

# WGSS Newsletter

## women & gender studies section

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## Notes from the Chair



First, I am honored to be serving as Chair of the Women and Gender Studies Section. I joined ALA/ACRL when I started library school, and one of the sections I signed

up for was the Women's Studies Section. It is the first section in which I became actively involved as a new librarian. As a member of the section I met and continue to meet a group of librarians who are passionate about their work. They are willing to share their research and ideas, and mentor others in the profession. It is a vibrant and growing section with over 400 members.

Our instruction committee continues to work on a project to develop information literacy standards for women's and gender studies programs. It is an ongoing project with the hopes of having a completed draft by ALA Annual in San Francisco.

Our section has a history of providing excellent programming at the Annual meeting. The 2015 meeting will see this tradition continue. The programming committee will be meeting virtually throughout the fall to plan our Annual conference program. At Midwinter we will host a discussion session focusing on creativity in librarianship. We also hold informative general membership meetings with a poster session and a lively social event at Annual.

I would like to thank past and present officers, members who are currently on committees, or chairing committees, and all members of WGSS for your contributions to the section and ACRL. Please feel free to contact me with ideas, questions, comments, or concerns.

*Diane Fulkerson*  
Chair, ACRL Women and Gender Studies Section  
University of South Florida  
Sarasota-Manatee

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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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## Stay Connected!

Get the latest news by following the WGSS Blog:  
<http://www.acrl.ala.org/WSS/>

Read up on old news and discussions with:

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

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

## **Collections Committee**

The main focus of the WGSS Collections Committee at the Annual Meeting was to work on updating the WGSS Core Journals List. The current list is mostly reflective of women's studies, and the committee is working on making the list more inclusive of gender studies journals and making sure the list reflects current scholarship. Jane Nichols took the lead in drafting a survey asking women's and gender studies instructors and researchers for information on what journals they consider core, and the committee will finalize the survey and disseminate it in the early fall. The committee also discussed the way the Core Journals list displays on the web page and will be working with WGSS leadership and the web manager to come up with more mobile-friendly display options.

*Erica Carlson Nicol*

*Washington State University, Pullman*

## **Instruction Committee**

The Instruction Committee met via conference call on September 10th and determined their goals for the upcoming year. As the group awaits the finalization and approval of the new Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education, they will continue to work on developing women's and gender studies specific standards that align with the new IL Framework.

*Tara Baillargeon*

*Marquette University*

## **Membership Committee**

WGSS membership has increased by almost 10% this past year. We ended August with 417 members! We also had a wonderful Annual meeting with guests from The Women's Research Institute of Nevada. This was the first invitation to local community members WGSS has extended to researchers, archivists, and librarians to share their research, projects, and information about women in the local area where ALA Annual is held. The guest speakers were well received, taught us much, and hopefully this was just the first in a series of learning about our locations from the women's perspective during Annual. Our speakers were wonderful and piqued the interest of our members to pursue learning about the projects and the history shared with us.

Our guests were: Claytee D. White, who presented on "African American Women in Las Vegas: From the Second Great Migration to Community Building;" Caryll Batt Dzedziak, who presented on "The Equal Rights Struggle in Nevada;" and Joanne Goodwin, who presented on "Women at Work in Las Vegas: 1940-1990."

*Emily Asch*

*St Catherine University*

## **Publications Committee**

The Publications Committee met at ALA Annual and also via conference call after ALA. We discussed the need for a WGSS Links editor, and the Executive Committee put out a call to the section membership. It's not too late to apply for the position!

We continued to discuss the blog posting schedule and plan to solicit contributions from the general membership. If you are interested in contributing, please contact co-blog editors Melissa Cardenas-Dow ([melissa.cardenasdown@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.cardenasdown@gmail.com)) or Marissa Ball ([ballm@fiu.edu](mailto:ballm@fiu.edu)).

The committee is also beginning to use other social media outlets, such as Twitter and Facebook, more actively. Please let us know if you're interested in being part of our social media presence. We continue to work on the WGSS newsletter. Susan Gilman and Laura Bonella are co-editors this year, but we will need to look for an assistant editor this spring.

*Nina Clements*

*Penn State Brandywine*

## **Research Committee**

The Committee discussed ways to encourage greater librarian visibility at the National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference. Panels of librarians have suffered from low turnout in the past, so we discussed creating panels showcasing faculty-librarian partnerships, with both faculty and librarians speaking on the panel. Jennifer Gilley, as NWSA Liaison, agreed to send out a call in December to try to put together such a panel.

*Jennifer Gilley*

*Penn State*



Panelists at ALA Annual 2014 (l-r Shirazi, Arroya-Ramirez, Nichols, Wacha) Photo by Laura Bonella

The program *Digital Humanities and Academic Libraries: Practice and Theory, Power and Privilege*, sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies Section and the Digital Humanities Interest Group (ACRL), presented at ALA Annual 2014, explored the multiple roles librarians play in digital humanities (DH). Jane Nichols, Associate Professor/Social Sciences & Humanities Librarian, Oregon State University, discussed her experiences designing and teaching an undergraduate DH course. She also reported on the ways a faculty survey at her institution has informed her thinking about a model for DH support. Roxanne Shirazi, Co-Editor, *dh+lib* and Adjunct Reference & Digital Outreach Librarian, Mina Rees Library, The Graduate Center at CUNY, placed DH work within the context of librarianship as a feminized profession, showing how concepts like shadow labor and emotion work help us think about why the contributions of librarians to DH projects are often rendered invisible. She argued that any discussion librarian/faculty collaboration needs to include explicit conversations about working conditions and institutional structure. Elvia Arroyo-Ramirez, Project Archivist, Center for the Study of Political Graphics (CSP) talked about how recent “Exhibitions-to-Go” programs, *Prison Nation: Posters on the Prison Industrial Complex* and *Boycott! The Art of Economic Activism*, are broadening the Center’s ability to reach beyond the traditional museum community. She raised several questions about the capacity of DH to engage political subject matter and the potential for DH as activism. Megan Wacha, Research and Instructional Services Librarian for the Performing Arts, Barnard College, finished the panel by exploring some connections between DH, feminism, and technology, specifically looking at Wikipedia and Twitter as pedagogical tools. Highlighting her experiences as a Wikipedia author and as a librarian supporting a Wikipedia assignment in a literature course, she explored the gendered nature of online environments and argued that open access is a feminist endeavor.

–Stacy Russo, Santa Ana College



Above: Chair Heather Lee Tompkins and Kim Clarke present the WGSS Career Achievement Award to Laura Micham. Right: Some of the posters presented at the WGSS poster session. Photos by Laura Bonella

**ALA Midwinter 2015**  
**January 30th-February 3rd**  
**Chicago, Illinois**  
**Early Bird Registration Deadline:**  
**October 31st**

Join WGSS for our Midwinter Meeting!

**ACRL 2015**  
**March 25th-March 28th**  
**Portland, Oregon**  
**Early Bird Registration Deadline:**  
**February 13th**

ACRL is turning 75! Come celebrate!

**NWSA Conference Preview**  
**The 2014 National Women's Studies**  
**Association Annual Conference**  
**November 13-16, in Puerto Rico.**

Due to intense interest and a record number of applications to present, this will be the largest NWSA conference to date, with over 500 sessions! Below are two library-related panels that are being presented by faculty-librarian teams (including several WGSS-ers), plus the Librarians Task Force Business Meeting. Please consider coming to Puerto Rico; it's not too late!



**NWSA Sessions Include:**  
**Encountering Digital Feminist Scholarship:**  
**Faculty and Librarian Collaborations for**  
**Student Research in the Classroom**

Presenters: Jane Nichols, Sharon Ladenson, Sherri Barnes, Kryn Freehling-Burton, Cheryl Caesar, and Chloe Diamond-Lenow  
Fri, Nov 14, 7:45 to 9:00am

Strong collaborations between women's and gender studies teachers and librarians are effective means to building student research skills. Panelists will examine pedagogical approaches to teach students to think critically about all aspects of research from production, evaluation, organization, distribution, to preservation of feminist scholarship. A particular focus for this roundtable is the engagement with digital scholarship and how this scholarship can be used in conjunction with other disciplinary bodies of literature. Join us to share what has worked for you, hear new ideas, and ask questions about future directions for collaborations between teachers and librarians.

**Technologizing Information Literacy in**  
**Introductory Course Group Projects**

Presenter: Brian Jara, West Virginia University  
Fri, Nov 14, 2:30 to 3:45pm

The workshop facilitators, a women's and gender studies research librarian and the faculty coordinator of a multi-section introductory course, will discuss a year-long information literacy course enhancement project in which we developed a series of curricular revisions centered around a public "Women's and Gender Studies Fair" of group research projects. We invite participants to join us in sharing successes, challenges, best practices, ideas, sample projects, and rubrics.

**Librarians Task Force Affiliation Business**  
**Meeting**

Sat, Nov 15, 2:30 to 3:45pm

Please come if you are at the conference. We need to strategize for next year!

## Congratulations Members!

### Jennifer Gilley

Presented on a panel entitled “Women Revolt: Publishing Feminists, Publishing Feminisms” at the Boston University conference “A Revolutionary Moment: Women’s Liberation in the Late 1960s and Early 1970s” last March. According to Gilley, the conference was an amazing mix of famous feminist activists from that time period and women’s studies academics. Speakers included Susan Faludi, Sara Evans, Marge Piercy, Hester Eisenstein, Kathie Sarachild, Ti-Grace Atkinson, Rosalyn Baxandall, and many more.

### Amelia Koford

Recently published an article: “How Disability Studies Scholars Interact with Subject Headings.” *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly* 52, no. 4 (2014): 388–411. The article is based on research she conducted while completing the dual master’s degree program in Women’s and Gender Studies and Information Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

### Introducing our new members:

**Collen Keith-Harris**

**Grace Kaletski**

**Carla Davis-Castro**

**Welcome to WGSS!**



### Colleen Keith-Harris

As of July 2014, Keith-Harris has served as Assistant Librarian and Information Literacy Coordinator at CSU Channel Islands. She holds a BA in Economics and International Relations and an MLS from University of Kentucky, an MFA in Writing from Spalding University, is putting the finishing touches on her dissertation for the EdD in Learning & Leadership, and just started coursework toward the PhD in Mythological Studies, where one of her major research interests is in women’s mythopoetics.

Most recently, she has read Joseph Campbell’s *Hero with a Thousand Faces*, the *Upanishads*, and *Babbie’s Adventures in Social Research*. In her spare time she writes poetry and helps her husband spoil their two basset hounds, Otto and Igor. She joined WGSS because she is particularly interested in empowering women as information creators and consumers.



## **Grace Kaletski**

Kaletski has an MA in Women's Studies from the University of Alabama and is currently in her 4th semester of her MLIS program. She is a graduate assistant at Florida State University Libraries, where she works on collection development, instruction, and other projects primarily in humanities disciplines, including Women's Studies.

She joined WGSS to meet professionals with similar interests and help build her network and skills in this area of librarianship. In her spare time she loves to travel, volunteer, and read- *Critical Library Instruction: Theories and Methods* and Garth Nix's *Abhorsen Chronicles* are some recent favorites.



## **Carla Davis-Castro**

Davis-Castro has a master of public administration/master of science in library science from UNC-Chapel Hill. She recently presented her master's paper, "Information Needs of Users of the UNC-Chapel Hill American Indian Center," at the 2014 International Conference of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums.

While job hunting, she is reading Kate Elliott's *Jaran*, a young adult feminist science fiction series. In her spare time, she enjoys dancing and traveling (she is currently visiting Chile). She joined WGSS to network with other librarians interested in gender issues.

## A Look at Harvard's Schlesinger Library Services and Collections

This month I had the pleasure of sitting down with colleague Amanda Strauss to talk about the Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America. Amanda has worked as a Research Librarian at Schlesinger for the past year and half, though she also worked as a Research Services Student Assistant at Schlesinger while completing her masters degrees in library science and history. We discussed the library's collections and a few recent digital initiatives. Here is a summary of what I learned.

### About the Schlesinger Library

The Schlesinger Library is located in the Radcliffe Yard, the center of what used to be known as Radcliffe College. Established in 1879, Radcliffe was one of the first colleges for women in the country. In 1999 it was officially incorporated into Harvard University. You can read more about the history of the institution at <https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/schlesinger-library/about-library>.

The Schlesinger Library was established in 1943, though it did not acquire its current name until 1965. Its collections focus on the history of women in the United States, with an emphasis on mid-nineteenth and twentieth century history.

According to Amanda, the items in the collection cover a variety of topics including: women's rights and feminism, health and sexuality, work and family life, education and professions, culinary history and etiquette, travel writing, grassroots periodicals, zines, culinary pamphlets, and ephemera. The collection also contains interesting objects such as suffrage pins and banners and even a DIY speculum kit. The Radcliffe College archives make up an important part of the library's collections as well.



Image courtesy of Schlesinger Library, Harvard University

Schlesinger Library is open to anyone with a research need. The staff assists a wide variety of researchers including graduate students, established scholars, undergrads, National History Day high school students, local history enthusiasts, history tourists, genealogists, and alumni. The library also offers grants to independent researchers, scholars working on dissertations, and researchers working on oral history projects.

### Collection Highlights

Schlesinger houses the personal papers of many famous and influential women such as Julia Child (her papers and cookbooks), Betty Friedan, Pauli Murray, Dorothy West, Alice Paul, Doris Stevens, Judy Chicago (her papers relating to

art and activism), and Zarella Martinez. It also holds NOW's records and NARAL Pro-Choice America's papers. Another highlight is the library's comprehensive collection of women's magazines. The library owns nearly complete runs of *Good Housekeeping*, *Ms.*, *Seventeen*, *Women's Health*, and many more. For a more information see their Women's Magazines Research Guide.

## Digital Projects

While the majority of Schlesinger's collections are not digitized, Schlesinger's staff is in the process of creating a larger digital footprint. Some of the collections that have been fully digitized include the Charlotte Perkins Gilman papers, the Black Women Oral History Project, and the Dorothy West papers. The library recently received a NHPRC grant to digitize the Blackwell Family Papers.

The library staff is also working to digitize portions of collections when possible, such as items relating to Radcliffe College. One of the Research Services staff's outstanding initiatives involves repurposing scans requested by remote patrons. If a scanned item is out of copyright they post it to their Flickr Commons stream along with other public domain images from their collections.

## Other Interesting Projects

The staff at Schlesinger is working to make archives and archival research more accessible. Amanda and her colleagues prefer to view their role as facilitators rather than gatekeepers. For example, they will be installing Hovercams for patrons to use in the library's reading room. These cameras make taking high quality photographs of rare materials much easier for patrons. The Research Services Librarians are also experimenting with holding research consultations over Skype and Google Hangouts for scholars who are not locally based.

In addition to these efforts, Research Services Librarians are working to make content that they create more accessible for scholars. The Research Guides that Schlesinger Librarians create all have a Creative Commons License, which means that "anyone can distribute, remix, tweak, and build upon" content in the guides.

Amanda's own interest in accessibility also extends into the world of Wikipedia, where she hopes to help rectify the gender gap among editors and in Wikipedia entries.

Last year she and colleague Jenny Gotwals gave a presentation at the New England Archivists Spring 2014 meeting called "Create the Wikipedia You Want to See." She also helped coordinate a GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums) Wikipedia Edit-A-Thon at Schlesinger Library last year, where participants learned about the backend of Wikipedia and helped edit articles relating to women's history.

## Find out more about Schlesinger

More information about the library is available on their web page, <https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/schlesinger-library>

Follow the Schlesinger Library Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/SchlesingerLibrary>) and Flickr Commons Stream ([https://www.flickr.com/photos/schlesinger\\_library/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/schlesinger_library/))

*Susan Gilman*  
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