

ACRL WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER



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"WOMEN'S STUDIES AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY: TRANSFORMING COMPETITION INTO COALITION"

The WSS program in Atlanta 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. **WOMEN'S STUDIES AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY: TRANSFORMING COMPETITION INTO COALITION** will be held on Monday, July 1st, from 9:30 am to 12:30 p.m.

We are excited to have as our featured speaker Beverly Guy-Sheftall, who is currently director of the Women's Research and Resource Center at Spelman College and one of the co-founding editors of Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women. Dr. Guy-Sheftall will address the issues of curriculum development and academic support in light of the competition for resources in higher education.

Drawing on their own experiences, four front-line information professionals will discuss the intersection of race and gender in relation to competition for resources, collection development, outreach, and recruitment and retention of staff. For this section of the program we are fortunate to have four women who are in the thick of current discussions on ethnic diversity and the library profession. Janice Beaudin is the Multicultural Outreach Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and chair of the ALA/OLOS Library Service for American Indian People committee. She has also served on the ACRL Task Force on the Recruitment of Underrepresented Minorities. Leta Hendricks is a recent library school graduate and is currently the Minority Librarian Intern at Ohio State University. Susana Hinojosa is the Ethnic Studies Librarian at University of California-Berkeley and is chair of the newly-formed ACRL Racial and Ethnic Diversity Committee. After ten years as a librarian, Amy Seetoo has joined the ranks of publishers and now works for University Microfilms International. She is also president of the Chinese-American Librarians Association.

Women's Studies Section member-at-large Susan Perry, from Stanford University, will wrap up the session by offering suggestions from the perspective of a library administrator on successful strategies for approaching administrators, avoiding competition among various constituent groups, and designing recruitment policies that ensure retention of staff. Susan will lead a discussion on coalition building and mutual support.

Information tables will provide program attendees a range of literature related to women's studies librarianship and cultural diversity. We are soliciting bibliographies, job descriptions, planning documents, and copies of articles that will provide participants with both the theoretical framework and the practical tools to address issues of women and ethnic diversity in the academic library. If you have any of these materials (or know someone who might), contact program chair Ginny Daley, Duke University, 919/684-3372.

Join us in a session that promises to be both informative and constructive in building bridges across ethnic lines among women library workers.

-Ginny Daley, Chair, Conference Program Planning Committee

WSS DIVERSITY OPEN HOUSE AND SOCIAL HOUR IN ATLANTA

In keeping with our Atlanta program theme, the traditional Women's Studies Section Social Hour on Friday, June 28 will have a different look. At Midwinter meetings, members discussed what contribution we could make toward recruitment and retention of minorities in librarianship. As a result of those discussions, the Atlanta Social Hour will be a Diversity Open House co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Section and the Feminist Task Force.

We are inviting library school students and library staff from the Atlanta area, and we are asking the groups that are co-sponsoring our Atlanta program to send representatives or invite their members to join us. Our aim is to provide an opportunity for professional cooperation and interaction, to generate discussion of common concerns, and to cultivate familiarity with each other's organizations and activities.

The social hour will be held at the Radisson Hotel from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, June 28. Be sure to check your conference program to confirm the time and the exact room location. There will be a no-host bar, and members of the WSS Communications Committee and Executive Committee will serve as hosts. Come and meet old, new, and prospective members of the section - and others interested in women's concerns in ALA.

-Thura Mack, Chair, Communications Committee

INFORMATION AGE/ INFORMATION LITERACY: MIDWINTER WSS DISCUSSION MEETING

To set the stage for our discussion of information literacy issues from a feminist perspective, the following quote was given from Richard Wurman's Information Anxiety: "The amount of available information now doubles every five years. Soon it will be doubling every four. The number of books in top libraries doubles every 14 years, giving new meaning to the words 'keep up with your reading'" (Wurman, p. 32).

Co-moderator Jacquelyn Marie identified subsets of the population at risk in the information age: women of color; re-entry women; older people; the illiterate; the economically disadvantaged; persons for whom English is a second language; and any women unfamiliar with

an academic setting. For all too many in these categories, the emerging information technologies are often intimidating and frustrating. While everyone is challenged by the information explosion, former U.S. Secretary of Education Terrell Bell has noted, "There is a danger of a new elite developing in our country: the information elite." This is of special concern to women and minorities, because information technology serves the interests of those controlling the technology.

Wurman defines information anxiety as the product of the ever-widening gap between what we understand and what we think we should understand. It is caused by reading without understanding, seeing without perceiving, hearing without listening, and being overwhelmed by information without grasping what we want or need to know (Wurman, p. 34).

Active discussion ensued among the forty participants. Both frustrations and successes were shared about efforts to teach effective information skills to diverse clientele. Just as small presses emerge in response to the indifference of mainstream publishers, so too must specialized databases be developed to provide adequate access to resources reflecting alternative viewpoints. Sherry Turkle's The Second Self: Computers and the Human Spirit (NY: Simon & Schuster, 1984) was cited as a source for considering ways to enhance women's cognitive grasp of technology.

Based upon trends already evident, "You can't be too rich or too well-informed" may well become the catch phrase of the 21st century. It is also likely that librarians will more and more be expected to give "value-added service" such as providing critical evaluations, because clients do not have the time or the skills, or are in an information-poor environment. The time to begin planning for and acting in ways to ensure all women's endowment in an information-rich future is now.

-Betty Glass, Co-Moderator

NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

I am delighted to report that this year has been an extremely productive one. We have planned an outstanding summer program described in the lead article of this newsletter. We have also expanded our committee structure, making the Publications Committee an official standing committee and establishing two ad hoc committees: an Ad Hoc Committee on the MLA Bibliography to work with the ACRL/MLA

Bibliography Scope and Overlap Committee, and an Ad Hoc Program Committee to plan the Section's proposed program at the ACRL National Conference in Salt Lake City on April 12-14, 1992. At Midwinter we were asked to co-sponsor three other Atlanta programs -- by COSWL/LAMA, FTF, and BIS (see conference schedule on p. 5). The Section also held a very well-attended Midwinter discussion meeting on information literacy from a feminist perspective.

Your Spring Ballot this year will ask you to vote on some Section bylaw changes. The proposed changes will provide more member-at-large representation, standardize some of the bylaws language, and provide for replacements in some cases where Executive Committee vacancies might occur. The strong slate of candidates offered on the ballot will pose some hard choices for the membership; we are very proud of the dedication of our members and grateful for their willingness to serve the Section.

At Midwinter the Publications Committee drafted a publications policy and procedures manual and put the finishing touches on a list of journals providing opportunities for women's studies librarians to publish (see p.4 of this newsletter). The Publications Committee is also making excellent progress on their women's studies anthology project. The Collection Development and Bibliography Committee held its first meeting at Midwinter and began working on an ambitious list of projects: to create core bibliographies to use in identifying materials that would be useful to the USSR Center for Gender Studies and smaller academic libraries; to solicit model collection development policies for eventual distribution; to seek average cost data for women's studies books and serials; to query RLG about publication plans for the women's studies conspectus; and to lobby the H.W. Wilson Company for better coverage of lesbian periodicals in its indexes. The CD & B Committee will also be holding at Midwinter 1992 an open discussion of the implementation of the women's studies conspectus. The Communications Committee is working on plans for the Atlanta Social Hour and is looking at ways to increase our visibility and connection with library school students who may be interested in women's studies librarianship. The Technical Services Committee has identified important meetings to attend and issues to address and will try to have Section representation at a May Library of Congress Subject Headings Conference.

WSS Vice Chair/Chair Elect Jacquelyn Marie is in charge of making appointments for 1991-1992 committees. If you are interested in being involved in the Section, please give her a call at (408) 459-3255.

It has been a privilege to work with the Section membership, committees and officers this year. I would like to thank all of you for your enthusiasm and energy and for making this year such a pleasurable experience for me as Chair.

-Pat Kreitz, WSS Chair

WOMEN'S STUDIES IN ACTION

MARGARET E. GALLOWAY, Automated Serials Librarian at the University of North Texas, presented "Native American Women and the Pocahontas Complex" at the American Studies Association of Texas 34th Annual Meeting in Corpus Christi, November 15-17, 1990. She was also elected to a three-year term of office as Secretary/Treasurer of the association at the meeting. She has presented other research papers about Native American women at meetings of the South Central Women's Association, the Western Social Science Association, and the Annual American Indian Conference.

JOYCE DUNCAN FALK discussed "Intellectual Access to the Literature of Women's History in Online Databases" at the Seventeenth International Congress of Historical Sciences in Madrid last summer. Her presentation was part of a day-long program on Computing and History, co-sponsored by the Association for the Bibliography of History. The paper was excerpted from a longer study, "Information Retrieval in Women's History," which will be available from ERIC.

On March 28-29, 1991, SARAH PRITCHARD, Senior Program Officer at the Association for Research Libraries, filled a "mini-residency" at SUNY-Plattsburgh. She conducted a workshop for students and faculty entitled "Researching in Women's Studies;" lectured on "Women's Studies Scholarship: Its Impact on the Information World;" and presented a workshop to library staff on women's studies librarianship, including issues in technical services, public services, and collection development. Sarah's visit was co-sponsored by the Campus Commission on Women, the Women's Studies Program, and the Library.

MARY ELLEN HULS, reference librarian at Iowa State University Library, is currently working on U.S. Government Documents on Women, 1800-1988. This two-volume annotated bibliography of approximately 6,000 items will cover both social and labor-related

issues. The book will appear in the Greenwood Press series *Indexes and Bibliographies in Women's Studies*; projected publication date is early 1992.

Women Online: Research in Women's Studies Using Online Databases, edited by Steven D. Atkinson and WSS member JUDITH HUDSON, was published by the Haworth Press in 1990. Judith co-authored the chapter "Women in the National Online Bibliographic Database" with WSS member VICTORIA A. MILLS. Other WSS members who contributed chapters are JOYCE DUNCAN FALK, RUTH DICKSTEIN, BARBARA J. VIA, and BETH STAFFORD.

G.K. Hall & Company's inaugural 1989 volume of the Women's Studies Index was published in December 1990. Each annual volume cites articles and book, film, music, play, and video reviews from scholarly, feminist, lesbian, and popular periodicals. WSS members JOAN ARIEL and SUSAN SEARING serve on the advisory board of the Women's Studies Index.

PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN'S STUDIES LIBRARIANS

Members of the WSS Publications Committee have compiled a list of periodicals in librarianship and women's studies that offer contributors the potential for publishing articles or bibliographies related to women's studies librarianship. Citations to articles previously published in these journals are included to provide examples of the types of material accepted. Copies of the list are available upon request from Susan G. Williamson, Annenberg Library, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, 3629 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6220.

CALL FOR COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

The WSS Collection Development and Bibliography Committee is gathering collection development policy statements relating to women's studies and/or gender studies. Libraries willing to share their policy statements are invited to send one copy by June 1, 1991 to: Bernice K. Lacks, Henry Madden Library, California State University-Fresno, 5200 North Barton Avenue, Fresno, CA 93740-0034. Ms. Lacks may be contacted after the ALA Annual Meeting for additional information on this project.

FEMICIDE CLEARINGHOUSE

The Berkeley Clearinghouse on Femicide collects news clippings, periodical articles, reports, and other ephemeral material on femicide and violence toward women. It publishes a monthly newsletter, Memory and Rage (\$15-\$25/year), which includes information about legislation, recent incidents of abuse and killing of women, protest demonstrations, and new publications. For a list of topics in their files or for further information, write to: Berkeley Clearinghouse on Femicide, P.O. Box 12342, Berkeley, CA 94701; telephone (415) 845-7005.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

Informed by a commitment to feminist ideals, Deborah Fink's Process and Politics in Library Research: A Model for Course Design (Chicago: ALA, 1989) presents bibliographic instruction in a new light. Fink emphasizes creative problem solving and critical evaluation as the central skills needed in the "learning society." The class activities, take-home assignments, and exercises provided in each chapter focus on active learning: "becoming engaged with information and transmuting it into knowledge and growth."

The Safe Sea of Women; Lesbian Fiction 1969-1989, by Bonnie Zimmerman (Boston: Beacon Press, 1990), presents an overview of fiction published mainly by alternative feminist presses. Zimmerman's assessments and her 14-page bibliography of selected primary and secondary sources make this a valuable guide for collection development purposes.

Birth Control: What Everyone Should Know, by Michael R. Weil is a 28-page pamphlet that explains in plain English the proper use of the most common methods of birth control available in the U.S. The author also comments on the effectiveness of various methods in preventing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. Single copies cost \$4.65 from Michael's Publications, P.O. Box 1932, Eau Claire, WI 54702; volume discounts are available.

The following titles are available free from the UW System Women's Studies Librarian, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706:

"Women of Color and the Core Curriculum: Tools for Transforming the Liberal Arts" is a 23-page annotated guide to resources on transformation of the

curriculum, autobiographical writings, creative literature, and films and videos on Asian American, American Indian, Black, and Latina women.

"New Reference Works in Women's Studies, 1989/90" lists books reviewed in vol. 11 (Fall 1989 through Summer 1990) of Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources.

The fourth revision (1991) of "Women and Science: Issues and Resources" emphasizes books and special journal issues that present a feminist critique of scientific theory and practice. Contents of special issues and anthologies are included.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Thank you to everyone who submitted material and offered support and encouragement during my term as newsletter editor. Special gratitude to Pat Kreitz, WSS Chair, and Bonnie Cox, unflappable co-editor. Bonnie takes over in June as editor for 1991-92 and will be looking for news and announcements from a wide sampling of the section membership. Send material to: Bonnie Cox, Humanities Bibliographer/Women's Studies Director, 204 King Library South, Lexington, KY 40506-0039.

-Dawn McCaghy, Editor, 1990-91

The Association of College and 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: 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. Policy for purchase by non-section members is currently under review.

RELATED MEETINGS - ATLANTA (Tentative Schedule: Check Conference Program)

Friday, June 28

8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. BIS Preconference: CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND HIGHER EDUCATION: BI IN A MULTICULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Saturday, June 29

9:00-11:00 a.m. COSWL Meeting
9:30-11:00 a.m. SRRT/FTF Program: WOMEN WRITING: THE IMPERILED FUTURE
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Introduction to Women's Groups (FTF/COSWL)
2:00-4:00 p.m. FTF Business Meeting

Sunday, June 30

9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. SRRT/FTF Meeting
2:00-5:30 p.m. COSWL Meeting
2:00-5:30 p.m. BIS Program: TECHNOLOGY AS A BARRIER TO INFORMATION LITERACY: IMPLICATIONS FOR BI LIBRARIANS

Monday, July 1

8:00-9:00 a.m. SRRT/FTF Steering Committee Meeting
2:00-4:00 p.m. FTF Business Meeting
2:00-4:00 p.m. SRRT/GLTF Program
10:00 p.m. - ?? SRRT/FTF Women's Night Out

Tuesday, July 2

9:30-11:00 a.m. COSWL Program: SHE DOESN'T SPEAK MY LANGUAGE: GENDER AND COMMUNICATION IN THE WORKPLACE
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. RASD Women's Materials & Users Discussion Group