing Worlds," March 1-2, 1991 at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN. Papers, panels, and workshops will investigate paradigm shifts in the disciplines; woman-engendered spirituality; woman-defined health care; women's beauty; new alliances among women; and feminist "clicks" in pedagogy, personal, and public life. For information, contact Linnea Vacca, English Department, 71 Madeleva Hall, Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN 46556; (219) 284-4475.

Geraldine Ferraro will be the keynote speaker for "The Personal is Political: Private Lives/Public Discourse," sponsored by the New York Women's Studies Association and Russell Sage College, March 15-17, 1991. Call (518) 270-2306 for more information.

The sixteenth national conference of the Association for Women in Psychology will be held in Hartford, CT, March 7-10, 1991. Conference participants will examine "Psychological Issues in Women's Lives" from an interdisciplinary perspective. Contact Joan C. Chrisler, Box 5578, Connecticut College, New London, CT 06230 for registration information.

The National Lesbian Conference to be held in Atlanta, GA, April 24-28, 1991, will include workshops and panels on such topics as legal rights, spirituality, health and mental health, electoral politics, homophobia and heterophobia, among others. For further information,

contact: National Lesbian Conference, P.O. Box 1999,  
Decatur, GA 30031; (404) 373-0000.

A special issue of The Creative Woman entitled "Crossing the Mainstream" will cover the lives and stories of women who do not fit traditional patterns of gender roles and family structures. Please submit abstracts or slides/drawings of your work by February 1, 1991 to: "Crossing the Mainstream," Gerber-Osborne, RD 7, Box 268P, Oswego, NY 13126.

May 1, 1991 is the deadline for a special issue of Gender & Society with the theme "Transforming Social Knowledge: The Interlocking of Race, Class and Gender." Analytical papers may take an empirical, theoretical, or practice-oriented approach; submit to Margaret Anderson, Editor, Gender & Society, Department of Sociology, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716.

The Eighth Annual National Graduate Women's Studies Conference, entitled "Plots and Plans: What's Cooking in Feminist Scholarship," will be held at the University of Michigan March 8-10, 1991. This yearly conference brings together graduate students in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences in a professional and supportive forum. Address inquiries to: Graduate Women's Studies Conference, Women's Studies Program, 234 W. Engineering, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1092.

"Suspect Terrain: Surveying the Women's West" is the title of a conference to be held in Lincoln, Nebraska August 7-9, 1991. Sponsored by the Coalition for Western Women's History, in conjunction with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Center for Great Plains Studies, the conference will include papers, panels and media productions that examine labor/leisure; law, leadership, and politics; urban and rural landscapes; life cycle, immigration and mobility, and regional construction of gender. The conference theme will be broadly interpreted to encourage approaches from all perspectives. Obtain additional information from: Prof. Paula Petrik, Dept. of History, University of Maine, Orono, ME 04469 (207) 581-1907, or from Prof. Kathleen Underwood, Dept. of History, Box 19529, University of Texas at Arlington, Arlington, TX 76019 (817) 273-2861.

## **WSS CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE, 1991-92**

Vice Chair/Chair-Elect: Virginia Daley, Duke University  
Betty Glass, Univ. of Nevada, Reno  
Secretary: Cynthia Faries, Pennsylvania State U.

Bernice Lacks, California State  
Univ.-Fresno  
Member-at-Large: Argent Sue Gibson, Atlanta  
Univ. Center  
Nancy Luikart, Texas Tech University

ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES SECTION MIDWINTER MEETING AGENDA

Please note that these meeting times are tentative as the newsletter goes to press. Check your Conference Program for meeting locations and possible time changes.

Friday, January 11, 1991

2:00-4:00 p.m. - Executive Committee

5:00-7:00 p.m. - Social Hour

Saturday, January 12, 1991

8:00-9:00 a.m. - 1991 Atlanta Program Committee

8:00-9:00 a.m. - Technical Services Committee

9:30-11:00 a.m. - Communications Committee

11:30-12:30 - Ad Hoc Publications Committee

2:00-4:00 p.m. - Collection Development Committee

4:30-5:30 p.m. - General Business/Orientation Meeting

Sunday, January 13, 1991

9:30-11:00 a.m. - General Meeting: Discussion of Information  
Literacy from a Feminist Perspective

11:30-12:30 - 1992 Program Committee

2:00-4:00 p.m. - Publications Committee

Monday, January 14, 1991

8:00-9:00 a.m. - Communications Committee

11:30-12:30 - 1991 Program Committee

2:00-4:00 p.m. - Collection Development Committee

2:00-4:00 p.m. - Technical Services Committee

Tuesday, January 15, 1991

8:00-10:00 a.m. - Executive Committee

Please check the Conference  
Program for meeting locations.

Dawn McCaghy/Bonnie Cox, Editors  
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