

feminist collections

women's studies library resources in wisconsin
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FROM THE EDITORS

In 1977 the University of Wisconsin System authorized a new position, Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, to support the curricular and bibliographic needs of librarians, faculty, and students in Women's Studies. Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography, published by Libraries Unlimited in 1979, Where Are the Women? Resources for Women's Studies, a slide/tape series for undergraduate Women's Studies courses, cooperative projects such as "American Women of Color" and "Assertiveness Training for Women in Health Care Fields" are examples of the prolific output in the first two years.

This first issue of FEMINIST COLLECTIONS reflects our desire to establish a network among persons with an interest in library-related issues in Women's Studies. Establishing communication networks is an important effort for any discipline, and especially so for an interdisciplinary area such as Women's Studies. The newsletter will offer information about feminist library presses, periodical reviews, book reviews, media reviews, descriptions of library activities in Women's Studies at the campuses in the UW System, announcements of conferences and workshops, discussion of issues such as intellectual freedom in developing Women's Studies library collections, problems in access to materials, and descriptions of microform collections owned by libraries in the state. Our goals are ambitious, and we would like to invite your participation. If you would like to write a review or make suggestions about items to be included, please let us know. The address, is 112A Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706. The phone number is (608) 263-5754.

Wisconsin has taken the lead in making Women's Studies an intrinsic part of every university library's collection. Through the continued cooperative efforts of the System's libraries, Wisconsin can continue to be a trendsetter.

Editors: Linda Parker, Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large; Catherine Loeb, Assistant.

Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large / University of Wisconsin System
112A Memorial Library 728 State Street Madison, Wisconsin 53706

THE SPECIAL COLLECTION ON WISCONSIN WOMEN ARTISTS

The Special Collection on Wisconsin Women Artists features oral history tapes of women in the visual, literary and performing arts. Accompanying the interviews are biographical sketches, slides, photographs, lists of works, catalogs and reviews.

This new and growing collection serves several purposes:

- As an historical record of the work of Wisconsin women artists.
- As a means of recognition for the artists included.
- As a body of data useful to educators, students and researchers in art, art history, sociology, anthropology, women's studies and other fields.

The Collection is being developed on three campuses of the University System--Green Bay, Oshkosh, and Milwaukee--and is housed at the University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee in the Golda Meir Library. Copies of the oral history tapes and abstracts are available for use in the Library's Audio Center. Other materials in the Collection may be used in the Library's Special Collections room. Tapes and abstracts also can be sent via interlibrary loan to any UW campus.

This Collection provides insights into the achievements of women artists, their attitudes toward aesthetics and creation of art, their expectations, roles and role models. The Collection may bring about a re-evaluation of our own notions about the arts in society, raising such questions as: Who is considered an artist? How does gender affect an artist's background and work? What kind of support do women artists need? What artists or artistic traditions have most influenced Wisconsin women artists, and what influence will Wisconsin women artists have on the development of art?

Inquiries about the Collection should be directed to Prof. Rachel Skalitzky, Office of Women's Studies, The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, P.O. Box 413, Milwaukee, WI 53201, (414) 963-5918, or Prof. Estella Lauter, College of Creative Communications, The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, Green Bay, WI 54302, (414) 465-2597.

(ed. note: from brochure by
Carolyn Platt)

SEXISM IN SUBJECT HEADINGS

Sandy Berman reports that LC subject terminology is showing some changes but is still sexist. He states that sexism remains in two important respects:

- 1) macho vocabulary (e.g. MISTRESSES, MILLIONAIRESSES, MAN instead of HUMANS; CITY COUNCILMEN instead of CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS; etc.)
- 2) access to women-related materials, issues and topics by failing to establish and assign relevant headings (e.g. WOMEN'S CREDIT UNIONS, LOANS FOR WOMEN, FEMINIST ART, FEMINIST ESSAYS, FEMINIST FICTION, FEMINIST FILMS, PREGNANT WORKERS, TEEN-AGE PREGNANCY, CONSCIOUSNESS-RAISING, DECRIMINALIZATION OF PROSTITUTION, SEXUAL FANTASIES, TWO-CAREER COUPLES, WOMEN WORKERS, WOMEN'S CENTERS, MINORITY WOMEN.)

(from Women in Libraries, v.9,n.2)

WOMEN'S STUDIES UNION LIST

The Women's Studies Union List (WSUL) is a card catalog of recent acquisitions on subjects relating to women from University of Wisconsin System libraries. The Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large began this operation in January, 1978, and the file is housed in 112A Memorial Library, UW-Madison. The System's thirteen four-year campus libraries and eight special libraries on the Madison campus (Extension, Law, Health Sciences, Criminal Justice, Historical Society, Land Tenure, Agriculture, and Instructional Materials Center) contribute cards to WSUL. WSUL is an author and subject file which includes all UW locations of a given work. Currently there are more than 5500 cards in the catalog, and the file continues to grow rapidly as the UW System libraries continue their cooperative efforts.

WSUL is available for consultation by librarians, faculty and students who want to locate information on a wide range of woman-related topics and issues. For example, creative works are assigned subject headings--i.e., Herland by Charlotte Perkins Gilman is filed under "FICTION," a practice which is usually not followed in university libraries. Researchers may use the catalog in person (112A Memorial, Madison) or may request information by phone (608) 263-5754. The Women's Studies Librarian is also able to provide a free photocopy, upon request, of cards on specific topics from WSUL.

NEWS FROM U.W.-OSHKOSH

UW-Oshkosh Women's Center: New Year and Fresh Beginnings. The primary goal of the UW-Oshkosh Women's Center is to see to it that things get done on campus for women. The present emphasis is on the initiation of reproductive counselling and rape prevention services for women. Support from other women's groups will be sought in conjunction with these programs. An Advisory Committee consisting of six faculty members and eight students has been established for the Women's Center.

Previously located in a nondescript building on campus, the Center has recently moved to a better equipped and more centrally located office on the second floor of the Swart building.

Women's Studies: Continuity in Success. Barbara Sniffen, Women's Studies Coordinator at Oshkosh, is offering a new series of Women's Studies coffee seminars. These seminars have in the past consistently drawn interested audiences. Women's studies faculty have also been contributing to off-campus non-credit activities related to women's studies.

Caroline Heilbrun (author of Re-Inventing Womanhood and Toward a Recognition of Androgyny) is scheduled to give a talk on Tuesday, March 25, in the Reeve Union. All are welcome to attend. Call Barbara Sniffen (414 424-1291) for details.

Library Resources: Trying Hard with a Limited Budget. The University Library at Oshkosh has built a fine women's studies collection. For example,

as a result of collaboration between interested faculty and librarians, the library was persuaded to purchase the important Women's History Research Center microfilm collection on "Women and Law". This collection includes 40 reels of materials on topics such as law, education, employment, rape, and prostitution. The library also managed to build a strong Women's Studies book collection, including important new reference sources on women. Collection development is becoming more difficult as inflation depletes our buying power, but we have still been able to purchase important current works. Among recent acquisitions are Stineman's Women's Studies: A Recommended Core Bibliography (Libraries Unlimited, 1979) and Women Studies Abstracts.

MATH/SCIENCE NETWORK ---

The Math/Science Network is an association of individuals and organizations established to promote the participation of women in mathematics and science and to encourage their entry into non-traditional occupations. The Network is supported by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and is coordinated through Mills College, Oakland, and the Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California, Berkeley. The Network has published a 52-page booklet, EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS IN SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS, which details how to plan, conduct, evaluate and follow-up conferences designed to increase young women's interest in mathematics and science. To obtain a copy of the booklet, send \$3.00 to Math/Science Resource Center, Mills College, Oakland, CA, 94613. For further information, call Joanne Koltnow, (415) 635-5074.

BOOK REVIEW ---

Personal Politics: The Roots of Women's Liberation in the Civil Rights Movement and the New Left, by Sara Evans. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1979. 274 pages, \$10. LC 78-54929. ISBN 0-394-41911-1.

Sara Evans's Personal Politics outlines the 1960s and 1970s resurgence of feminism in a moving account of the political ferment of those years. Through intensive interviews of women who participated in the civil rights movement and the New Left, and through research in their papers (many of which are held at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin), Evans recovers a history which is rapidly being lost or distorted in stereotypes. Interpreting the personal and political impact of the experiences which led women to build their own movement, she proposes an analytical model for the emergence of reform.

The emotional force of the civil rights movement reverberates through this history. Inspired by the dignity and courage of that struggle, moved by its early vision of the "beloved community", and then disillusioned and enraged by the slow federal response, a generation of white men and women shaped a new politics from the organizational and ideological model of civil rights. As the radical young activists of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee turned from integration to black power, whites left the movement empowered by the organizing skills and experience of struggle they had gained. In its

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WOMEN'S STUDIES LIBRARIAN-AT-LARGE

112A Memorial Library / 728 State Street / Madison, WI 53706 Tel. 608/263-5754

WOMEN'S STUDIES IN WISCONSIN

The Office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large is currently compiling a women's studies directory for Wisconsin, as part of our on-going effort to foster communication and cooperation among people involved in women's studies in the University of Wisconsin System. The directory will include faculty, librarians, administrators, researchers, and others with an active interest in the field of women's studies. If you would like to be included in this directory, please fill out the following brief questionnaire. You could further assist us by providing us with the names and addresses of other persons you think should be included.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Place of Employment _____ Phone _____

Area of Specialization _____

Current Research or Subject(s) of Particular Interest in Women's Studies _____

Would you allow us to print the information on this sheet in the Wisconsin Women's Studies Directory? Yes _____ No _____

Do you know anyone else who should be included in the directory? If so, please give name(s) and address(es)

Would you like to receive a copy of the directory? Yes _____ No _____

Would you like to receive our office's monthly mailings? Yes _____ No _____

Please return questionnaire to: Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large
112A Memorial Library
728 State Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

community organizing projects and its involvement in the anti-war movement, Students for a Democratic Society used SNCC's strategy of grass-roots organizing and affirmed its ideal of egalitarian relationships in the movement.

For women, both movements provided the conditions that Evans identifies as essential for the emergence of reform. The civil rights movement and the New Left offered women "social spaces", contexts which detached women from traditional prescriptions for female behavior and supported their activism. Strong women in both movements acted as role models. The democratic ideology of 1960s activism offered a powerful vision of a new social order. When women measured these heightened expectations against their experiences of marginality in both movements, the resulting contradiction moved women to an analysis of their own oppression. Empowered by the civil rights movement and the New Left, women set their strength into a revitalized feminism, and built women's liberation through the skills and networks established in these movements.

Evans restores this history to us in a narrative infused with her own commitment and integrity. Personal Politics conveys the complexity and richness of 1960s activism, even as it reminds us that feminism has always been both exhilarating and painful.

--Barbara Melosh
Dept. of History/Women's Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison

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