

# feminist collections

women's studies library resources in wisconsin  
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## FROM THE EDITORS

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Feminist scholars face a problem common to all who would do research on society's powerless: the invisibility of their subject. This office has recently been reminded of this problem, even more forcefully than usual, in our efforts to review existing resources on La Chicana. Some examples: (1) In the main public catalog for the UW-Madison campus, we found a total of one card under the heading, "Women--Mexican-American"; six cards under the heading, "Mexican-American Women"; and no cross-references from Chicano(a). (2) Two key sources for writings on Chicanas--ENCUENTRO FEMENIL, the first "second wave" Chicana journal, and REGENERACION-- have already ceased publication. The former was never acquired by the Madison campus. (3) Important sources not held by UW-Madison were for the most part also unavailable from the many Wisconsin and Minnesota libraries participating in the Wisconsin Interlibrary Loan Service. (4) We found several publications listed as available by a September 1978 Women's Educational Equity Communications Network publication, "Hispanic Women and Education," to be already out of print. Similarly, several organizations listed by the same source were "out of business" or failed to respond to our inquiries.

The literature that does exist is thus widely scattered and hard to obtain. What is more, this literature barely scratches the surface of Chicana history. In an important 1977 review of the literature, Judith Sweeney noted the need for "a good synthesis of the history of the Chicana" ("Chicana History: A Review of the Literature," in ESSAYS ON LA MUJER ed. by Rosaura Sanchez and Rosa Martinez Cruz; University of California, Los Angeles, Chicano Studies Center, 1977). It is satisfying to be able to report that in the interim we have come that far, with the publication of Martha Cotera's DIOSA Y HEMBRA: THE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF CHICANAS IN THE U. S. (Information Systems Development,

continued on page two...

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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN SYSTEM, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State St. Madison, WI

1100 E. 8th St., Austin, TX 78702) and LA CHICANA by Alfredo Mirandé and Evangelina Enríquez (University of Chicago Press, 1979). And yet each of these is a synthesis of primarily secondary source material, revealing that Chicana social history remains to be written--a formidable task. The recent landmark publication, WOMEN'S HISTORY SOURCES (see article, page 4), lists only 19 entries on Mexican Americans, and only eight of these have an exclusive Mexican-American focus.

Sources must exist. But just as with the materials of Anglo women's history or black history, these sources will remain invisible until we better acquaint ourselves with the contours of Chicana history and learn the relevant questions to ask.

(Note: an extensive bibliography on La Chicana will soon be available from the office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large.)

## THE NEW SCHOLARSHIP: FIVE YEARS OF REVIEW ESSAYS IN SIGNS \_\_\_\_\_

Since its first issue in autumn, 1975, Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society has published consistently fine feminist scholarship. It has also helped to nurture the interdisciplinary cross-fertilization so essential to women's studies by continuing to publish articles from every field. Particularly valuable in this respect is the regular feature entitled, "The New Scholarship: Review Essays." In its first five years, Signs has published articles surveying all of the following research areas: abortion, anthropology, architecture, art, audio-visual materials, biography, classics, economics, education, history, housework, language, Latin America, librarianship, literature, management, mass media, medicine, men, nursing, philosophy, physical education, political science, psychology, rape, religion, science, sex roles, sociology, widowhood, and work. In several of these areas, Signs has published two to four different review essays. A complete list of citations is available on request from the office of the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large.

## NEWS FROM U.W.-STEVENS POINT \_\_\_\_\_

Women's Studies faculty and students are finding the new handbook, Methods And Materials For Research In Women's Studies, enormously useful. The 93-page (single-spaced) bibliography lists books, documents, periodicals, and non-print media available in this library dealing with women. The bibliography was completed last summer by Alice Randlett. A limited number of free copies is still available. No one claims to have read all the books as yet.

The Women's Studies Student Association formed last fall is going strong. Cindy Van Vreede and Nancy Severtson were the guests for the student interview program, "Two-Way Radio", on February 18. The WSSA sponsored a sale of feminist books during the week of March 3-7.

continued on page 3...

Flo Kennedy and Coretta Scott King were the speakers during UW-SP's Black Student Coalition's Black History Week, February 25-29.

Steve Pistono of the History Department has proposed a new course: Women In European History. The course will be offered for the first time this summer during the interim period. It's a likely addition to the expanding number of courses which count toward the Women's Studies minor.

Joan McAuliffe, Women's Studies Coordinator, is still trying to see the top of her desk. She helped to line-up library exhibits, banners, and the like for National Women's History Week. The event should help provide publicity for Women's Studies. We do exist.

Alice Randlett & Joan McAuliffe

## 1979-80 WOMEN'S STUDIES DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE

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The new 1979-80 Women's Studies Directory lists women's studies administrators and contact persons, committees, programs, and courses for the UW-System. For a copy, contact: Karen Merritt, 1620 Van Hise Hall, 1220 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706, (608) 262-5851.

## PENNIES AND PINAFORES - WOMEN AND WORK IN WISCONSIN: A PHOTO HISTORY

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From pinfeather pluckers to lumbermill workers, Wisconsin women's work history has been documented in a photography exhibit developed by Barbara Morford, UW-Extension, School for Workers, Madison. Three years ago while doing research for the forthcoming book, WISCONSIN MADE: A STATE LABOR HISTORY, Morford encountered the striking lack of attention to women's history. Her search for information revealed photographs which explored a wide range of women's work experiences from the 1880's to 1930. Scenes of sorting peas in Onalaska, setting type in DePere, spinning wool in Black Wolf, and boiling soft soap in Oshkosh were collected from individuals, libraries, museums, industries and the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. A slide presentation based on the photo collection is available from project director, Barbara Morford, UW-Extension, School for Workers, 701 Park Regent Building, 1 South Park Street, Madison, WI 53706, (608) 262-2111.

## CONTRIBUTIONS INVITED

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We invite all our readers to consider contributing to Feminist Collections. Articles on women's studies activities in the state, feminist collection development, issues affecting women in libraries, summaries of on-going or completed women's studies research, book reviews, letters--any of these would be welcome and would help to establish the state-wide communication network we are working toward. Send contributions to: Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, 112A Memorial Library, 728 State Street, Madison, WI 53706.

# BOOK REVIEWS

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Women's History Sources; A Guide to Archives and Manuscript Collections in the United States, edited by Andrea Hinding. New York: R.R. Bowker, 1979. 2 vols., \$175.00. LC 78-15634. ISBN 0-8352-1103-7.

Women's History Sources, containing descriptions of 18,026 collections in 1,586 repositories and arranged geographically by state and city, is the result of a nationwide survey conducted by the Social Welfare History Archives at the University of Minnesota from 1975 to 1979. The purpose of the survey has been to uncover archives and manuscript repositories for collections of unpublished (or primary) sources pertaining to the history of women in the United States from colonial times to the present. The basic criterion for inclusion is that "the collections contain material by or about women's lives or roles." Most collections fall into the following categories: papers of an individual woman; records of women's organizations; records of an organization, institution, or movement in which women played a significant but not exclusive part; records of an organization, institution, or movement that significantly affected women; groups of materials assembled by a collector or repository around a theme or type of record that relates to women; papers of a family (in which there are papers of female members); collections with 'hidden' women (collections that contain significant or extensive material about women but whose titles or main emphases do not indicate the presence of such material).

Women's History Sources is arranged in two volumes. In Volume I entries are listed alphabetically by state and city, and within cities, by institution and/or repository, and collection title. Volume I also includes an alphabetical list, with complete name and address, of each contributing repository whose holdings are represented in the book. Volume II, the index, provides name, subject, and geographic access to information in the collections.

This directory of archival and manuscript holdings is one of the most important reference books to be published in women's studies. Every library which supports research in women's studies should add this title to the reference collection.

Sloan, Ethel. Biology of Women. New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1980. 544 pp. \$15.95.

This book is an excellent, comprehensive, highly readable discussion of female biology and women's health concerns, presented without talking down to readers. Unlike several other recent books covering similar subject matter, Biology of Women does not avoid the issues of sex role stereotyping, sexism in the medical profession, and the women's health movement. The author takes a consumer-oriented approach to medical care, cosmetics use, and general health and hygiene. The information presented is highly up-to-date, with excellent end-of-chapter bibliographies. The book is attractive, well-designed, and sturdily bound.

Ethel Sloane wrote Biology of Women because no adequate textbook existed for the course she teaches on this subject in the UW-Milwaukee Zoology Department.

It is much more, however, than just another undergraduate textbook. As stated by the author,

My intention has been to write a book that can be meaningful to any woman at different times of her life, one that any woman can share with her mother, her friend, her husband. It is exactly this sharing of knowledge which is so very important to the women's movement today -- women with peer women, women and the generation of women who gave birth to them, women and men, and most certainly, women and their daughters.

I recommend Biology of Women, without qualification, to all libraries and all readers.

Edf Bjorklund  
Golda Meir Library  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

## FEMINIST PERIODICALS: A BRIEF ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY \_\_\_\_\_

Feinberg, Renee and Susan Vaughn. "Feminist Publishing--An Exploration," LIBRARY JOURNAL, v.101, n.11 (June 1, 1976) 1263-1265. This essay describes the results of a survey with 33 presses responding to questions on how the presses viewed themselves in terms of their relationship to the women's movement. Relationships between feminist presses and libraries--e.g., problems with erratic business practices, marketing and distribution problems--are discussed. A list of 43 feminist presses, journals, and one distributor of feminist materials is included.

"Feminist Publishing," CHRYSALIS, no.2- , 1977- . A regular feature since 1977, this column contains a short essay on feminist publishing, plus a catalog of feminist presses which highlights the major events in each press's history and which also includes an annotated listing of the press's current offerings. Coverage encompasses presses from North America, foreign feminist presses, magazine and journal publishing, and self-publishing.

Mather, Anne. "A History of Feminist Periodicals," JOURNALISM HISTORY, Part I, v.1, n.3 (Autumn 1974), 82-85; Part II, v.1, n.4 (Winter 1974-75) 108-111; Part III, v.2, n.1 (Spring 1975) 19-23, 31. This article presents a history of alternate or anti-establishment publications published by the women's liberation movement. The author discusses feminist magazines from the first periodical published for women in 1792, THE LADY'S MAGAZINE, to MS., 1972. The trends, editorial emphases, and characteristics of feminist periodical publishing are surveyed.

Stineman, Esther. "Issues in Women's Studies Collection Development,"  
COLLECTION BUILDING, v.1, n.2 (1979) 57-76. The author, former  
Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, UW-System, relates  
problems and methods involved in collecting feminist materials for  
libraries--e.g., censorship of lesbian materials and lack of published  
information about minority women. The article includes a bibliography  
of recommended reference and periodical sources to support women's  
studies. This bibliography is based on "Basic Reference and Periodical  
Resources to Support Women's Studies: A Recommended List" published  
by the Women's Studies Librarian-at-Large, October 1, 1978.

Tracy, Joan I. "Feminist Periodicals: An Annotated Bibliography of Current  
Publications," THE SERIALS LIBRARIAN, v.3, n.4 (Summer 1979) 387-405.  
This bibliography of 91 currently published feminist periodicals ranges  
from the AAUW JOURNAL to MS. and CHOMO-URI. Each annotation includes  
the title and subtitle of the periodical, beginning date of publication,  
frequency, ISSN, Library of Congress card number or serials data base  
number, indexing of the periodical, address of the publisher,  
subscription prices, microform publisher, annotation, and recommendation  
of reviewer Bill Katz.

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