



Women's Studies Section Newsletter

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Spring 2005

*Issued by the Women's Studies Section,
Association of College and Research Libraries,
a division of the American Library Association*

"Getting Published: From Practice to Print"

Have you thought about publishing an article, but don't think you can do it? Is the presentation you've created ready to be developed into an article? How do you know which journal to send your manuscript to? What do I do if my article is rejected, burn it?

These and many other questions will be answered at the Annual WSS program in Chicago on Monday, June 27, 8:30-noon. The program is designed to be both conceptual and practical. At the end of the program you will be more confident in your ability to become a successfully published author.

The program will feature two well known editors, one in library science, Gloriana St. Clair, founder and former editor of *Portal: Libraries and the Academy* and another in women's studies, Teresa Kemp, co-editor of *Feminist Teacher: A Journal of Practice*. The panel speakers will address issues of publishing from the editor's perspective as well as changes occurring in the publishing world and gaps in research.

Roundtable discussions which will follow will be led by experienced library practitioners. The roundtables include:

- ◆ "Getting Started in Publishing" led by Kristin Gerhard and Sara Brownmiller
- ◆ "An Editor's Perspective" led by Gloriana St. Clair and Monica Baron (co-editor of *Feminist Teacher*)
- ◆ "Finding Opportunities to Publish and Collaborate" led by Jeanne Armstrong and Susan Searing
- ◆ "Revisions and Turndowns" led by Phyllis Hollman Weisbard and Janet Fore
- ◆ "Writing a Book" led by Aline Soules, Cindy Ingold, and Linda Krikos
- ◆ "Moving from Presentation to Article" led by Nancy Dewald and Dolores Fidishun

We promise you a lively and useful morning. Join us on Monday, June 27, 8:30-12:00 in Chicago.

This program is co-sponsored by ACRL College Library Section, ACRL University Library Section, Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL), and the Feminist Task Force.

-Ruth Dickstein

WSS Welcomes Erin Stalberg as New Web Editor

At Midwinter 2005, Erin Stalberg assumed the mantle of Web Editor, taking over from Megan Adams, who was Web editor from 2000-2004. Besides being a member of the section, Erin is Acting Director of Cataloging Services at the University of Virginia. Like many people in the section, Erin says, "Women's Studies issues have never been an "official" part of my job responsibilities -- I look for diversity and women's studies opportunities in my library and am a WSS member purely out of personal interest." Before she was at the University of Virginia, Erin worked for Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia and was the newsletter editor for the Delaware Valley Chapter of ACRL. We welcome Erin to her new role in WSS.

-Megan Adams

Women Make Movies: A Unique Resource

Women Make Movies, <http://www.wmm.com/>, founded in 1972 on the flyleaf of the Me Generation, is not only a great Women's Studies collection development resource, but also a reminder that grassroots, independent work by and for women still has an audience in the 21st Century. Women Make Movies is a non-profit organization specializing in the distribution and exhibition of independent films by, for, and about women. In addition to the beautiful catalogue of their resources that they make available by request, the Website accommodates a variety of search options (by title, maker, and subject area) to make the resources highly accessible to those building collections. Each record contains a brief description of the work, year created, rental and purchase prices, the length of the film and a list of subject categories that the film falls within.

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The *WSS Newsletter* welcomes contributions from readers. Send articles, items of interest, and news to the editors, preferably in electronic format.

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WSS Officers 2004/05:

Ruth Dickstein, Chair
Megan Adams, Vice-Chair/
Chair-Elect
Pamela Salela, Secretary
Cindy Ingold, Member-at-large
Carrie Kruse, Member-at-large

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Where Women Make Movies truly excels is in the quality of the collection. By cultivating a careful balance between their educational and artistic missions, and by embracing timely and cutting-edge themes, they present a body of work that is, in itself, an historical imperative. As if to say, *this is*



Notes from the Chair

I am writing this article months before you will be reading it. Right now there are two lively discussions on WSS-L: one about the possibility of section committees holding one meeting a year virtually, and the other discussion about how one becomes a women's studies librarian. While we are all overwhelmed with e-mail, this is the first time there has been this level of activity on the list. It is healthy for us to share our thoughts in this way; for it mentors new librarians as well as brings in a range of experiences and viewpoints about our roles. I hope that you will continue using the list. Are you considering purchasing expensive microfilm or an electronic resource, confronting the task of developing a new class instruction, or planning an extended information literacy program for women's studies? In all these cases and many more, WSS-L can be your chance to network. Many members of the Section who attended the Boston discussion about virtual meetings admitted that even if their human presence were not required for a committee meeting, they still would attend conferences because of the networking and human contact that has enriched their professional life.

For those who cannot attend conferences regularly I urge you to think about WSS-L as your way to meet your colleagues, learn from them and help them.

The Women's Studies Section has always had a special mission to mentor new librarians and to provide a space for librarians who are interested in women's studies to meet. Many of us have benefited greatly from the contacts we have made in this section, both professionally and personally. So, please continue to use the section's list and keep in touch.

We are also very excited about the WSS program for the Annual meeting in Chicago, "Getting Published: From Practice to Print" which is discussed in greater detail elsewhere in the newsletter. The program is meant to enable librarians to learn how to write and publish. We look forward to seeing you all in Chicago, but if you won't be there, join us on WSS-L discussions.

Hope to see you in Chicago!

Ruth Dickstein

our history, and you must let us speak our history.

Women Make Movies also has links to other library collections, bibliographies, filmographies, international sites, and syllabi. These resources are a wonderful accompaniment, especially for anyone with liaison responsibilities who might want to examine other professor's ways of teaching similar material.

And, though the tie might not make the man (see *Outlaw* by Alisa Lebow starring Leslie Feinberg), the willingness to give back to the community might make the woman in this case. Women Make Movies works within the film community to provide hands-on training, guidance, and assistance with the filmmaking process. What does this translate into? It means that films have been made that otherwise might not have been made, and it means a collection that is strong on diversity. Lest we ignore this fact, the films that WMM distributes are expensive. Here, two points are to be made. In academic communities that strive to reach students with varying learning styles, and especially in today's media-dominated society, adding compelling visual material to the curricula has become a necessary value-added service. And secondly, it's only expensive if you forget that it's *art*.

-Jennifer Nace

And the Winners Are.....

With great pleasure we recognize three of our section's long-time members for their exceptional contributions to women's studies librarianship. Recipient of the Career Achievement Award, sponsored by Greenwood Publishing Group, is **Ellen Broidy**, Collections, Research and Instructional Services Head at UCLA's Young Research Library. Ellen's contributions go far beyond her role in the founding of WSS. She has published extensively on women's library issues, has contributed to a number of reference works, and is a frequent presenter and panel moderator. She is also recognized as a consummate teacher-librarian.



Ellen Broidy



Linda Krikos

The ACRL WSS Significant Achievement Award is sponsored by Routledge. Sharing the award this year are **Cindy Ingold**, Women's Studies Librarian at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and **Linda Krikos**, Head, Women's Studies Library at the Ohio State University. They are recognized for their collaboration as editors of *Women's Studies: A Recommended Bibliography, 3rd edition*, published by Libraries Unlimited. The bibliography, covering material in nineteen topic areas, includes chapters written by fourteen outside contributors in addition to Cindy and Linda themselves. As editors, they invited and encouraged their contributors, found and maintained the interest of a publisher, and completed the final editing and indexing of the manuscript for publication. All agree that the bibliography will be used by librarians, researchers, and students for some time to come.



Cindy Ingold

The award sponsors contribute a plaque and cash award of \$1000 for each of the two awards. Please join us in Chicago on Monday, June 27, just prior to the WSS program, when Ellen, Cindy, and Linda will receive their awards and be recognized for their outstanding contributions.

Great resources at: <http://libr.org/wss>

Welcome New Members!

Barbara Bragg
Juliann Couture
Ione Damasco
Mary Eittle
Melanie Feltner

Anna Hood
Laura Kohl
Beth W. Lang
Dawn Lawson
David Mags

Emily Miller-Francisco
Hope Nisly
Linda Parker
Marilyn Parrish
Charlie Potter

Phebe Poydras
Emily Smith
Julie Strange
Joy Worland

Phyllis Holman Weisbard, University of Wisconsin System Women's Studies Librarian announces:

Recent additions to the UW WSL website: <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/>

Articles from *Feminist Collections: A Quarterly Of Women's Studies Resources*:

"Finding Funding for Women: Web and Non-Web Resources," by Elizabeth Breed, v. 25, no. 2 (Winter 2004)
<http://library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/fc/fcbreed2.htm>

"Stronger Studies, Better Research: Information Literacy in the Women's Studies Classroom," by Carroll Wetzel Wilkinson, v. 25, no. 4 (Summer 2004), <http://library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/fc/fcwillkinson.htm>

Virtual Meetings and WSS

Background Information

At the Fall 2004 ACRL Executive Committee meeting, the ACRL Virtual Meeting Task Force presented virtual meeting (VM) guidelines to the ACRL Board. A draft FAQ sheet for virtual meetings was handed out at the discussion. The handout was based on the report that the ACRL Virtual Meetings Task Force submitted to the Board. ALA has purchased and has been testing "online communities software" to encourage work outside of Midwinter and/or annual to increase group participation, efficiency and production. ALA anticipates installation of the software in FY2005. The software will allow sections to have a virtual space to conduct meetings and other section business. Functionality includes threaded discussions (chat), document sharing, polling, etc. Conference calls are not a function of the technology and ACRL is not able to provide or pay for VM technologies that exceed the capabilities provided by the ALA software.

Other handouts distributed at the meeting included a compilation of newsletter clippings from the College Libraries Section (CLS) and the University Libraries Section (ULS). After three years of experimenting with VMs, the CLS has officially adopted the practice of holding Midwinter meetings virtually. For more on their Midwinter VM experiment see recent CLS newsletters:

Spring 2004

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrlbucket/cls/newsletters/Spring2004.pdf>;

Fall 2003

<http://www.ala.org/ala/acrlbucket/cls/newsletters/Fall2003.pdf>

Spring 2003 <http://www.ala.org/ala/acrlbucket/cls/newsletters/clsnewsletterspring2003.htm>;

Also see the ULS Spring 2004 newsletter message from the Vice Chair/Chair- Elect:

http://www.ala.org/ala/acrl/aboutacrl/acrlsections/universitylib/Newsletter_Spring2004.pdf

Virtual vs. Face to Face Meetings

The women's studies section is the only section to hold a face to face (FTF) discussion group meeting on the topic, and a lively discussion it was, which prompted someone to ask could we have this type of interaction virtually? Nonetheless, most section members were absent and it was noted that those unable to attend Midwinter are the ones VMs may make the difference between participating or not participating in section business. ACRL Executive Committee member Mary Jane Petrowski was on hand to provide background information and answer questions about using the software for official "synchronous meetings", rather than unofficial "asynchronous meetings", via email.

Megan Adams, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect of the WSS, and Mary Jane's introduction was followed by small group discussions. Three groups were formed and each group had a different question to address related to VMs. Questions included 1) What are the pros and cons of holding VMs and FTF meetings 2) What does WSS already do well virtually? What does WSS do that would be difficult to do virtually? and 3) What would successful VMs look like for you? What would chairs and committee members be expected to do? When groups came together for the report back period, there was no consensus on whether the section should try VMs. While numerous (more than can be cited here) pros and cons to holding VMs were identified, few people in attendance said that they would want to try it. Megan plans to write up and distribute all of the responses to the questions once the WSS-L comments are also in. The top (repeatedly noted) pros and cons of VMs were what one would expect: Pros – members and institutions will save money; meetings will be more accessible to more people; meetings would be more efficient and productive because committee members would have to limit their comments to the absolute essential. Cons: Less conducive to networking; is impersonal and difficult to place names with faces; scheduling would be more difficult; is more labor intensive for chairs; challenges of the learning curve. Holding Midwinter meetings virtually would be a big step, especially for a discipline and movement founded during highly personal (FTF) consciousness raising groups. While those in attendance didn't seem to support a complete conversion to virtual Midwinter meetings, most agreed that the software would be useful for supplementing ALA meetings and to work on specific projects. Look for more information on this topic in the near future.

-Sherri Barnes

Women Working, 1870-1930

Drawing from collections across Harvard's libraries and museums, two years ago Harvard University Library launched a digital initiative to create a collection of archival resources on women working. *Women Working: 1870-1930* (<http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/ww>) brings together materials on women working inside and outside the home. The collection explores working conditions, domestic conditions, issues of health and hygiene, recreational activities, the education of women, standards of behavior, moral guidance and advice, and women's experiences across a wide range of work, occupations, professions, and civic activities. The collection consists of high quality PDF images of 2,429 books and pamphlets, 1,125 photographs, and 5,558 pages of manuscripts. By spring 2005 an additional seven hundred books and pamphlets will be added to the collection. These materials focus on the education of women, conduct of life, and factory work prior to 1870. Forty one trade catalogs, representative sample issues of the *Ladies Home Journal*, *Woman's Home* women's magazines, and the

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Companion, other women's magazines, and the complete run of the *Lowell Offering* and the *New England Offering* (1840-185) are being digitized.

Women in Medicine

The issue of women in the medical profession is well documented. Biography pages of physicians and the biography of the first woman doctor in the West, Dr. Bethenia Owens-Adair, is available. The *Annual Reports* of the Female Medical Education Society, the New England Female Medical College (1848-1871), and the New England Hospital for Women and Children (1864-1930) are available. Several important manuscript scrapbooks are planned: "Historical Incidents" at the New England Female Medical College (1847-1865), and "Medical Education and Society Membership for Women. Once the scrapbooks are digitized, a Web page on "Women and the Medical Profession" will be created to draw the materials together.

Forthcoming Manuscripts

By summer 2005, two hand bound volumes of letters, diary entries, and photographs of E. Jane Gay, official photographer for a Department of the Interior's expedition to apportion tribal lands of the Winnebago Indians of Nebraska and the Nez Perces of Idaho, will be added.

Integrating the Digital Work of Others

As a matter of policy, the Open Collections Program does not re-digitize works already digitized by other institutions if they are of high quality, non-commercial, and with durable links. Durable links will be added for materials that are owned by Harvard and are included in Cornell's digital collection Home Economics Archive: Research and Tradition <http://hearth.library.cornell.edu/>. Over time, records and links to materials at other institutions will be added. We are in the process of making MARC records and durable links available to other institutions that wish to integrate *Women Working* records and links into their catalogs.

Women Working Update

To help readers keep abreast of additions to *Women Working* and changes to the Web site we have begun a monthly email update service that can be accessed at <http://ocp.hul.harvard.edu/ww/subscribe.html>. The Open Collections Program encourages feedback from users and we are particularly interested in examples of how the collection is being used for teaching, learning, and research. Please contact me at michalak@hulmail.harvard.edu.

In future WSS newsletter articles, I will address how the collection was developed and digitized, the Open

Collections outreach program to market *Women Working* in K-12 schools and higher education, and documentation on how the collection is being used.

-Thomas J. Michalak, Director
Open Collections Program
Harvard University Library

The Evolution of American Women's History: A Research Guide

Feeling nostalgic, I recently entered the URL of my Web site, *American Women's History: A Research Guide* <http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women.html> on the *Wayback Machine* <http://www.archive.org/web/web.php>. The earliest page that I found archived was from May 1997, when the site was basically a supplement to the guide to my library's women's history resources. Apart from the poor design and strange choice of color of this early effort, I noticed that there were only 13 links to "Multimedia Exhibits on the Internet." This section of the guide is now called "Digital Collections of Primary Sources" and has over 570 links. In spite of this growth, the basic goal of offering a balanced and straightforward guide to Internet and print sources has not changed.

American Women's History: A Research Guide includes 2300 citations, and is organized into 80 subjects and by state. The subject sections are further organized into such categories as digital collections of primary sources, archival guides, microform collections, bibliographies, biographical sources, association web sites, and discussion lists. The guide also provides information about key tools for finding additional primary and secondary sources.

Although the guide includes many links to well-known digital collections (e.g., American Memory), its real strength is in its coverage of hundreds of small but excellent collections and "collections within collections." For example, the "Scientists" section of the guide points to "Images of Early Vassar" for photographs of Maria Mitchell and her astronomy students. The "Temperance" section suggests the Ohio Memory database and an American sheet music database from the Library of Congress. Finally, the "Advice Literature" section includes a note to use "Conduct of Life" for finding relevant online books in Harvard University Library's *Women Working* collection. The coverage of digital collections is one of the main reasons that the guide was selected as one of the "Best Free Reference Web Sites for 2004"

<http://www.ala.org/ala/rusa/rusaourassoc/rusasections/mars/marspubs/marsbestref2004.htm>

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Women's Studies Section Committee Reports

Instruction Committee

At the midwinter meeting in Boston, the Instruction Committee discussed several items related to its ongoing project of creating instruction guides for online databases. These included publicity; creation of new guides; and how to keep the instruction guides up to date. Under new business, the group hopes to create a separate web page for the Instruction Committee and we will be working on this during the spring. We also discussed how our committee and the section could take part in the discussions within ACRL to map the ACRL Information Literacy standards to specific subject competencies. Finally, the Committee brainstormed on ideas for a possible instruction related program.

-Cindy Ingold

Nominating Committee

Rumor has it that the Nominating Committee is one of the hardest assignments in WSS. This year committee members Sara Brownmiller, Martha McCormick, and Chair Ellen Broidy were delighted to discover that developing a slate was not only relatively easy, it was enormously gratifying. Everyone we approached was unfailingly gracious in their response, whether they were able to run or not, and supportive of our efforts to build a quality slate. We think membership will agree that we did. We are proud to present the following slate candidates:

Vice-chair/Chair-elect: Kelly Hovendick - Syracuse University

Secretary: Cynthia Johnson - Pratt Institute, Susan Kane - University of Washington

Member-at-Large: Pamela Mann - University of Texas at Austin, Diane Gwamanda - University of Houston

-Ellen Broidy

Research Committee

The Research Committee worked hard at Midwinter to refine and revise the *Draft Research Agenda for Women's Studies Librarianship*. We will be working on it further via email and sending it out to the WSS List-Serv for everyone to provide comment on what the most exciting research questions for women's studies librarianship today might be and what areas are in

desperate need of study. The Agenda is the culmination of several years of work spent determining what research had been done in the past (for a bibliography of past research in women's studies librarianship, see the Research Committee's Web site), and is similar in principle to the Research Agenda for Information Literacy published in the February 2003 issue of *C&RL News*. Our hope is to turn the agenda into an article to be published in one of the ACRL journals.

-Jennifer Gilley

Electronic Resources & Access Committee

Discussion at the Midwinter meeting of the Electronic Resources and Access Committee centered on the current project *Women's Studies in Digital Archives*. This project is an assessment of women's studies content in open access primary resources on the Internet. Members agreed that a web publication is the best way to disseminate the information gathered over the course of this project and aim to have a draft of the site completed by the annual conference. The final product will include a short essay about how the project was conceived, criteria for inclusion, and how the information may be used along with an opening page consisting of several indexes – title, format, and subject. Each archive listing will include a brief description of the database, an evaluation of the women's studies coverage, and an assessment of the type of sources included that may be of interest to women's studies librarians and researchers. Maintenance of the ongoing project *Electronic Resources, Information and Assessment* was also on the agenda. The committee agreed upon a timeline and procedure for updating the site which will be a committee. Updating reviews of the resources on this site is a possible future project of the committee. Three of our members will be rotating off the committee after the annual conference, so please contact me (mbarrett@bama.ua.edu) if you are interested in being a member of ERA.

-Marcia Barrett

WSS-NWSA's Librarians Task Force Connection

Last year the National Women's Studies Association and the ACRL Women's Studies Section agreed to establish a formal liaison relationship to foster cooperation between what are obviously related organizations. The initiative for this alliance came from our end, when Dolores Fidishun was chair (2002-2003). Some of the ideas for this relationship that have come up in discussions include:

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First Impressions: A Message From a Newly Minted MLS

While attending ALA for the first time in January I found my way to a WSS discussion group concerning ALA mid-winter and the possibility of moving to an online meeting structure. As a newly minted MLS, my intent was to scout out what goes on at Mid-Winter, visit a smorgasbord of sections in order to decide where to invest my time. Networking and using the Placement Center services was also high on my 'to do' list.

When I joined ALA I elected to join a variety of sections reflecting my career interests. These include reference, instruction, English language and literature, distance learning, virtual services and also women's studies. Intellectual Freedom and the Social Responsibilities Roundtable also appeal to me, but it soon became clear that there are only so many Listserves and groups one can reasonably join and still work for a living. During the conference I was able to take part in several discussion groups. I gained a sense of their tenor and voice. Even though I was at the meetings each day, I couldn't do as much as I would have liked. For me, as a first-timer, the experience was invaluable.

I hope that I find a job at an institution that values and underwrites professional development. I should say that first of all I hope to find a job! My understanding is that the Mid-Winter Meeting is primarily for business and the Annual Meeting consists largely of seminars. The opportunity to interact with professionals in the field in Boston reinforced my commitment to the field and invigorated my job search. I recognize that recruitment is a hot topic, this being said, the Mid-Winter Meeting provides an ideal time and place to interface with new graduates entering the profession.

When I returned home I joined the WSS list and posed the question, are women's studies librarians born or made? Several other students and recent graduates expressed the same curiosity. The response from the list has been most welcome and encouraging. As we look for jobs, we can't wait for a women's studies or gender studies position to come up. Now I have a clearer understanding of how I may be able to nudge my way into this area. This all began with the Monday morning discussion group.

I will be attending ACRL and found a roommate on the list. This allows me to reduce the expense, which makes the whole trip possible. Turns out, my roommate was at the same discussion group meeting. I can't wait to see if I recognize her. One of the librarians who sat next to me in the discussion group pointed out some of the pros of being physically present, not just virtually. Seeing and hearing the other members of the group gave me a strong and magnetic attachment to the section. Virtual meetings are not embracing by nature, this encounter definitely was.

If ALA will allow newly conferred MLS graduates to make use of the student rate for conferences for one full year after they finish their coursework (if they are not yet employed) while looking for jobs, this would encourage attendance. Consider this a plea not to eliminate opportunities to humanize our interactions and give the section a face. Who could possibly be more welcoming than a group of women's studies librarians? I look forward to seeing you in Minneapolis. Please introduce yourselves and say hello.

-Marsha Stender, Student, University of Buffalo

