

# WGSS Newsletter

## women & gender studies section

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### Notes From The Chair



Photo by Kristin Partlo

Because it is almost spring in Minnesota (and likely spring elsewhere), and because April is National Poetry Month, I share a snippet of a poem.

I snap the twig to try to trap the springing  
and I relearn the same lesson. You cannot  
make a keepsake of this season.

—“Each Year” by Dora Malech

April is a time when many of us turn our thoughts to preparing for ALA Annual, which will be in Las Vegas this year. The WGSS ALA annual program for 2014 in Las Vegas is “Digital Humanities and Academic Libraries: Practice and Theory, Power and Privilege.” Our program features four excellent panelists: Roxanne Shirazi (CUNY), Elvia Arroyo-Ramirez (Center for the Study of Political Graphics), Megan Wacha (Barnard), and Jane Nichols (Oregon State University) and will explore the role of libraries in digital humanities from multiple angles, looking at how identity and institutional power inform the production, consumption, and pedagogy of digital humanities. I hope you can join us at the program, which is supported in name by ACRL’s Digital Humanities Interest Group.

Many thanks to the 2014 WGSS Program Planning Committee for a successful program proposal. ACRL received a large number of proposal submissions and was only able to select 46% for program slots for Annual 2014.

Congratulations to the 2014 WGSS award winners, Laura Micham, the ACRL WGSS Career Achievement Award recipient, and Maria T. Accardi, the ACRL WGSS Significant Achievement Award recipient! These awards will be presented at the beginning of our Annual program session.

I hope to see many familiar and new faces at our section membership meeting on Saturday afternoon. This meeting has been an excellent opportunity for members to connect in person. We are excited that a group of women from the Women’s Research Institute of Nevada will join us to talk about their research. The membership meeting will be followed by the WGSS-sponsored poster session. Last year, we had many excellent posters, and we anticipate a similar group this year. Our WGSS social will follow the posters. Check the WGSS website and blog in the coming month for location information. Our schedule for ALA will follow a similar pattern as last year, which was revamped from previous years. The WGSS conference schedule will be available here and updated as needed: <http://www.libr.org/wgss/conferences/index.html>.

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The *WGSS Newsletter* welcomes contributions from its members. Please send articles, items of interest, and news to the editors, preferably in electronic format.

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- Diane M. Fulkerson, Vice-chair/Chair-elect
- Tara Baillargeon, Secretary
- Beth Strickland, Member-at-Large
- Diana Leigh King, Member-at-Large
- Jennifer Mayer, Past Chair

Listserv archives (1999 - present):  
<http://lists.ala.org/wss/arc/wgss-l>

WGSS Newsletters (1986 - present):  
<http://libr.org/wss/newsletter/index.html>

## Notes from the Chair (continued)

### Some Section News

First, I'll share news that is a bummer. As many of you know, ACRL implemented a new policy for sections last year as a result of input and research conducted by the Communities of Practice Assembly. Any section that has fewer than 400 members for three consecutive years will need to transition from a section to another kind of community of practice (including merging with another section to form a larger section, becoming a discussion group within another section, becoming a standing committee within another section, becoming an interest group, or becoming a division-level discussion group). There has been a lot of discussion about this policy over the past three years.

In November, Diane Fulkerson and I received notification that WGSS had 399 members at the time of accounting, so we have been officially put on notice. It is not my intention to alarm anyone in the section, but I do think it is important for members to know where we stand. We have a strong section. Our membership has consistently hovered above 400. Our members are active and engaged; we consistently have high quality programming; we publish and create resources that are used by ALA and ACRL members.

At our Executive meeting in January, we brainstormed with Irene Herold, our ACRL board liaison, about strategies for raising awareness about the work of our section. Part of this strategy involves making sure that we post our events to listservs outside WGSS and do as much cross-advertising as possible. Irene is eager to do what she can to support our section.

If you know colleagues who regularly use WGSS resources, have an interest in WGSS research and interests, or who are looking for a home within ACRL, consider extending an invitation to them. Remind folks that they do not have to have current responsibilities in the area of WGSS to be a member and find value in the section.

### More Section Activities

Speaking of our awesome membership, two WGSS members, Susan Hoang and Kristen Hogan, have been convening chat discussions about the intersections of social justice and information literacy in order to build a community of practice focused on this. Their hope is to cultivate a community in which

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## MEMBERSHIP

The WGSS social was held at Moriarty's Pub, continuing our pub theme from Annual. It was a grand time with about 10-12 folks and great conversation. We are working to plan a great social in Las Vegas, so look for our announcements as we get closer to Annual.

The committee has made progress on consolidating our social media presence with the Publications Committee. We hope to see a new era in outreach with a joint effort between the committees.

The committee is monitoring the decisions about possible changes in ACRL membership policies regarding section choices. We will keep you posted and encourage you to give us your ideas and thoughts about membership!

*Submitted by Emily Asch,  
Committee Chair  
St Catherine University*

## COLLECTIONS

The Collections Committee met virtually on March 31, 2014. The Committee continued discussion of the following projects

- Updating from Electronic Re-

sources Information and Assessment <http://www.lib.org/wgss/projects/electronic.html>

- Updating the Checklist to Evaluate Women and Gender Studies Collections <http://www.lib.org/wgss/committees/colldev/checklist.html>

- Revising the WGSS Core serials page <http://www.lib.org/wgss/projects/serial.html>

Two to three committee members are working on each project and timelines were created that include having updates ready before ALA Annual.

*Submitted by Erica Carlson Nicol  
Committee Chair  
Washington State University*

## INSTRUCTION

During the fall of 2013, two members of the WGSS Instruction Committee (Sharon Ladenson and Kathy Labadorf) attended the National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference to present draft information literacy learning outcomes for women's and gender studies (developed by the Instruction Committee).

The presentation was part of a preconference panel organized by Jennifer Gilley for women's studies program administrators. This provided an excellent mechanism for dialogue with faculty nation-

# Committee Reports ALA Midwinter - Philadelphia, PA January 24-28, 2014

ally about the critical importance of information literacy (IL), and also to share an update regarding further work being done by ACRL to develop a new IL framework.

The Instruction Committee has also met to discuss the initial draft of ACRL's new IL framework, and developed feedback as a group to share with the revision taskforce.

*Submitted by Sharon Ladenson  
Committee Chair  
Michigan State University*

## PUBLICATIONS

In our Midwinter meeting, the Publications Committee spent the majority of its time discussing the WGSS blog and how to make it more accessible and useful to section members. The committee considered a more structured approach to blog posting, including the establishment of regular features, such as book reviews and interviews. The committee also established a blog-posting schedule, encouraging the entire committee to participate. We have since opened up participation to the Executive Committee and also the section's general membership.

The Publications Committee is also working with the Member-

## Committee Reports

### ALA Midwinter - Philadelphia, PA

#### January 24-28, 2014 (continued)



ship Committee to share the responsibility of posting to social media, especially to promote blog posts. At ALA Annual, we'll take a look at metrics to assess the success of these efforts.

*Submitted by Nina Clements  
Committee Chair  
Penn State Brandywine*

### RESEARCH

The Research Committee (RC) discussed a number of topics during the virtual ALA midwinter meeting. Jennifer Gilley, the section's NWSA liaison, reported about her experience attending the annual NWSA meeting. She reported that faculty at the conference expressed interest in learning more about

information literacy standards, and it was found that marketing our research agenda via women's studies listservs would be sufficient. We also talked about the upcoming research poster session to be held during our annual ALA general meeting this summer in Las Vegas. We received a good number of research poster session proposals and thank everyone for their submissions! The RC also discussed future/additional marketing ideas for the WGSS research agenda, calls for research poster proposals, and other calls for papers.

*Submitted by Beth Strickland  
Committee Chair  
University of Michigan*

### Notes from the Chair (continued)

librarians can not only explore practical strategies but reflect critically about social position, identity, and all of the factors that go into supporting social justice and information literacy. Join them at Annual for an informal gathering. Date, time, location to be determined, but we will post information to the WGSS blog. Email either Susan (shoang@carleton.edu) or Kristen (hogank@austin.utexas.edu) for more information.

Our Blog Co-Editors and Publications Committee have been working hard on our blog (<http://www.acrl.org/WSS/>) this year. Since so many of our members are active with events, scholarship, conferences, and WGSS activities, Publications is interested in getting contributions from members outside of the committee. If interested, get in touch with our blog editors Marissa Ball (ballm@fiu.edu) and Melissa Cardenas-Dow (melissa.cardenas-dow@gmail.com).

In March, Carrie Kruse sent a note to the listserv announcing that Karla Strand, the new Gender & Women's Studies Librarian at UW-Madison, will be the new co-editor of ACRL WGSS Core Books. Karla

is taking over managing the update process from Carrie. Kim Clarke will continue as co-editor this year. If you are a current contributor and have not already done so or did not receive Carrie's email, please send a note to Carrie (ckruse@library.wisc.edu) and Karla (kstrand@library.wisc.edu) to confirm that you are successfully subscribed to the core books email list.

Thank You

Thank you to all of our members, committee chairs, editors, and executive committee members for all you do for the section. I'm so proud of the level of engagement and contributions that our section makes to ACRL, ALA, and the larger library community. I look forward to seeing many of you in Las Vegas! There are many opportunities to get involved in WGSS, so please be in touch often. Visit our section website for the latest WGSS information and resources: <http://www.libr.org/wgss/>

All best,  
Heather

Heather Lee Tompkins  
Chair, ACRL Women & Gender Studies Section  
Carleton College  
[htompkin@carleton.edu](mailto:htompkin@carleton.edu)



## Member Updates

**Beth Strickland** announces that she will be leaving Michigan at the end of the summer and starting the LIS PhD program at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

**Sherri Barnes** was recently awarded the 2013 Amy and Jens Nyholm Prize for her leadership related to scholarly communication at UC Santa Barbara. The complete announcement is at <http://www.library.ucsb.edu/news/2014/01/annual-nyholm-prize-awarded-sherri-barnes>.

**Jennifer Gilley** reports: I recently presented on a panel about feminist publishing at the Boston University conference “A Revolutionary Moment: Women’s Liberation in the Late 1960s and Early 1970s” (held March 28-29, 2014). This was a unique and powerful conference, consisting of about half academics and half activists who were present at the beginning of the women’s liberation movement and who are still activists today. Partially a reunion and partially a project of historical documentation, the conference allowed for an exploration of how the feminist movement has been characterized and where we need to go in the future. The feminist luminaries in attendance were too numerous to list, but I attended brilliant sessions by Sara Evans, Rosalyn Baxandall, Ruth Rosen, Susan Faludi, the founders of *Our Bodies, Our-Selves*, Hester Eisenstein, Linda Gordon, and many more. Marge Piercy even attended my talk wearing red lace stockings. It was a privilege to be part of this great confluence of feminists.

**Nina Clements** recently presented at Electronic Resources & Libraries in Austin, TX (March 2014). Her presentation, “E-browsing: Serendipity & Questions of Access and Discovery,” is part of a collaboration with librarians Kate Joranson (University of Pittsburgh) and Steve Van Tuyl (Carnegie Mellon University). Check out their blog, <http://www.ebrowsing.org>, for more information.

Ohio University held a Graduate Student Conference on Feb. 14-15, 2014, on their Athens, OH campus. The program and details are on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/296551370486225/>. Among many other varied and interesting presentations, **Sherri Saines**, WGS Subject Librarian at OU, and her colleague Hillary Bussel, offered a workshop titled, “Radical Pedagogy and the World of Too Much Information.” About 100 Students and faculty from all over the Midwest attended, despite, of course, a snow storm. From the program: “Taking as our starting point the recent groundbreaking publication, *Feminist Pedagogy for Library Instruction* (2013, Maria T. Accardi, Library Juice Press) this workshop will consider querying the obvious through participatory/active learning. In the age of gigantic databases and natural language searching, ‘library instruction’ is no longer primarily about where to put your ANDs and ORs but rather, ‘What have I found and what are its biases?’ Nor need assignments be only ‘research papers;’ every experience is text and every moment the time to investigate first causes. In this workshop, as we ‘use the method to teach the method,’ instructors can experience the deeply engaging practice of true information literacy.” During the workshop, we used group processes to define both information literacy and feminist pedagogy, and investigate the intersections of these two ideas. We took the CRAP test for information evaluation and asked what feminist ways of knowing are not included, and ended by creating a zine to communicate what we learned together. See also my conference report on my blog, here: <http://sherribrari.blogspot.com/2014/02/ou-wgs-grad-conference.html>.

# WGSS Award Winners Announced

Awards chair Jennifer Mayer is pleased to announce that during the WGSS program at ALA Annual (Monday, June 30, 8:30 am), plaques will be presented to the 2014 WGSS award winners.

Laura Micham, Merle Hoffmann director of the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture and curator of gender and sexuality history collections in the David M. Rubenstein Rare Books and Manuscripts Library at Duke University, is the winner of the WGSS Career Achievement Award. The award honors significant long-standing contributions to women's studies in the field of librarianship over the course of a career. Micham was selected based on her significant leadership strengths and contributions to the world of archives.

Maria T. Accardi, coordinator of library instruction at Indiana University Southeast, is the winner of the WGSS Award for Significant Achievement in Women's Studies Librarianship. The award honors a significant or one-time contribution to women's studies librarianship. Accardi was selected based on her noteworthy 2013 book *Feminist Pedagogy for Library Instruction*.

The complete announcements with additional details are available at:

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2014/02/micham-wins-2014-acrl-wgss-career-achievement-award>

<http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2014/02/accardi-wins-2014-acrl-wgss-significant-achievement-award>

## Midwinter Wrap-Up

The WGSS discussion group at ALA Midwinter tackled the topic of digital scholarship as it relates to women and gender studies. Led by Vice-Chair Diane Fulkerson, the group discussed issues including funding, institutional collaboration with libraries, using social media to share digital projects, time management, and what happens when working with vendors. We will continue to pursue this topic with the digital humanities program at ALA Annual.



Photo by Laura Bonella

The WGSS Midwinter Social took place at Moriarty's Pub, continuing the pub theme from annual.

## Schedule for ALA Annual

WGSS has several exciting events planned for ALA in Las Vegas, including a program on Digital Humanities and Academic Libraries. We hope to see everyone at the membership forum and social. The schedule for ALA Annual will be available at <http://www.libr.org/wgss/conferences/index.html>. The current schedule is listed below.

### Saturday, June 28

- All-Committees Meeting (ACRL WGSS)  
8:30 am - 10:00 am  
Bally's Las Vegas-Las Vegas 3
- General Membership Forum (ACRL WGSS)  
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm  
Las Vegas Convention Center-N115
- WGSS Social  
6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Offsite Location TBA

### Sunday, June 29

- Executive Committee Meeting (ACRL WGSS)  
1:00 pm - 2:30 pm  
Bally's Las Vegas-Las Vegas 3

### Monday, June 30

- Digital Humanities and Academic Libraries: Practice and Theory, Power and Privilege  
8:30 am - 10:00 am  
Las Vegas Convention Center-N252

# NWSA Conference Report

The 2013 National Women's Studies Association Conference was held November 7-10, in Cincinnati, OH, and featured two librarian panels. The first one, "Integrating Information Literacy into Women's Studies Programs: Faculty-Librarian Partnerships," was part of the Program Administrators Pre-Conference, a tactic designed to both introduce information literacy scaffolding concepts directly to administrators and to garner a bigger audience than panels can at the general conference due to fierce competition. This tactic worked well, with 20 audience members: far more than the usual turnout. Presenters were Tami Albin, Jennifer Gilley, Kathleen Labadorf, Sharon Ladenson, and Pamela M. Salela, and the roundtable included discussion of both the WGSS Draft Information Literacy Standards and the WGSS Research Agenda for Women and Gender Studies Librarianship.

The second panel, "Transformative Collaborations for Research and Action," took place at the general conference and was put together by the NWSA Librarians Task Force featuring co-chairs Cindy Ingold and Alana Kumbier as well as Janet Freedman. Thanks to the presence of all these librarians at the conference, there was

a large turnout at the Librarians Task Force business meeting where we discussed how to increase the visibility of library-related issues at NWSA. We decided the best way would be to partner with other NWSA groups to organize panels of common interest.

Since most WGSS members can't attend NWSA, I thought I would also provide you with a list of what I saw as trending topics, sort of a "What's new at NWSA" list. Some new topics I saw throughout the program included asexuality, food politics, Appalachian studies, and most excitingly, ARCHIVES. There were many, many panels with archives in the title, including a plenary session panel that included Kelly Wooten, archivist at the Sallie Bingham Center, talking about the importance of preserving our documents and the challenges of archiving digital materials.

NWSA 2014 will be in Puerto Rico and at least two library-related panels have been submitted, so please consider going!

—Submitted by Jennifer Gilley, NWSA Liaison



## **ACRL 2015: Creating Sustainable Community Portland, Oregon – March 25-28, 2015**

ACRL 2015 will feature more than 300 carefully curated programs to help you stay at the forefront of the profession. Access cutting-edge information, discover new ideas, and engage in conversations with academic and research librarians from around the world. Registration and housing materials will be available soon. Register by the early-bird deadline to take advantage of discounted fees; group discounts up to 20% and scholarships are also available. Complete details are online at <http://www.acrl.org/acrlconference>.



## **Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education**

ACRL's task force is scheduled to release a revised draft of the Framework in mid June. They will hold a hearing at the American Library Association's Annual Conference in Las Vegas (Saturday, June 28, 10:30 am – 11:30 am) as well as online hearings in June. Task force members will continue the iterative process, modifying the Framework based on feedback they receive then. They expect to submit a final document to the ACRL Board in August 2014 for their consideration and approval in September. For more see <http://acrl.ala.org/ilstandards/>.