FEMINIST COLLECTIONS
A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources

Special Issue on Girls and Young Women

When the Seen and Not Heard Start Shouting: Listening to Young Women
  Book review by Ednie Garrison
Young, Female, and Sexually Active in the 1990s
  Book review by Deborah L. Siegel
Reading for Real: Magazines for Girls and Young Women
  Review by Megan Scanlon

Plus
  Gender in videos by and about girls
  Reviews of websites that offer funding sources for women's projects
  New reference works on women and women's issues
  Periodical notes: new feminist periodicals and special issues of other journals and magazines
  Items of note: topics of concern to U.S. Hispanic women; a bibliography of resources for junior and senior high school girls; an equity agenda for women in science, mathematics, and engineering; fact sheets on breast cancer and women of color; and much more.
  Computer talk: new email lists, websites, electronic journals, etc.
Feminist Collections
A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources

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Subscriptions: $30 (individuals or nonprofit women's programs, outside Wisconsin); $55 (institutions, outside Wisconsin); $16 (Wisconsin individuals or nonprofit women's programs); $22.50 (Wisconsin institutions); $8.25 (UW individuals); $15 (UW organizations). Wisconsin subscriber amounts include state tax, except for UW organization amount. Postage (for foreign subscribers only): surface mail (Canada: $13; all others: $15); air mail (Canada: $25; all others: $55). (Subscriptions cover most publications produced by this office, including Feminist Collections, Feminist Periodicals, and New Books on Women & Feminism.)

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Books Recently Received 34
If 1992 was the Year-of-the-Woman, then 1997 must certainly be the Year-of-the-Girl. Countries and NGOs are busy working toward the recommendations on ending discrimination against the Girl-Child enumerated in the platform of The Fourth World Conference on Women. Projects encouraging girls to explore science and engineering are happening all over. The National Women’s Studies Association is institutionalizing an alliance with young feminists forged at NWSA 1996; and Women’s Alliance for Action at Wellesley College is getting ready for GirlCon ’97, a conference for, by, and about young women. Signs and Fireweed have issued calls for contributions for thematic issues on young women. But we know girls have arrived when The World Bank notices them and calls educating girls the “single most effective investment that a developing country can make.” So, is it time to sit back and smile, reflecting with L.E. Landon on the “blessed season of our spring, when hopes are angels on the wing”? Not quite. The same new anthology with that lovely quotation reveals Marge Piercy’s view as well: “My idea of hell is to be young again.” It’s still not easy being a girl.

The American Association of University Women’s series of studies—from the 1992 How Schools Shortchange Girls and 1993 Hostile Hallways to the recently released Girls in the Middle: Working to Succeed in School—holds clues as to how girls’ lives can be at the same time expectant yet hellish. Despite inequities and harassment, resilient girls have developed coping mechanisms. Girls in the Middle found that girls succeed by employing three strategies: they “speak out,” “do school,” and “cross borders.” This issue of Feminist Collections looks and listens to young voices, particularly those who “speak out,” in book-length collections of personal writings from teenage girls or as reported by researchers, in female-affirming teen magazines, and in girl-made videos. These girls “cross borders” by translating their experiences into terms sympathetic adults can understand. Most may already “do school,” meeting adult expectations about school performance while perhaps de-emphasizing other parts of their identities, but all of them—plus all the other girls we come into contact with—can benefit from our encouragement, mentoring, and approval. As our reviewer Lisa Parks notes, “Girlhood is not simply a stepping stone toward a woman’s maturation, but rather a part of the volatile and ongoing process of forming a gendered identity.”

NOTES


** P.H.W. and L.S.
When the Seen and Not Heard Start Shouting: Listening to Young Women

by Ednie Garrison


“Sometimes paper is the only thing that will listen to you”

(Jennifer, cited in Carlip p.343)

Listening to young people and hearing what they have to say are skills we all need to develop – as peers, teachers, parents, friends, a culture. A good example of this need is depicted in the film *Welcome to the Dollhouse* (a 1996 release from Sony Pictures, directed by Todd Solondz) in which there are moments of clarity: teenage Dawn and her older brother share an instant of understanding what it means to be the object of their peers’ ridicule; Dawn and her young male tormentor/boyfriend listen to a pop love song, sharing a desire written only on their young, grimacing faces and in their stargazing eyes. But these are flashes, quickly replaced with a battery of sibling abuse and sexuality filtered through the language and threat of violence. The inability to listen and hear – to communicate – drives this story of a middle-school girl’s angst. Watching the film this summer, I was simultaneously overwhelmed by and ecstatic about this representation of the complexity of adolescence, presented in a way that implicated the dysfunctional social, cultural, and familial experiences of many children in the U.S. It resonated.

Imagine then, reading *School Talk: Gender and Adolescent Culture* several months later. Donna Eder (with graduate student researchers including coauthors Catherine Evans and Stephen Parker) spent three years studying the social relations and informal conversations of sixth-through eighth-graders at Woodview, a predominantly white, working-class middle school in a midwestern town. In an effort to understand “the nature and construction of gender inequality,” Eder, Evans, and Parker focus on the speech routines (insulting, teasing, collaborative storytelling, and gossiping) most common in the social interactions of early adolescents. Highlighting the “collective, public nature of developing cultural meanings” (p.7), they argue that these routines reinforce traditional gender beliefs, simultaneously limiting the ability of adolescents to challenge those traditions.

While this study explores adolescent school peer culture broadly, the authors are particularly interested in how girls react and respond to gender inequality. They found that the process of objectifying girls reinforces aggressive and insensitive treatment by boys and encourages lack of confidence and sense of self in the girls themselves. Boys are taught to view girls as passive sexual objects, and girls, who are taught to base their worth on physical attractiveness, learn to view themselves as objects and are rarely provided the opportunity to express sexual or social agency.

The authors also found that the cultural re/production of gender inequality among the students at Woodview correlates directly with the re/production of other forms of social inequality. Specifically, they observed that students in all status groupings associated “isolates” (Eder’s term for those lowest on the social hierarchy who are part of no “group”) with all their fears of not fitting in. These findings suggest that the predominance
of aggressively violent sports like football and wrestling for boys and the primary focus on attractiveness for girls are entangled in a web of cultural processes that limits access to the realm of the acceptable. The “isolates” at Woodview represent the social scapegoats on whom other students project their normative impulses and within whom deviance of many kinds is made visible and categorized.

Struggling with similar social forces, Hillary Carlip in *Girl Power: Young Women Speak Out!*, Jane Pratt in *For Real: The Uncensored Truth About America’s Teenagers*, and Veronica Chambers through her *Mama’s Girl* suggest, in different ways, that young people are finding ways to challenge expectations to conform to traditional gender, race, sexual, age, and other social roles. Carlip, Pratt, and Chambers argue first and foremost that young people have important social contributions to make, including knowledge about what being teenagers in the U.S. is like. They also express concern about how little and how poorly adults listen to young people, pointing out that any conversation among adults about teenagers needs to include teens, especially when they are physically present. As Pratt writes: “I just think it’s time to stop talking about teenagers as if they’re not in the same room” (p.xvii).

In *Girl Power: Young Women Speak Out!*, Carlip responds to the objectification of women not so much by tackling “objectification” head-on but by confronting one of its consequences for young women: silence. Carlip travelled across the country holding writing workshops for young women and collecting writing from girls who wrote her after hearing about her project. Through creative writing Carlip wants to provide girls the opportunity to “give meaning to confusing times” (p.343), “to be heard, to safely put on paper what they wouldn’t dare say aloud” (p.2).

Professing to be neither psychologist nor “expert with a degree,” Carlip attempts to understand the girls whose writing she shares by relating to them as women who “found writing to be [their] lifeline” as adolescents, and by trying to hear what they say (p.9). The two-level social construct she develops reflects what she has observed. The first level locates groups in terms of their relations to the “traditional” center of culture (Outlaws and Outcasts, Outskirts, Outsiders, Insiders) and the second by names different groups of girls call themselves (i.e., homegirls, riot grrrls, cowgirls, jocks, sorority girls).

Although Carlip focuses on organizing the young women she worked with into clear groups, she admits that these groupings often overlap. This can make reading *Girl Power* frustrating, but it does not detract from the richness of the young women’s writing. Carlip frames their passages in order to contextualize without burdening her reader with extensive analysis. Instead, she lets the girls’ writing stand independently, reflecting the thoughtfulness and seriousness of what these young women care about.

At the end of *School Talk* Eder suggests that girls need to be encouraged to develop language skills and the personal confidence to challenge the ways they are objectified and silenced. Carlip suggests that writing can serve as such a space for girls when they understand that they don’t have to fear “being laughed at, judged, or simply misunderstood” (p.2). Not only the act of writing, but the tools with which to write, become a means to empower oneself.

*Jane Pratt’s strategy is to let teenagers talk. With the help of Kelli Pryor she interviewed hundreds of teenagers and produced narratives about twenty-two of them (the twenty-third is a personal narrative). For Real: The Uncensored Truth About American Teenagers* is a lively, journalistic account of Pratt’s meetings with a wide range of teenagers. Unlike Carlip, she is interested in telling the unique stories of individual teens, although she shares an interest in representing diversity. Except for the personal narrative, Pratt generally narrates each chapter, with some dialogue from recorded interviews, occasionally with a long monologue by the teenager.

What is interesting about *For Real* is that it is as much about Pratt as it is about the teenagers she interviewed (this is true as well for *Girl Power*). In telling and sharing their stories, Pratt wants to let teenagers know she has been listening. Her interspersed narratives on the issues teens said were most important to them attempt both to inform adult audiences about what teens care about and to share information with her teenage audience. Another way Pratt shows teenagers she is listening is by including confessional stories and relevant diary entries from her own teenage years. Along with her commitment to being “perpetually fifteen,” her background as founding
editor of (the old) Sassy magazine, and her work as a television talk show host, such strategies legitimate Pratt as someone who can speak knowledgeably about teenagers.

Whereas Carlip analyzes groups of teens and Pratt writes about individual teens, Veronica Chambers tells her own story in Mama’s Girl. Further, on the inside flap of the dust cover, her book is described as giving “voice to the first generation of African-Americans to come of age in the post-Civil Rights era.” This statement places all of these books in a different context. School Talk, which relies a great deal on recent developments in theories of stratification (in sociological terms), is indebted to the Civil Rights era, yet the authors present their data in ahistorical language. Carlip and Pratt both argue that teenagers today live in a historical period “marked by social upheaval, volatile world issues, and deep personal challenges” (Carlip, p.1) where subjects like sexual abuse, racism, AIDS and other STDs, the environment, consumerism, drugs, and ageism weigh on their minds, but neither author substantively discusses the impact of the Civil Rights era on teenagers of many racial, class, sexual, gender, and political identities. Chambers’ memoir, on the other hand, displays a distinctly historical consciousness.

The child of immigrant parents (a Dominican father and Panamanian mother) who divorced when she was ten, Chambers weaves her personal narrative in and out of intimate family matters, the legacy of the Civil Rights Movement for African American young people of her generation and the different legacy that belongs to her parents, her often desperate efforts to gain the attention of her beloved mother, and her struggles to become independent of those who cannot give her what she wants and needs. It is important that she “leaves” her family by going away to college, getting well-paying jobs, and finding a way to leave behind the poverty of her childhood. She can then return on different terms, those over which she has some control.

Chambers writes about her childhood, about school and learning, about making friends, about her abusive father and stepmother, about her brother and the different choices they make. But as her title suggests, Mama’s Girl is in many respects a meditation on the struggles between a mother and daughter and the ways Black women negotiate their emotional relationships. At one point she says, “There is a saying that Black women mother their sons and raise their daughters; when it comes to my mother, the saying is too true” (p.181). Chambers knew as a child that she and her brother were treated differently; she saw that he received a great deal of attention – especially as he began to get into trouble – and she, no matter how good, just seemed to be ignored. By the end of her memoir Chambers has come to understand that she and her mother share a lot in common, their identities carved out by different historical circumstances and choices but similar gendered experiences.

Finally, Mama’s Girl suggests something very important about listening and hearing: it is also important that young people share the responsibility if they want to be visible in the room Pratt notes they are already in. As Chambers comes to understand her mother, it becomes clear that cross-generational communication is necessary. She constructs the narrative so that her becoming conscious of differences from her mother parallels their beginning to really talk to one another. At the same time they begin to exchange their personal narratives, mother and daughter learn how different yet entwined their stories are. Listening and hearing as demonstrated in this story are dialectical, requiring dialogue and an awareness that no one owns the right interpretations, that no one person or group of persons can speak for a whole room of people. This idea is supported in the other three books I have reviewed as well.

Perhaps one of the most painful aspects of watching the film Welcome to the Dollhouse is that all efforts to communicate are stunted. The books I have reviewed suggest that the violence that underlies so many of the film’s characters’ attempts to claim agency are frequently reactions to not being listened to or heard. The film ends inarticularly, but not fatally so. An invitation is also there; I am trying to listen to it, and remember.

[Ednie (pronounced eed nuh) Kaeh Garrison, a Ph.D. candidate in American Studies at Washington State University, is working on her dissertation, which explores U.S. feminism in the late twentieth century, focusing especially on formations of third wave feminist ideology, style, and historical, cultural, and political consciousness.]
Young, Female, and Sexually Active in the 1990s

by Deborah L. Siegel


In an era of AIDS, nationally televised sexual harassment hearings, and premature pronouncements of “postfeminism,” three recent books explore what it means to be young, female, and sexually active. Placing girls’ stories at the center, these books present voices from the front lines of adolescence. Part tribute and part social history, Sharon Thompson’s **Going All the Way: Teenage Girls’ Tales of Sex, Romance, and Pregnancy,** The Black Girls’ **Black Girl Talk,** and June Larkin’s **Sexual Harassment: High School Girls Speak Out** rewrite the female coming-of-age story to account for the historically and racially variant meanings of girlhood in the late twentieth century.

The experiences of young women have recently captured the attention of feminist scholars from various disciplines, spawning a new body of research on girl culture. In **Going All the Way,** Sharon Thompson, coeditor of the feminist classic **Powers of Desire: The Politics of Sexuality,** brings her interest in sexual desire and fantasy to bear on the study of contemporary American girls’ lives. Thompson characterizes the period she covers as “one of the most remarkable eras in the history of sex, gender, and adolescence – the brief and amazing period when teenage girls knew of almost no reason not to have sex” (book jacket). Though her project began as an attempt to “interview pubescents about puberty,” as she listened to girls’ stories about sex and romance, Thompson became “hooked on girltalk” in and of itself (p.3). The result? A qualitative analysis of female adolescent sexual behavior in a moment in which more and more girls are “going all the way.”

Combining ethnography with an analysis of the narrative power sustained by popular and generic cultural forms such as melodrama, tragedy, and comedy, Thompson focuses on the stories girls use to describe their sexual histories. “[B]eginning with the issues that absorb girls themselves rather than with adult preoccupations” (p.11), Thompson listened to girltalk in shopping malls and fast-food joints, under highway bridges and in parks across from schools. All told, she interviewed 400 girls, mostly in large and midsize cities in the Northeast, Midwest, and Southwest, between 1978 and 1986. Her pool included equal proportions of teenagers from poor, working-class, and middle-class backgrounds, with a relatively large contingent of African American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, and Chicana girls. This diverse sample allows Thompson to examine how “different perspectives – different social and economic expectations and different views about the proper relationship between sex, love, and reproduction – lead to different constructions of, or stories about, teenage romance” (p.14).

Her subjects, or “narrators,” offer a variety of accounts of the relationships between puberty and reproduction, sex and love, gender and sexuality, and age and desire (p.14). These variations, among others, structure the book. Chapters concentrate on attitudes toward sex, romance, and pregnancy among girls who subscribe to the ideology of true love and those who recognize romance as a “game”; among those in the popular set and those who actively rebel; among girls who seek or are sought by adult lovers and those who become teenage mothers; among heterosexual girls and among lesbian and bisexual girls.

Given that until quite recently adolescence has been, as British feminist Barbara Hudson notes, primarily “a masculine construct,” (Thompson, p.144), **Going All the Way** adds substantially to the scholarship on teenage sexuality (most notably the 1950s’ Kinsey and the 1980s’ Zabin studies). Thompson’s timely and intelligent documentation of the new rules of sex and romance speaks to and about the first generation of U.S. girls to come of age when the rights to confidential contraception and abortion are relatively secure. While Thompson documents a range of girls’ attitudes toward contraception and pregnancy, notably absent from her otherwise astute account is any extended discussion of the impact of HIV/AIDS – and knowledge of sexually transmitted diseases in general – on girls’ sexual behavior. Aside from passing references, the AIDS narrative is but a muted subtext. True, Thompson’s interviews end in 1986, and girls in the ’70s and early to mid ’80s most likely were not talking about AIDS. Yet readers might expect more direct treatment of AIDS issues, and even STD’s in general, from a book pub-
lished in 1995 with a title bearing the words “teenage,” “girls,” and “sex.”

To Thompson’s credit, the bulk of the book offers shrewd analysis and insightful critique of a culture that continues to shatter girls’ sense of possibility (and destroy their self-esteem) despite the advances of feminism. Her concluding recommendations, however, vaguely recall Nancy Reagan’s “just say no” campaign: “Short of living without love,” Thompson writes, “the best girls can do, their own accounts suggest, is to act with realism and courage: condition consent on desire and protection; continue interests and associations other than romance no matter how much in love or in need of love they are; and refuse to accept love as a reason to endanger themselves or foreclose the future” (p.285). If Going All the Way fails short of explaining how girls and their narratives might accomplish such feats, its strength lies in the urgency of the voices it records.

This immediacy – the implicit mandate that girls’ voices be heard – similarly compels the girls of Black Girl Talk. Here, fifty-three Canadian Black women, aged fifteen to twenty-four, give expression to their experiences of being young, Black, and female through various media including poetry, prose, essay, dialogue, photography, and art. Like Going All the Way, this assembly of voices documents the turmoil and exhilaration of being a girl in an era erroneously dubbed “postfeminist.” Whereas Thompson’s sociological study foregrounds the complexities of being a sexually active adolescent in the U.S., the voices comprising Black Girl Talk sound off on issues ranging from love and sex (heterosexual and homosexual) to hip hop, hair, and white racism in the Canadian provinces. Historically situated in the different national contexts of the U.S. and Canada, Going All the Way and Black Girl Talk speak to different constituencies. Yet in their documentation of attitudes toward sexuality among North American girls of diverse backgrounds, Thompson and The Black Girls cover some common terrain.

The mission of Black Girl Talk is twofold. One goal is empowerment: “We offer this long-awaited collection as an affirmation of the talents of young Black Women,” writes Makeda Silvera in the introduction (p.ix). “These Sisters are proud, loud and bold. Listen to the talk,” she urges (p.x). Proud and loud entries such as Toni Bryan and Nicole Redman’s poem “I Am” affirm the creative vitality of young Black women in a culture that continues to invent new forms of racist and sexist oppression: “I am MYSELF/ WIRY, resistant, resilient and arrogant/ Do you know me/? Can you deal with me/? With what I am/? With who you are/? I am MORE than a mere ten percent of the country’s population/ more than a best friend or a college chum/I am honey, cinnamon/ and fresh ginger on your tongue” (p.141). While such assertions of confidence – sexual confidence in this case – are consistent with a large body of literature showing that the self-esteem issues white girls face do not plague Black girls in the same way, other contributors voice insecurities specific to the experiences of Black girlhood. Yet as for a fair number of the girls Thompson interviewed, for many authors in Black Girl Talk, attitudes toward sexuality are couched in the language of self-discovery, celebration, and (often more so than in Thompson) self-empowerment.

In addition to affirming Black girlhood and combating some of the negative stereotypes about Black youth culture in general, the narratives in Black Girl Talk confront “issues around death, racism, parental conflict, male dominance, substance abuse and sexual abuse” (p.ix). Some contributors write with the awareness that their stories continue older scripts of Black women’s oppression as voiced during the Civil Rights and “second wave” feminist movements; others write of dilemmas specific to their generation. The personae are multiple and varied. In her essay “The Pussy is Ours,” Nigerian-born author Iforse introduces herself as “another Black woman perusing the issue of heterosexual inter racial relationship” (p.74). In “To Finish What Has Begun,” Sistah Caroline describes herself as follows: “I am a woman; I am womb; I am nature; I am Black...I am community, I volunteer with Each-One-Teach-One, Fresh Arts, Toronto Black Achievers program, Tropicana youth group, and the Rape Crisis Centre; I’m conscious; I’m X; I’m positive; I love myself” (pp.4-5). Though not all contributors identify as feminists, the politics of the collection recognize the multiple and contradictory aspects of both individual and collective identities. This politics of contradiction is increasingly characteristic of “third wave” feminism, a polyvocal movement culture manifest in a variety of media in both the U.S. and Canada. Add Black Girl Talk to the growing list of young feminist anthologies speaking to girls’ diverse experiences without focusing on the fixity of a single feminist agenda.

If Black Girl Talk reads like a third wave anthology, Sexual Harassment: High School Girls Speak Out, like Going All the Way, documents some of the social and cultural barriers that face this next generation of “resistant and resilient” yet still susceptible girls. Where Thompson’s book stirred my desire for a more detailed discussion of policy application, Larkin’s study satisfied that craving. Offering “shocking evidence of the hazardous conditions in which female students are trying to get an education,” Sexual Harassment is both exposé and stratagem (p.18). Once an elementary teacher and now co-coordinator for the Women’s Sexual Harassment Caucus at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Larkin writes from the viewpoint of a concerned educator: “I want to make visible the unexpressed suffering of so many female students and provide resources and strategies for educators who want to deal with it” (p.14). Like Thompson, Larkin privileges girls’
voices: young women speak out about the sexual harassment that is part of their school lives and describe how this behavior affects their education (p.14). Reader beware. Some of the scenarios narrated here are more chilling than the harassment sequences in Todd Solodz's 1996 black comedy Welcome to the Dollhouse.

Contemporaneous with Peggy Orenstein's Schoolgirls: Young Women, Self-Esteem, and the Confidence Gap, Larkin's study identifies sexual harassment as a major barrier to girls' education, thus building upon the work of feminist researchers Carol Gilligan and Nan Stein, the AAUW (Shortchanging Girls: Shortchanging America), and Myra and David Sadker (Failing At Fairness: How America's Schools Cheat Girls). Larkin's pool of over sixty girls, aged sixteen or older, came from four Canadian high schools. During the school term, the girls kept journals of incidents of sexual harassment. Larkin met with the participants monthly in groups, conducting in-depth interviews with twenty-five. Her sample included girls from urban, rural, and small town settings. While chapters address a wide range of sexually harassing behavior, only a few pages explicitly focus on differences in how girls of different racial background, sexual orientation, and class status experience sexual harassment.

The book's strength inheres both in its vivid portraits of daily life as a (primarily white, heterosexual) Canadian girl and in its activist tone. Again, the urgency of the girls' stories compels the reader; together, the narratives in Sexual Harassment issue a powerful call to arms to parents and educators alike. "We can't continue to push female students forward without acknowledging all the ways they get set back," Larkin concludes. "Unless we confront the problem of sexual harassment in schools, our lofty statements about providing gender equitable education are meaningless" (p.16). This direct appeal for action, missing from Thompson's more narrative approach, establishes Larkin's study as a different kind of resource for educators. Like Going All the Way and Black Girl Talk, Sexual Harassment significantly contributes to the growing body of literature documenting the promise and peril of being young and female at century's end.

The inquiry into girl culture is, in many respects, the next frontier in feminist movement. The girls in these books who actively speak out about sex, romance, racism, and harassment defy media stereotypes that theirs is a "postfeminist" and/or apathetic generation. Their narratives challenge scripts that assume the gains forged by the second wave have so completely invaded all tiers of social existence that feminists themselves have become obsolete. Interestingly, the shared emphasis on personal narrative in these particular books suggests that even as "experience" has become a hotly contested terrain in feminist scholarship — we now ask "whose personal experience?" and "which political agenda?" — those documenting life among feminism's daughters are nevertheless turning to autobiography. In the third wave, the personal has become political once again.

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NOTES

2. See also Rebecca Walker's To Be Real: Telling the Truth and Changing the Face of Feminism (New York: Anchor Books, 1995) and Barbara Findlen's Listen Up: Voices From the Next Generation (Seattle: Seal Press, 1995).
Other Recent Books By, For, and About Girls and Young Women

Some other recent (or forthcoming) titles of interest on the topic of girls and young women have also come to our attention. Though this is by no means a comprehensive listing, it at least provokes awareness of the bounty of material available by and about the upcoming generation. Books by or for girls are marked with an asterisk (*).


Suzanne McGinty, Resilience, Gender, and Success at School. New York: P. Lang, 1997


READING FOR REAL:
MAGAZINES FOR GIRLS AND YOUNG WOMEN

by Megan Scanlon


HUES: Hear Us Emerging Sisters 1994-. Eds.: Ophira Edut, Tali Edut, Dyann Logwood. 2/yr. $14.99 (4 issues). Single copy: $3.95 (Canada, $4.95). P.O. Box 7778, Ann Arbor, MI 48107-9924. Email: hues@branson.org; Website: http://www.hues.net/ (no.1, Spring/Summer 1995; no.2, Winter 1996)

NEW MOON FOR GIRLS 1993-. Eds. Editorial board ages 9-14. 6/yr. $25 (U.S.); $30 (Canada); $37 (elsewhere). Single copy: $4.95. ISSN 1069-238X. P.O. Box 3587, Duluth, MN 55803-3587. Email: newmoon@newmoon.duluth.mn.us; Website: http://www.newmoon.org/ (November/December 1995; May/June 1996; July/August 1996)


TEEN VOICES 1991-. 4/yr. $20. Single copy: $5. Women Express, P.O. Box 116, Boston, MA 02123-0116. Email: womenexpr@usa1.com; Website: http://www1.usa1.com/womenexpr/index.html (v.1, no.4, 1992; v.2, no.2, Spring 1993; v.2, no.3, Fall 1993)

I make collages. When this creative outlet and artistic endeavor began this summer, I bought a copy of YM magazine and one of Seventeen to provide "collage material." Flipping through these "teeny-bopper" magazines, I was really bothered by the content.

Such content includes the YM cover story for November 1996, the "YM High School Cover Model Search": "Read on...so you can look modelicious too" (p.34). The rest of the issue is filled with makeup and beauty advice and suggestions on how to get "a better bod" (p.26) or attract boys. The covers of the November 1996 Teen, Sassy, and Seventeen all feature thin, white young women draped around older-looking young men.

The targeted audiences for this type of material are preteen and teenage girls, the group most susceptible to the effects of these "female-negative" attitudes. With their emphasis on finding and keeping a guy and avoidance of related issues such as sexual harassment, eating disorders, self-esteem, and pressures for sex, these magazines encourage girls to conform to mythical standards instead of being themselves. There is an apparent need for publications with a "female-positive" message.

Thankfully, such reading does exist. HUES, Teen Voices, Blue Jean, REAL Girls, MetroGIRLS, and New Moon all have as part of their mission portraying females in a positive light and combating society's negative attitudes concerning women.

The publications target an age range wider than middle and high schools. "For girls and their dreams," says New Moon, with its editorial board of girls nine to fourteen years old. Focused on an older group is HUES, for college women; and MetroGIRLS includes adults as part of its target readership: "Our audience is primarily educators and program officials; policy makers, young women, and parents who read." REAL Girls is for older teens. Teen Voices claims to be "for, by, and about teenage and young women" and Blue Jean tries to target "teen girls who dare." Both have a writing style and look more suitable for younger teens.

The writing quality in the magazines is generally high. HUES stands out. It is written in a personal style similar to that of the traditional teen magazines but without the annoying slang and "talk-down" tone.

MetroGIRLS, also excellent, uses a somewhat more formal style for their older audience. REAL Girls is similar to HUES, with a very personal tone; the writing is generally good. Blue Jean contains simplistic though competent writing. The disappointment of the group was Teen Voices. The writing was in no way impressive, with basic grammatical and structural problems. The language in New Moon is simple enough for elementary schoolers.

Some features of these magazines are similar to those in the typical teen magazines - like quizzes, dating and
sex advice, makeup reviews, and fashion articles. But they all come with a twist. HUES has a sex advice article on masturbation: "Women who haven't touched their bodies...are often clueless about them" (p.48). A fashion article is "PMS Fashions: Getting Fly for Your Flow" (p.24). Blue Jean has the "Dear Dr. Beth" advice column.

Other features going beyond the mass-market teen magazines are the calendars of Blue Jean and New Moon, chronicling significant "herstory" events. New Moon also has the Global Village, written each issue by a girl from a different country, with facts about the girl's country following each article. REAL Girls has two wonderful departments: "Miss-information" ("Not since 'if you loved me, you'd do it' have people been heard to utter such crap" [p.6, Summer 1995]) and "Soap for Your Head" ("...to make room for crisp, conscious thought...scrub your brain of all that junk that people have been telling you from day one" [p.15]).

The more academic MetroGIRLS has the terrific news department "Chewing the Facts," about women and women's issues in the news. Preceding its feature articles are two pages listing resources and facts concerning the theme of each issue. The Blue Jean "College Corner" attempts to make the magazine attractive to older girls but seems out of place.

One big problem with teenybopper magazines is their lack of multiculturalism. If a non-white model is pictured, she is white-looking, with relatively pale skin and Caucasian features. Because HUES' editors wanted "to create a magazine that gave women of all cultures, shapes, sizes and lifestyles a space to speak for themselves" (p.3, Spring/Summer 1995), HUES is a magazine that looks like real life. There are articles celebrating and discussing cultural differences, but even the fact that the magazine does not ignore them is a relief.

New Moon does not exactly ignore non-white girls. Rather, a statement such as "When she started playing golf as a young girl, ReNae Johnson realized she was the only African American on the course" is treated as a highlight. The young women appear in the magazine because they did something as non-white girls. Teen Voices, MetroGIRLS, and Blue Jean, while they do not celebrate differences as HUES does, do not treat a non-white female's accomplishments any different than they would a white female's. They rarely deal directly with the issue of multiculturalism; that is not their mission or purpose.

Lesbianism is generally passed over. HUES, MetroGIRLS, and REAL Girls all address sexuality issues, but it is apparent they are targeting straight women: "See, we know...you like boys (REAL Girls, v.1, no.1, p.4).

MetroGIRLS' "Don't Shoot the Messenger" provides a spot for well-written and straightforward opinions, editorializing about young women in gymnastics ("they squeak" [p.6, Spring 1995]), and sexism and racism in rap videos ("For black girls and young women these tears at the fabric of their culture and gender" [p.6, Summer 1996]). HUES has the angry but truthful "Kill That Noize," on such topics as "the good ole boy...claiming to be the target of a cruel new form of [discrimination] aimed at middle-class White males" (p.60, Spring/Summer 1995). The editorials in Teen Voices are not as outstanding, being generally poorly written, with more complaints than constructive essays. New Moon also offers no constructive solutions to the problems addressed in "How Aggravating," a space for girls to vent their anger about injustices they experience or observe. ("I have a teacher who is sexist... It's just not fair" [p.10, January/February 1994]).
If you think for a moment about how girls appear in mainstream media, you might envision a confused pregnant teenager, a trashy bad girl who wears fiery red lipstick and dresses too sexily for her age, or a runaway who has turned to prostitution. Although such images highlight important social issues facing young women, rarely, if ever, do we see realist representations of girls that don’t position them as victims of their own transgressive behavior. This limited range of images has prompted girls and women to take control of video and film technologies in an effort to construct and circulate more divergent and complex accounts of girlhood as counterpoints to those found in mainstream media.

This review considers four independent videos that explore the lives of girls from different ethnic and gender backgrounds. The videos, each of which was either produced by girls or directly involved them in the production process, provide insights into girls’ political sensibilities, emotional states, working conditions, social interactions, and feelings about the future. Girlhood, these videos show us, is a tumultuous and difficult time, but it is also a vital point at which young women creatively and energetically participate in the crafting of their own identities.

Rather than simply being socialized into pre-existing gender roles, these videos demonstrate that girls are political agents who in the process of living their daily lives actively contribute to struggles over gender definitions. Indeed, girls interact with feminine norms in a variety of ways – sometimes they reproduce them, sometimes they reconfigure them, and sometimes they attempt to discard them altogether.

The series Girls, produced by Irena Mentokaryo and Claudia Weisser, explores the lives of girls from different parts of the world. One episode, “Keep On Going – Maria and Pilar from Lima, Peru,” presents day-in-the-life portraits of two teenage girls employed as domestic workers in the middle-class neighborhoods of Lima. Maria tells us she went to the city at age thirteen so she could “get ahead” and earn enough money to help support her family. Pilar, who also started working at age thirteen, insists, “A young girl has to go to the city to improve herself.” As Maria and Pilar dust strangers’ furniture, shop for vegetables at crowded markets, attend domestic servant support meetings, and play volleyball together on a quiet beach, they discuss how difficult it is to be away from family, alone in a city full of strangers.

“Keep on Going” represents Maria and Pilar in two worlds – the city and the village. When the girls have a day off from their jobs in the city, they return to their rural homes to share their earnings and rekindle emotional ties with family members. It is this movement between the two social environments that enables Pilar to feel like she can “improve herself” and Maria to want to “get ahead.” For as the girls successfully navigate between these two worlds, they gain...
independence and come to understand their own positions in each of the social spheres. “Keep On Going” emphasizes the relationship between Peruvian socioeconomic conditions and the girls’ rapid entrance into adulthood. For Pilar and Maria, girlhood is a negotiation between several potentially conflicting identities: they are working-class subordinates in the city, family breadwinners in the rural village, and newly independent young women who can travel between the two spheres.

With the exception of a couple of awkward and unnecessary voiceovers, the filmmakers do a nice job of allowing Maria and Pilar to project their own voices. Toward the end of the film, the girls peel away their identities as domestic workers and discuss their dreams for the future. Pilar takes night classes so that some day she can own her own business. She uses her small income to pay her school fees and says, “I would advise girls to study to become something in life. I think that young girls must fight to get ahead. Don’t look back if you stumble and fall. You have to get up again and keep going, always keep going.” Maria dreams of becoming a singer. At one point she gazes into the camera and softly sings a song she has just written: “This is a difficult day without fighting for the future, for a better future in my life. But I don’t know how to get on with my study. I want to live quiet with my thoughts and fight to get ahead.”

Choices at the Crossroads is a thirty-two-minute, student-produced documentary about the social and educational experiences of seven girls living in Rochester, New York. Teenager Mary Catherine Palumbos decided to make the video after reading Meeting at the Crossroads by Lyn Mikel Brown and Carol Gilligan (Harvard University Press, 1992). She wondered whether candid videotaped discussions with her friends would reveal the kind of extraordinary political courage described by Mikel and Gilligan. Palumbos interviewed her girlfriends, ages nine to sixteen, about a range of issues. Among other things, the girls vented frustrations about an English teacher’s sexist and racist interpretations of Lord of the Flies and Tarzan, Girl Scout activities that involve making “stupid little crafts,” and school counselors who regularly ask “Are you sure you’re ready for it?” when girls try to register for chemistry classes.

At the same time that Choices unveils girls’ gender-related frustrations, it also celebrates moments of resistance. One girl, for instance, tells how she made the boys’ soccer team and became the team’s captain. Another recalls her all-girl group’s success at a winter survival camp. If the girls hadn’t been there to build a fire and find a shelter, she proudly explains, the boys probably would have died. Finally, one girl shares her first experience of female solidarity after attending a weekend church retreat. She had never imagined that being with a large group of women could feel so empowering. Indeed, Choices is careful to point out girls’ successes in resisting gender inequalities.

One of Choices’ strengths is the racial diversity of its interview subjects. The girls’ discussion of racial discrimination throughout the piece reminds viewers that race and gender cannot be separated from one another, but rather are integrally intertwined and part of a system of patriarchal domination. One African-American girl describes how important it is for girls to know and take pride in their cultural heritage. After talking about wearing African clothing to school, she announces, “I say whatever’s on my mind! I’m not the type of person that holds stuff back!”

Indeed, the girls of Choices know the importance of having a voice, and they don’t hesitate to use it. It’s inspiring to hear such incisive gender and racial critiques flow from the mouths of young girls. Though technically quite rough, Choices at least provides a forum in which girls are encouraged to discuss the gender and racial politics of their everyday lives – something, they tell us, they simply do not do in school.

A Wedding is a thirty-five-minute narrative video, created by Southeast Asian high school students in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and directed by teenager Melissa Littig Godoy. The video relates the true story of an eighteen-year-old Hmong girl whose parents force her, against her will, to marry a thirty-year-old Hmong doctor. Raised and educated in the U.S., Payeng dreams of becoming a fashion model. Her career goal, however, collides with...
the norms of traditional Hmong femininity, and she is compelled to surrender her personal ambition to her father's staunch mandate that she abide by Hmong tradition and become Feng's bride.

_A Wedding_ provokes discussion of a range of issues including cross-cultural and inter-generational struggles, father-daughter relationships, and young love. The video critiques traditional Hmong culture's patriarchal structures, suggesting that women should have more autonomy in the choices they make in their lives. After passionately resisting her father's commands, Payeng is shown in close-up in front of a mirror wearing traditional Hmong wedding attire. A montage of Hmong women working in fields flashes across the screen, situating Payeng in a lineage of Hmong femininity. The camera then zooms out to reveal Payeng's very young sister standing next to her, looking into the same mirror and, quite possibly, the same future.

The scene suggests that Hmong cultural traditions are carried on, in part, through feminine compliance with patriarchal power, and that female independence might only emerge at the expense of cultural tradition. The narrative concludes with Payeng's adherence to her father's wishes, but it also critiques his patriarchal paternalism. _A Wedding_ emphasizes the complicated relationship between gender norms and ethnic identity, and suggests that challenges to those norms must come from girls like Payeng who struggle to reinvent their feminine identities. Like Pilar and Maria, Payeng must balance her own desire for independence with familial bonds and cultural tradition. For each of these women, the transition from girlhood involves learning the nuances of two cultures and how to maneuver between them.

_Tomboy_ , an eighteen-minute documentary by Dawn Logsdon, revisits adult women's memories of tomboy childhoods and explores the gender ambiguities of girlhood. For many, being a "girl" as society defined it ran counter to the way they viewed themselves. One tomboy recalls, "I thought I was a boy! I thought I was a boy... they had freedom and I wanted what they had." Another admits, "It was scary trying to be a girl. It was something I had no idea how to do." The video opens with a montage of still photographs of child tomboys gazing into the camera, looking tough and proud in a Stetson cowboy hat, a hand-me-down hockey jersey, baggy overalls, or brother's worn-out Toughskins. Other tomboys appear in photos posing at a pool table, swinging on a rope, or playing a game of football.

Logsdon uses soft-focus, slow-motion sequences to represent tomboys in action.... This elliptical and nostalgic visual style works well with the fragmented stories of now-adult tomboys as they explain what it was like growing up in a world that smothered them with narrowly defined feminine ideals.

_Tomboy_ 's playful visual style accentuates the complexity of the childhood memories it investigates. Logsdon uses soft-focus, slow-motion sequences to represent tomboys in action — playing with Tonka trucks, racing down the street on a bike, reluctantly washing dishes, or wandering through the woods with an invisible friend. This elliptical and nostalgic visual style works well with the fragmented stories of now-adult tomboys as they explain what it was like growing up in a world that smothered them with narrowly-defined feminine ideals. One tomboy so loathed femininity s/he refused to use the girls' bathroom at school and "peed in the bushes like a boy." Another describes puberty as "hell" — as a time when, as s/he puts it, "My own body betrayed me!" Finally, one tomboy expresses how much s/he hated hearing phrases like, "You can't play with my hotrods because you're a girl!

While _Tomboy_ reconstructs the painful alienation of girls who wanted to be boys, it conveys the pleasures of gender play as well. One tomboy recalls, "There were no girls like me on TV so I pictured myself doing things like men did. I pretended I was on the New York Knicks." Another transformed her own body into those of her comic book heroes — Zorro, Tarzan, and Captain Marvel. Several developed masculine alteregos with names like Troy, Willie, or Bud. Another played boys' sports because it was a place in which s/he said, "I could be myself.... Sports made me feel good."

_Tomboy_ is more artistic and visually compelling than _Girls, Choices_ or _A Wedding_ , but it is frustrating that we never get to see the tomboys as grown women. We only hear their voices. The stories in the video suggest the tomboys' preteen years were a time when they could use gender ambiguities in forming their own identities. It would be fascinating to see how this process continued after the biological and cultural transformations of adolescence. What happens to the process of gender formation for tomboys after childhood?

For the girls in these videos, girlhood represents a moment of possibility, before adulthood threatens to solidify gender norms. We come across each of these young women at a critical transition; as they prepare to take on new identities as women, each in her own way courageously transforms and reinscribes the meanings of "girl" and "woman." But what are some of the other ways we might begin to consider what it means to be a "girl"? It's not at all clear when
girlhood ends and womanhood begins. Is it when we grow breasts? When we menstruate? When we lose our virginity? When we get a “real” job? When we become educated enough to call ourselves “women”?

The line between “girl” and “woman” is a fuzzy one, especially since some women want their girlhood to linger into their seventies, and others start womanhood barely out of diapers. Each of these videos initiates a discussion about this obscure aspect of femininity, reminding us that girlhood is not simply a stepping stone toward a woman’s maturation, but rather a part of the volatile and ongoing process of forming a gendered identity. “Girlhood,” it seems, is never just “woman’s past,” but rather always a constitutive and living element of the feminine.

NOTES

1. Others in the series are films on girls in Botswana, India, and Holland. (See address of producers in the video listing at the top of the review.)

Lisa Parks is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Communication Arts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She teaches video production and is writing a dissertation called “Global Media, Vision and Outer Space: A Cultural History of Satellite Communication.”

FEMINIST PUBLISHING

BOOKPEOPLE is celebrating twenty-five years of distributing small press and feminist titles to a variety of independent bookstores across the U.S. Employees of a failing distribution/publishing business took over ownership in 1971, creating an employee-owned structure that’s still in place. Among the titles Bookpeople had the foresight to take on (eventually leading to their mass-market appeal) are The Whole Earth Catalog and Women Who Run with the Wolves. Bookpeople also launched many books from early feminist presses, including Women’s Press Collective, Amazon, Diana, and Persephone. Having steadily grown over the years, Bookpeople recently moved from Berkeley to larger quarters in Oakland and has projected sales of $25 million for 1996-97. As Bookpeople president Gene Taback noted during its anniversary celebration, alluding to the independent bookstores to whom the distributor is dedicated, “Only by a strong commitment to our mutual support can our independent segment of the book business survive and prosper.” Bookpeople’s address: 7900 Edgewater Dr., Oakland, CA 94621. Website: http://www.bponline.com/home.html

NARIGRANTHA PRABARTANA is Bangladesh’s first and only feminist publisher. Formed in 1989 as an outlet for putting forth the ideas and demands of the women’s movement in Bangladesh, the press publishes in both Bengali and English and includes fiction and nonfiction among its titles. Feminist activist Farida Akhter, who has written extensively on critique of population control, is the publisher. Address of the press is: 5/3 Barabo Mahanpur Ring Road, Shyamali, Dhaka, 1207, Bangladesh.

Communication from the board of directors of WOMYN’S BRAILLE PRESS affirms that the organization is still disbanding (“we may hold the record for the organization taking the longest time going out of business,” they say). On the other hand, some six hundred of the eight hundred books from their collection of four-track tapes have been cataloged for inclusion in the National Union Catalog, a list of books produced by libraries affiliated with National Library Service Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS). For information about enrolling in the NLS, contact them at 800-424-8567.

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WORLD WIDE WEB REVIEW: FUNDING SOURCES FOR WOMEN

by Elizabeth Breed

[Eds. note: This issue of Feminist Collections inaugurates our newest feature, an ongoing column suggesting and evaluating key websites on a variety of topics. Elizabeth Breed leads off with the debut column examining Internet sites on grants, scholarships, and other funding sources for women.]

This essay outlines resources on scholarships, fellowships, and grants available through the Internet specifically for women applicants. It is assumed that women use the information provided below as an additional option to a careful search for funding in other formats, both print and electronic. Also, keep in mind that funding research, like most research, requires time and some planning in order to be thorough.

Outline your funding needs before exploring the grants literature. A proposal or project outline can be the first step in creating a grants search strategy, since it will help you expand or limit your search. It will also help you in making a necessary subject list—complete with synonyms and alternate word-endings—which will save an inordinate amount of time when searching by computer. The outline or proposal can include type of support (research, travel, dissertation, performance, exhibition, seed money, equipment, etc.), geographic area impacted by the project (Wisconsin, Midwest, Mississippi River Basin, Great Lakes States), residency of applicant(s) (Kenya, Developing Country, Third World, Horn of Africa, Eastern Africa, Africa), type of funding (grant, fellowship, scholarship, loan, internship) types of funders one wants to approach (private foundation, corporate foundation, professional organization, federal agency), type of recipient (university, dance troupe, artist, museum), starting date of project, amount of funding needed, and population group (if any) served (Native American, Eskimo, Alaska Native, American Indian, Indian).

Grants generally are awarded either to individuals or to organizations. The majority of U.S. foundations give grants to organizations because their giving is restricted by the Internal Revenue Service only to organizations which have a classified status with the IRS as a 501C3 tax-exempt entity. Women should be aware that they may not be eligible for these grants unless affiliated with an organization that has this status. Be sure, then, when finding grant information, to note whether the grant is to an individual or to an organization. Non-U.S. citizens should check details of individual grants for eligibility rules.

Grants for Women

There are a number of sites that offer grants information to individuals. Women looking for grants for education might want to start with the “Financial Aid for Female Students” section (http://www.finaid.org/finaid/focus/women.html) of the Financial Aid Information Page (http://www.finaid.org/finaid.html). This is a site maintained almost daily by Mark Kantrowitz, author of The Prentice Hall Guide to Scholarships and Fellowships for Math and Science Students, now sponsored by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA). This home page offers information on specific foundations such as the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Society of University Women, Business and Professional Women’s Foundation, and more. In addition, the Financial Aid Information Page (FinAid) provides a link to an annotated bibliography, “Financial Aid for Female Students” (http://www.finaid.org/finaid/bibliography/female.html), of printed materials for further research. Be sure to also check the free scholarship and fellowship databases offered through the FinAid Page, which are FastWEB, SRN Express, ExPAN Scholarship Search (College Board’s FUND FINDER), among others.

Women looking for graduate and post-graduate or dissertation grants might be successful checking the financial aid pages of colleges and universities, such as the University of California - Santa Barbara’s financial aid site, Opportunities for Women (http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/financial/Sources/s_comp.html#women). There are similar websites throughout the U.S.—maintained by colleges and universities that have graduate programs and offer financial aid information on funding not necessarily provided by their own institutions. Another example is Yale University’s Ada Project, which includes funding information for women in computing sciences (http://www.cs.yale.edu/homes/tap/fellowships.html). However, women not in the computer sciences can also find this site useful for its links to specific grant programs, such as those from the AAUW, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Association for Women in Science, the Ford Foundation, AT & T Bell Labs, NASA, and more.

Yale’s Ada site is also worth checking for its links to sites providing current grant announcements. One such site is Academe This Week, (http://chronicle.merit.edu) which contains current requests for proposals in all fields of study.
extracted from the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Grants of interest to women applicants are generally well-labeled. Another grants announcements site, IRIS Deadlines (http://carousel.lis.uiuc.edu/~iris/deadlines/index.html), offers a well-documented, current Opportunities for Women listing maintained by the Illinois Researcher Information Service at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

A number of major colleges and universities – especially those with graduate programs – also have offices of "sponsored research," which serve their faculty and graduate students in providing information and help with grants for which the institution (the sponsor) is the grant recipient. For a listing of sponsored research offices around the U.S., go to the Texas Research Administrator’s Group (TRAM) site, University Departmental and Sponsored Research Offices (http://tram.rice.edu/TRAM/sponsored.html).

There are also searchable databases for locating grants to be found on the Web. Some are free, many are not. In addition to those mentioned above found in the Financial Aid Information Page, there are a number of other grant databases which allow for "women" as a field or limiter in the search. An easy database to try is the SFU (San Francisco University) Graduate and Postdoctoral Awards Database (http://fas.sfu.ca/projects/GradAwards), which retrieves numerous awards specifically for women. In addition, one can search by department (Women’s Studies is WS) to retrieve graduate awards by deadline application date.

Community of Science web server (http://cos.gdb.org/), maintained by a consortium of research institutions as a repository of scientific information searchable through the Internet, offers several searchable grant databases for both private and federal funding. A recent search in its Funding Opportunities Database (http://cos.gdb.org/repos/fund/) for the term "women" appearing in either the title or descriptor fields resulted in no less than 169 grants, including numerous listings in non-science areas.

A number of other searchable databases such as IRIS (Illinois Researcher Information Service) at http://carousel.lis.uiuc.edu/~iris/databases.html and SPIN (Sponsored Programs Information Network) at http://spin.infoed.org/spinwww/spinwww.htm retrieve grants for women as a recipient group in all areas of endeavor, and can be accessed through the Internet but only by subscription. However, many university libraries and similar institutions have subscriptions for their clientele. If you are on a college campus you may be able to search one or both of these in the library. If the library has an account, you will automatically be able to search once you get to the address.

The Internet is a dynamic, constantly changing resource, and that means information can become rapidly outdated or supplemented by other, newer, material. Continually check for the date and source of the site. It may be a good idea, when in doubt as to the accuracy of the information found, to contact the funder directly, since deadlines and the funder’s project interests can change. (However, keep inquiries by telephone and letter brief.)

Keep in mind that other funding resources available through the Internet can include funding for women or help grant-seeking women among other population groups. For instance, the Internet can be used to find information on proposal writing, on how to approach a foundation, and on what types of foundations to approach; there are discussion lists for grantwriters and newsletters announcing grants in specific subject areas or for specific types of projects; there are scam alerts, online grant applications, websites for charity registration offices, grantmaker organizations, specific grantmakers, and more. For an overview and good starting point to assess the wealth of grant information available, try either the Nonprofit Resources Catalogue (http://www.clark.net/pub/pwalker/home.html) or the Philanthropy Journal of North Carolina’s Philanthropy Links (http://www.philanthropy-journal.org/).

[Elizabeth Breed is a reference librarian for Memorial Library on the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus.]
Just a reminder that our website (http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/) offers electronic versions of all recent "Computer Talk" columns, plus numerous bibliographies and core lists of women’s studies resources, and links to hundreds of other sites.

Note that final punctuation is sometimes left off sentences in this section that list addresses, for purposes of clarity, since listservs and Web addresses do not include a “dot” or period at the end.

EMAIL LISTS

A number of the following listings were gathered from Joan Korenman’s very thorough directory of email/discussion lists at the URL: http://www.umbe.edu/wmst/forums.html

AFRO-TECHIES is intended for both general and technical support of women of African descent anywhere with “some level of technology/computer expertise and experience.” Send email to afro-techies-request@persephone.hampshire.edu with your subscribe message in the Subject line. (For questions, contact the list owner at aftech-admin@persephone.hampshire.edu

AFWOSCHO offers discussion for women academics of African descent. Send the message subscribe afwoscho yourfirstname yourlastname to listserv@listserv.iupui.edu

AMAZON ALTERNATIVES IN HEALING is a list for lesbian survivors of child sexual abuse. Send a message with subscribe amazon alternatives in the Subject line to soul@golden.net

ARACA is a Spanish-language list for exchange of experiences or information on gender and women’s studies. Current subscribers come from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Germany, Nicaragua, Mexico, the U.S., and many more countries. Send the message subscribe araca to majordomo@ccc.uba.ar

CMS-TEACHING-WOMGEN is supported by the College Music Society’s women’s committee for teaching about women and gender in college music courses. Send the message subscribe cms-teaching-womgen to majordomo@music.org (see their website address in the following section).

A new list on women’s ECONOMIC HISTORY will provide a forum for discussion and also distribute news and information from the Women’s Committee of the Economic History Society of the UK. Send the message join women-soc-econ-history yourfirst name yourlast name to mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk

The study of women and gender in EARLY MODERN EUROPE is the focus of a new list intended for a “diverse group” of researchers and teachers from various fields. To subscribe, send a personal message to kzpalac@artsci.wustl.edu (not a list server) or fill out the form on the list’s web page at http://www.artsci.wustl.edu/~kzpalac/frauen.html

LDWOMEN is a list for women with learning disabilities. Formed by Beth Ferri, the list developed from her dissertation project. Send the message subscribe ldwomen to listserv@uga.cc.uga.edu

LLI (Lista Lesbica Italiana) is a women-only list for lesbians, with discussion primarily in Italian. Send the message subscribe LLI to majordomo@orlando.women.it (and see their website address in the following section).

MOLLIES-L (Menopausal Online Lesbians) is a lesbian-only list for discussion of the “change-of-life” period. Send a brief message about yourself to mollies-l-request@efn.org or get a digest version by sending to mollies-digest-request@efn.org

PRAXNEX, which grew out of the Praxis Nexus conference earlier this year at University of Victoria, offers discussion for feminist activists interested in networking and discussion. Send the message sub praxnex yourfirst name yourlast name to listserv@uvvm.uvic.ca

RURAL AFRICAN WOMEN’S FOOD FUEL AND FEED ON LINE NETWORK (RAWFFFOL) offers an online newsletter of “practical suggestions for rural African women to improve their lives,” full of news on such topics as food driers, sorghum for firewood, and production of kenaf. Send the message subscribe rawfffol to eafide@seark.net

WISE-L, a project of WISE, the European feminist studies organization founded in 1990, is a new list “open to all women doing women’s studies in Europe or on European topics.” Send the message sub wise-l yourfirst name yourlast name to listserv@listserv.fundet.fi

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WOMEN IN COMPUTING HISTORY hopes to "augment traditional resources of women’s history and histories of computing by being a repository for women’s own stories throughout the history of computing.” Send the message subscribe in the Subject line to witch-request@niestu.com

WOMENSSPACE mailing list is intended for women who are helping women's groups get online. Sharing of projects, resources, women-friendly training programs, and the like will be topics for discussion. Send the message subscribe womenspace to majordomo@WomenSpace.nsis.com

WOMYNWIT is a closed list for women professors in the field of adult education. Send the message subscribe womynwit yourfirstname yourlastname to listserv@tamvm1.tamu.edu or write to the list owner at womynwit-request@tamu.edu

ELECTRONIC JOURNALS/ M eğazines

[Listings in this section are actual online publications; some periodical titles in the general World Wide Web section offer only sample articles, tables of contents, or basic information such as subscription prices.

Please note also that our office's web page is a collecting point for women-focused sites, particularly magazines, newsletters, and journals with web presences consisting of more than an advertisement. To date, about ninety-five publications have links from this section of our site: http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/mags.htm]

ATHENA reviews books and music by and for women on a monthly basis. It includes reader commentary, an archive of past reviews, and a “women’s bookstore” (actually Amazon.com, a huge online generic bookseller) for ordering (plus email links to feminist bookstores). Address: http://www.manzione.com:80/ATHENA/

DOUBLE X focuses "on the importance of women’s involvement in all facets of cyberspace." A collection of Montreal women exploring new technologies offers a page that includes articles, news, plus arts and interview sections, all in both English and French. Address: http://www.internauts.ca/~studioxx/mainhas.html

XX EMPOWERED YOUNG FEMALES, edited by Kim Whiting and published in Colorado Springs, Colorado (U.S.), is aimed at teen readers. The first online issue carries 15 satirical tips to “Maximize Your Misery,” an article on "Amazing Athletes," an interview with a television anchor, plus more. The magazine actually pays contributors. Phone them at 1-888-TEENMAG or check their website: http://www.cyf.com/

GO, GIRL! is a biweekly magazine “dedicated to getting women of all ages and fitness levels involved in sports.” Features, profiles of girls and women in sports, news clips, and a variety of links to other resources are found here. Address: http://www.gogirlmag.com/

NETWORK is the online newsletter of the Canadian Women’s Health Network. A sample issue includes articles on the “cancer gene” and a Montreal resource for homeless women, an interview with the Director General of Canada’s Women’s Health Bureau, a listing of resources on the Internet and elsewhere, and information about the Health Network. Address: http://www.web.net/cwhn/network/newslett.htm1

NEWCOM COLLEGE CENTER FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN NEWSLETTER is fully available online, with articles in the Fall 1996 issue on the Center’s third decade, dating abuse at Tulane University, teaching ideology, Russian history, and more. The address: http://www.Tulane.EDU/~wc/text/newsletter/f96/

ONYX WOMAN, edited by Ola Jackson (Jackson Publishing and Communications), is both an online and print publication on "the professional and personal development for women of color." The issue we found carried an article on three businesswomen, news of the SisterReach project (an outreach program on breast cancer), a brief piece on professional clothing styles, and a newsbit on a model turned restaurant owner. Address: http://www.onyxwoman.com/index.htm1

WOMAN is a new monthly publication available both online and in print. Editor Barbara Walton has gathered for the December 1996 issue features on depression treatment, investment advice, and nurse midwives, plus poetry, fiction, announcements, and a book review. Subscription to the online version costs $8; print version costs $12/yr. ($1.50 per single issue). Online address: http://www.toolcity.net/~lmasung/woman.html

WOMEN ONLINE NEWS began its life as a networking/announcements list for San Francisco area women, but grew to a global list and is now a mailing list - and companion online newsletter carrying new items features (such as how to use mailing lists), cartoons, profiles of women using information technology, reader response, news clips, and more. Address: http://www.women-online.com/
WORLD WIDE WEB SITES

AFRICA-WOMEN is the title of a site listing resources on African women south of the Sahara, part of a much larger collection of links put together at Stanford University Libraries' Academic Information Resources. Address: http://www-sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/women.html

AMAZONCITY is the commercial site for digital amazon, an online-assistance business that nonetheless has a number of interesting features on its Web page, including a chat network and a "museum of women in science" that includes brief biographies with links to more detailed information. Address: http://www.amazoncity.com/

ANTIGONE is the title of the web page for the Association of American Law Schools' section on women in legal education. Address: http://lawlibdns.wuacc.edu/wlegedu/

BOOKS AND MAGS is a weekly feature of the Women's Wire website, with book and periodical reviews by senior editor Katharine Mieszkowski. Take a look at: http://www.women.com/buzz/books.html

BRIDGES journal for Jewish feminists has a Web presence that includes sample articles, archives, links to related resources, subscription information, and a community bulletin board. Address: http://weber.u.washington.edu/~jowen/bridges/index.html

Several CHINESE-LANGUAGE WOMEN'S SITES in Taiwan are available on the Web. A general site with a variety of information is Women's Space: http://taiwan.csie.ntu.edu.tw/b5/yam/cult/female/ (and an English-language summary of content, with links to Chinese-language sites, may be found at: http://taiwan.csie.ntu.edu.tw/en/yam/cult/female/). An English listing of Taiwanese NGOs appears at: http://www.tgwwc.org.tw/list.html

The COLLEGE MUSIC SOCIETY’S MUSIC, WOMEN, AND GENDER ISSUES committee offers a Web page with information about the committee and its activities. Address: http://www.music.org/f&d/gender.html

Jane Cravens' COYOTE COMMUNICATIONS page offers free "tip sheets" for nonprofit organizations wanting to use online technologies, especially the Web. Address: http://www.coyotecom.com/

CYBERDYKE LOVE STORIES offers opportunity to connect via long-distance email. Not much is posted yet, but there's at least one tale of false identity. Address: http://www.lesbian.org/cyberdyke-love/

The CYBERMOM DOT COM pages offer a plethora of information and chat space. A house "floorplan" takes you to such rooms as "The Powder Room" (health and beauty), "The Backyard" (garden and outdoor info), "The Family Room" (reviews, seasonal crafts and decorating, stories, etc.), and "The Playroom" (software, websites, and computer products for kids), with a chat forum connected to each. Address: http://www.TheCyberMom.com/pages/map.html

The EFA-WOMEN MAILING LISTS FAQ page from Electronic Frontiers Australia carries information specific to its mailing lists but in addition offers lots of definitions and links to resources on general Internet topics, such as IRCs, MUDs, Telnet, etc. Address: http://www.efa.org.au/Issues/Women/efawfaq1.html

Calling the site "the women's white pages," FEMAIL.COM offers listings and searches of its databases "a public service provided to women and women-owned business." Address: http://www.femail.com/

FEMINIST ECONOMICS is a newer scholarly journal that has a Web presence including basic submission guidelines, subscription information, and tables of contents of current issues. Address: http://www.bucknell.edu/~jshackel/iaffe/jrinfo.html

The GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SCIENCE project at Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin, offers a Web page with a good description of its multi-year, teacher-focused program, plus a bibliography and many links to related resources. Address: http://www.beloit.edu/~gwsci/gws.html

HUES ONLINE provides a look at this inclusive magazine for young women (see review in the main section of FC), with sample articles, tables of contents, reader responses, etc. Check the extensive Links Warehouse. Address: http://www.hues.net/index3.html

The HUMAN RIGHTS LIBRARY page at the University of Minnesota includes full text of several documents related to women's rights, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1981) and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women resolution (1993). Check under "Treaties and Other Instruments" at their main address: http://www.umn.edu/humanrts/treaties.htm

NEW MOON, the magazine for and by girls ages eight to fourteen, includes on its Web pages some sample articles, brief bio of the girl editors, a short history of the magazine, subscription information, and more. Address: http://www.newmoon.org/about.html

The PROSTITUTES' EDUCATION NETWORK website offers a wide variety of information, from statistics to bibliographies to workers' rights organizations and other related links. Highlighted is "The San Francisco Task Force on Prostitution Final Report" (March 1996). Address: http://www.creative.net/~penet/

SMASH aims at negative body images in women. Its home page includes "Articles and Rants," links to other sites on...

SOUTH AFRICA WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING has a regularly updated website that provides basic information about the organization, some links to related websites, an online newsletter, and other information. Address (sometimes hard to access): http://www.sea.uct.ac.za/sawise/

Spinifex Press of North Melbourne, Australia, has received grant funding to develop a network of websites for small, independent, WOMEN-FOCUSED PUBLISHERS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC region. While site development is still in progress, already available is information on publishers Narigrantha Prabartana in Bangladesh and Kali for Women of India. Address of Spinifex’s host page is: http://www.peg.apc.org/~spinifex/welcomeasia.html

SUPPORT & SERVICES FOR WOMEN GROWING BUSINESSES is the title of this website, which offers marketing research tips, development resources, women of color business resources, women’s business forums, and more. The site is an offshoot of Bizwomen. Address: http://www.bizgrowth.com/

The SWEDISH WOMEN’S NET is a Swedish-language “business to business” website that seems to be full of worthwhile info (although unfortunately we can’t translate). Address: http://www.awj.se/swnn/swnh.html

TEEN VOICES: A Young Woman’s Feminist Alternative to YM, Sassy and Seventeen offers a full-resources Web page that includes a huge number of articles, plentiful links (including a whole set of activist websites and some great health-related resources), even a Classified Ad section. Address: http://www1.usa1.com/womenexp/index.html

A TURKISH-LANGUAGE WEBSITE is the project of “an autonomous women’s action-research project in Turkey.” Address: http://www.comlink.de/info-ist/kihp/

The UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MILWAUKEE’S CENTER FOR WOMEN’S STUDIES now has its own website, linked, as are all women’s studies programs at Wisconsin’s state universities, to our office’s page in the “Women’s Studies in Wisconsin” section. Their address: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/CWS/index.html

A bibliography on WOMEN COMPOSERS by Tara Guthrie carries links to a number of sites related to women’s music over many centuries, including reference works, discographies, journals, listservs, and more. Address: http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/7282/women.html#pubven

WOMEN IN HIGHER EDUCATION features on its Web page some sample articles from the newsletter, an online listing of job openings from the most recent issue, a “question of the month,” and announcement of conferences coming up in addition to many related links. Address: http://www.itis.com/wihe/

WOMEN OF NOTE QUARTERLY (“focused on information and research on women composers”) offers a Web page in relation to its print publication that includes excerpts from a recent issue (although it’s the February ’96 issue), an index of articles 1993-1996, and subscription information. Address: http://www.vivacepress.com/wnqindex.htm

WOMEN ONLINE NEWS, a companion to the email list women-online-news, carries rotating new stories about prominent online women and different aspects of online life, feature articles including “how-to” pieces and cartoons, the opportunity for reader response, and more. Developed and maintained by Amy Goodloe and Kathleen McMahon. Address: http://www.women-online.com/

WOMEN ONLINE WORLDWIDE offers to provide free Web space to nonprofit women’s organizations. The organization would need to provide html coders. For information, contact Amethyst K. Uchida, Forum Coordinator, via email to: AKUchida@aol.com or through the WOW website at: http://www.wowwomen.com/staff/index.html

The WOMEN’S BOOKSHELF page calls itself “The Cyberplace for Women’s Writing,” featuring new books by women which may then be ordered online (but from only three booksellers at present, two of them in Canada). There are also poetry and short stories to read, a message board, and links to writing-related websites. Address: http://www.womenbooks.com/

The WOMEN’S INTERNATIONAL ELECTRONIC UNIVERSITY has opened its doors on the World Wide Web. See its developing web page at: http://www.wvu.edu/~womensu/

The WOMEN’S INTERNET PROJECT offers a variety of Kenyan baskets/handbags for sale on an Internet site dreamed up while Nairobi journalist Jemimah Mwakisha and the Project’s Sandia Belgrade of California, U.S., were attending the Fourth World Conference on Women last year in Beijing. Prices range from $17 to $30 and purchase can help underemployed artisans in Kenya gain economic independence. Address: http://www.liquidblue.com/wip/

The WORLD BANK’S “EDUCATING GIRLS” website recognizes that it’s critical to economic growth and productivity, improved health, lower fertility rates, and environmental preservation to invest in girls’ education (surprise!) around the world. The address: http://ftp.worldbank.org/html/extdr/girled.htm
OTHER ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The Korean WOMEN'S COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION DATA BASE should be up and running as a telecommunication service of Seoul's Women's Information Centre. Included in the database is information on legal affairs, literature, women's organizations and activities, Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI) news, materials in English, and a debate forum. For information, contact the Institute at (122-040) 1-363 Pulgwang-dong, Eunpyong-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Our apologies once again to Joan Korenman for lousing up her women's studies email list Web address. Here is a shortened version (maybe we can get all the keystrokes right on this one!) to reach the section on electronic forums: http://www.umbc.edu/wmst/forums.html

** L.S.

WISCONSIN BIBLIOGRAPHIES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

The newest (no.76) in the series Wisconsin Bibliographies in Women's Studies is titled "Contemporary Women Novelists." Compiled by Helene Androski of the University of Wisconsin Memorial Library, the bibliography is not intended to be comprehensive, but rather notes outstanding first novelists or established novelists who have been undeservedly neglected. The bibliography is also mounted on our office's website (http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/) but single print copies are available on request for those without Web access. Contact Women's Studies Librarian, 430 Memorial Library, 728 State St., Madison, WI 53706; phone: 608-263-5754; email: wiswsl@doit.wisc.edu.

ARCHIVES

The FEMINIST ARCHIVE, BRADFORD, established in 1978, collects materials from more than twelve countries on the Women's Liberation Movement (focusing on 1969-1979). Such "grass-roots" items as badges, posters, and pamphlets are included along with books, journals, conference papers, reports, bibliographies, and AV materials. An oral history project is currently recording the voices of women active in the movement during the 1970s in Bradford and Leeds, West Yorkshire. For information, contact Marina Sarjeant at 21 Claremont, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD7 1DP, UK.

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NEW REFERENCE WORKS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

ABORTION


In my review of the first edition of this book, which covered material published between 1972 and 1989, I expressed puzzlement that a bibliography purporting to be objective had just more than double the number of entries indexed under "Pro-Life Movement" as it did for "Pro-Choice Movement." Unfortunately, this sequel covering 1990-1994 preserves the imbalance, or more accurately exaggerates it. This time there are 103 items indexed under the former, but only 41 under the latter. Twenty-six of the entries indexed under "Pro-Life Movement" are sub-headed "rescue movement in," yet material dealing with clinic bombings are systematically excluded as outside the scope (Preface, p. x). (Nevertheless, two articles are actually indexed under "Bombings, clinic," so the compilers did not always follow their own guidelines.)

Where are all the citations that would balance out the coverage from the pro-choice side? A search of Women's Resources International turns up 714 with the key term "abortion" during the years 1990-1994. While some of these citations are book reviews or review essays, the remaining citations not found in Pro-Choice/Pro-Life come from women's studies periodicals such as Women's Studies International Forum, which has published several articles on changes in abortion rights in Eastern Europe after the break-up of the Soviet Union; Women & Politics (for example, a series of articles in volume 23, no. 3/4, 1993, including Eileen Lorenzi McDonagh's "Good, Bad, and Captive Samaritans: Adding-in Pregnancy and Consent to the Abortion Debate," Jay Kantor's "Webster and the Rights to Life," and Janna Merrick's "Caring for the Fetus to Protect the Born Child: Ethical and Legal Dilemmas in Coerced Obstetrical Intervention"), and small press books, such as A Woman's Book of Choices: Abortion, Menstrual Extraction, RU-486, by Rebecca Chalker and Carol Downer (Four Walls Eight Windows, 1992).

So, once again, I would caution that although the annotations themselves are neutral, the limited representation of material from the perspective of women's studies limits the usefulness of the book.

P.H.W.

AFRICAN WOMEN


These are two of the latest entries in a field that is receiving much attention nowadays. The 521 items in the first work cover publications from 1975 to about 1993 held by several universities in southern Nigeria. These are arranged alphabetically by author into seven categories: Agriculture and Economics, National Development, Education and Training, Health, Home and Family, Labour Forces and Work Place, and General. The work is completed by author and subject indexes.

Several of this work's particular characteristics need to be mentioned. Despite its title, as many as one-quarter of the entries are not in fact annotated. There is also very little on Nigerian women in public life, a surprising omission in a country where women have long been influential in just this sphere. Many of the citations are to unpublished materials such as conference papers, theses, and dissertations. While this is a useful service, it tends to tantalize users outside Nigeria rather than inform them. What is needed is a national clearinghouse where such materials are collected, publicized, and disseminated on demand so that citations in works such as this are not invariably dead ends. Finally, Azikiwe includes remarkably few of the many hundreds of studies of Nigerian women published during this period in Britain and the United States.

These are not necessarily all handicaps, but it is a disadvantage that none of them is indicated by the title, nor for that matter does Azikiwe mention them in her brief preface. In the circumstances, the use of such an umbrella title is likely to mislead and disappoint potential users.
This third edition of the South African bibliography supersedes rather than supplements previous editions. Only South African publications in English or Afrikaans are included and the period covered extends back to the early twentieth century.

Entries number between 3000 and 3500 and are organized into 10 categories alphabetically by author (or title if necessary), as follows: Domestic Relations, Politics and Community, Economic Activity, Well Woman, Violence, Language and Learning, Religion, Life History, Theory and Method, and Bibliographies. Books, articles, and other papers are included, but not government and non-governmental (NGO) publications, which presumably would have made the work intolerably cumbersome. Although the table of contents lists an author index, my copy had only a two-page “Personality Index,” which is not listed in the contents. If a universal case, this would be a serious drawback.

This compilation, too, includes very many unpublished materials, which prompts the same caveat as with Azikiwe’s work—that this can be an extremely useful contribution if it stimulates measures to provide wider access to these materials. If not, it smacks of the tragic.

Clearly, there are both similarities and differences between the content and organization of these two works. The South African bibliography is the more valuable because it covers a longer period and includes about six times the number of citations in the work on Nigeria. On the other hand, both works feature real but unnoted restrictions on their coverage. Entries in the South African work are not numbered, an expedient of great value in indexing, although, as noted, indexing is one of its problems.

Both works are strong on ephemeral materials, but ahead of their time inasmuch as means of gaining access to these should precede, or at least accompany, such massive indications of their existence. The prefaces in each work, but especially that by Azikiwe, are inadequate, failing to provide readers with sufficient orientation to method and content. Reference compilers often seem to believe—wrongly—that the fruits of their labor are so formalistic and unproblematic as not to require instruction and guidance to users. Like translations, bibliographies and other reference works are actually middle-grade interpretations, whose users need to know how they came about and not only what they came to be. In ensuring this, publishers have a central gatekeeping role.

Neither of these works precludes the need for further, more comprehensive, bibliographies of African women. Most that have appeared in the last decade are much less effective than they should be. Just the same, users interested in women in Nigeria or South Africa can benefit from these, and might even be encouraged to emulate and surpass them. My guess is that such an eventuality would please all the compilers involved, whose labors, I feel sure, have been intended to stimulate further interest in the subjects at hand, and at every level.

[David Henige is Bibliographer of African Studies and Anthropology for the University of Wisconsin-Madison General Library System.]

ARTISTS

In these days of “everything” available online, a book like Abstract Expressionist Women Painters: An Annotated Bibliography seems obsolete at first glance, offering as it does a printed list of citations. A more careful consideration of the bibliography reveals its unique strength: it would be impossible for even the most well-connected researcher to compile as complete a set of resources on women abstract expressionists without leaving their computer terminal and traveling to a large number of libraries and archives.

The bibliography includes a thorough listing of archival materials, books, exhibition catalogs, and periodical articles on the careers of six women artists: Elaine de Kooning, Helen Frankenthaler, Grace Hartigan, Lee Krasner, Joan Mitchell, and Ethel Miriam Greenwald.
Schwabacher. There is far more material on Helen Frankenthaler than on any of the others, since her listings take up approximately 125 of the book's 361 pages.

Arranged in alphabetical order by artist, each section begins with a photograph of the artist, a short biographical essay, and a photograph of one of her works. The listings of archival resources follow, not exceeding a page-and-a-half for any of the women. Some attempt is made at indicating the volume of archival material available at each site, but only in rather general terms, such as "material on Hartigan is included in 10 collections" or "two small folders" (p.175).

The annotated citations thereafter are arranged first by year, in reverse chronological order, and then by document type, e.g., 1954, Books & Catalogs, Periodicals; 1953, Books & Catalogs, Periodicals. One of my minor quibbles with the book is that I would prefer to have all the periodical listings together, and all the books together, rather than having to search each category for each year. The citations cover roughly forty years, from about 1950-1990, for each artist. One of the values of Abstract Expressionist Women Painters to a researcher is that many of the sources listed are not indexed in electronic format for large portions of this time period. Another strength is its coverage of exhibition catalogs, which are sometimes cataloged as books, sometimes kept in ephemera files, so not always easily accessible.

The annotations outline the subject content of the sources presented, indicating presence or lack of illustrations in each cited source and whether the images are black-and-white or in color, which is useful in an art reference book.

Finally, it seems only fair to point out the only other "flaw" of Abstract Expressionist Women Painters, which is that the scope of the book is extremely narrow, covering only six women artists. If you happen to be interested in one of the six, however, this is truly a wonderful resource.

[Debra Shapiro is Picture Research Coordinator for the Pleasant Company Corporate Library in Middleton, Wisconsin.]

FEMINIST THEORY


Nordquist's latest bibliography in the Social Theory series focuses on postmodernism, an important influence on feminist theory touched on briefly in her earlier compilation, Feminist Theory: A Bibliography (1992). In the present work she greatly expands and updates coverage of this timely topic.

Five main sections cover general works, poststructuralism, reconstruction, specific disciplines (e.g., law, education, literature), and Michel Foucault. Within each of these, listings are subdivided by books and articles, the former including not only published works but also dissertations and master's theses, the latter articles from both journals and books. Coverage is current; most of the 528 total entries are from the 1990s, including a number from 1996. All entries are English language, and material on the fine arts and performing arts was not included. An introduction explaining postmodernism's relevance to feminism is helpful, as is a list of bibliographic sources consulted, which includes a good selection of print, online and CD-ROM indexes in women's studies and related specialized and interdisciplinary fields. A cumulated author index might facilitate use and could surely be easily provided.

While some overlap with the series' earlier lists exists, its concentration on much-sought-after postmodernist topics and currency make this one a useful reference tool.

[Willa Schmidt is a reference librarian at University of Wisconsin-Madison's Memorial Library.]

LAW


This book is a bargain. Women's Legal Guide, edited by Barbara Hauser with Julie Tigges, is filled with information to guide a woman through legal issues from birth to death, addressing areas of the law a woman is most likely to encounter during her lifetime. The front cover advertisement, boasting, "A Comprehensive Guide to Legal Issues Affecting Every Woman," is true. The cost for this magnificent amount of legal information, all clearly stated, is a mere $22.95.

The guide is arranged by twenty-five chapters on various topics from choosing a lawyer to sports, to disabilities, to real estate, to legal aspects of death and more. The chapters, by twenty-nine women lawyers, are largely written so the novice layperson and the experienced attorney can both learn. The information is reliable and the prose readable, enhanced by a glossary of legal terms, a list of general resources, and an index. This book also shows the human side of the law. Jacqueline Miller begins her chapter on "Divorce" by stating, "For many
women, their first contact with the legal system occurs when their marriage breaks up. Important issues affecting the future well-being of a woman and her children need to be addressed at a time when a woman’s energy and emotional strength is frequently taxed to the maximum by the events surrounding the breakup of her marriage. Unfortunately, a woman often has to live with the consequences of choices made under those stressful conditions for many years. A basic understanding of divorce law and procedure can help a woman make decisions that will be in her best interest over the long term” (pp.142-143). Miller’s chapter provides sound legal advice combined with compassion for the woman facing an uncertain future.

I found Marcia Kuntz’s chapter on “Legal Rights of Lesbian Women” to be delightfully opinionated. Her anger concerning the legal “persecution” of lesbians is evident (p.242). So is her good scholarship. The information she provides is in no way compromised by her passionate discourse.

The audience for Women’s Legal Guide need not be limited to women. The emphasis on women’s special legal needs is good and important. The legal information is useful to both men and women, and we all can be enlightened by examining how women may interact with the legal system. Moreover, it’s rare to find such an abundance of good, cheap legal information!

[Margery E. Katz is a Library Consultant based in Madison, Wisconsin.]

MUSIC


Any compilation of composers reflects the struggle to decide on the criteria for inclusion. Existing biographical sources of women composers generally acknowledge their scope as defined by Western classical tradition, bringing into question the line between popular and classical music. The International Encyclopedia of Women Composers by Aaron Cohen (Bowker, 2nd ed. 1987) is by far the most comprehensive biographical reference source on women composers, but does not include popular songwriters of this century. Claghorn has updated his work Women Composers and Hymnists: A Concise Biographical Dictionary (Scarecrow, 1984) by changing the focus from sacred music to inclusion of secular works not only in the classical tradition, but also blues, jazz, rock, gospel, country, and other popular styles. In the process, though, Claghorn has dropped a number of entries from the earlier edition, resulting in a book of approximately equal length. The alphabetical listing of short biographies covers women from Amy Beach to Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, as well as such popular songwriters as Joan Baez, Dolly Parton, Courtney Love, Janet Jackson, Queen Latifah, Melissa Etheridge, Mahalia Jackson, and Ma Rainey.

Each entry begins with the name of the composer, dates of birth and death, and the title of one work for which the artist is well-known. A short biography follows a classification such as hymnist, or guitarist/singer/songwriter, or composer/violinist. Selected works are mentioned as well as recording or composition achievements. While such a comprehensive reference source including both classical and popular women composers is welcome, Claghorn’s work disappoints by failing to provide further context and perspective. He makes no attempt to distinguish the relative importance of the composers within their historical period or genre, and provides no additional information such as appendices with chronological listings or bibliographies.

Though this listing is helpful as a quick reference source for both classical and popular musicians, for further depth in each genre I would recommend other reference works. The Pandora Guide to Women Composers by Sophie Fuller (Pandora, 1994) and Women Composers by Diane Jezic (Feminist Press, 1994) give more biographical information as well as other resources and chronological/historical information on women composers in the classical tradition. American Women Songwriters: A Biographical Dictionary by Virginia L. Grattan (Greenwood, 1993) provides an arrangement by genre (e.g. pop/rock, blues, folk, hymnists), beginning each section with an introduction to the tradition of that genre. It includes longer biographies, an extensive bibliography, a song title index, and places women popular music artists in a historical perspective lacking in Claghorn’s Dictionary.

[Carrie Kruse is a public services librarian at College Library, University of Wisconsin-Madison.]

PSYCHOLOGY


The lessons derived from university course work often provide the most vital link between understanding a given field and accessing related resources outside academia. The development of critical thinking through various exercises, research, and analysis, then, can frame the services and real-world action that women and those invested in women’s services must rely on. Michele Paludi’s manual Exploring/Teaching The Psychology of Women serves as a conduit both for students studying the psychology of women in a formal classroom atmosphere and for anyone interested in resources available on issues of womanhood.
As an instructor at Hunter College, Paludi created *The Psychology of Women* to serve as both a textbook and general information source on the topic. Theories, research methodologies, and other topics are presented in that text. The first edition of the accompanying exploring/teaching manual of resources (SUNY Press, 1990) closely followed the undergraduate course curriculum, providing sample lecture outlines, assignments, and evaluations. However, this most recent manual, also intended as a course supplement, serves not only the student but also those looking for “a manual of resources.” Divided into four categories exploring critical thinking, the integration of knowledge, multicultural learning, and additional resources for teaching the psychology of women course, this manual provides bibliographic and location lists for a variety of formats and scopes. Updated audiovisual material sources, networking services, and information on women’s political organizations comprise a large portion of the text.

The manual itself is quite brief at 125 pages and the level of indexing is minimal (approximately two percent of the lines of text are indexed). However, the primary purpose of this text remains teaching and integrating the psychology of women into the minds and realities of students; for addition to general women’s studies collections, it should be regarded as a supplemental rather than primary handbook.

[Molly Panko is finishing her second year of Master’s Degree work at the School of Library and Information Studies, the University of Wisconsin-Madison.]

### SCIENCE


Ranging widely across time, place, and specialty, the Shearers present an intriguing collection of ninety-seven essays on women scientists from many fields of biology and medicine. Although most of the essays cover American women from the twentieth century, the scientists included extend from Aspasia, a second-century Graeco-Roman physician, and the natural philosopher Abbess Harrad of Landsberg (fl. 1150’s-1195) to Lin Ch’iao-chih (1901-1983), another physician and “one of the most beloved figures in the People’s Republic of China”. Twenty of the essays feature women who are not Americans. Ten more include women life scientists who were born after 1940, and who, by and large, are not yet indexed in the authoritative biographical index, *American Men and Women of Science* (New York: R.R. Bowker, 19th ed. [1995/96]). While most of the historical figures covered were often involved in medicine as physicians or anatomists or were practitioners in what was called “natural philosophy,” the twentieth-century subjects are involved in fields as disparate as biomechanics, genetics, cancer research, and various ecological studies.

Although there is significant overlap in coverage (forty-nine out of the ninety-seven entries) with Martha J. Bailey’s much larger and more specialized biographical dictionary, *American Women in Science* (Denver: ABC-CLIO, 1994), the longer narrative essays in the Shearers’ work are distinguished by a literary style and content that places the women in the context of their times and cultures. (Bailey’s brief accounts, in contrast, are more a listing of credentials in education, honors, and writings.) The contributors to Shearers’ “dictionary” precede their contextual narratives with a chronological listing of important events in the subject’s life and conclude with a more personal bibliographic selection of sources. (Bailey included only short bibliographies, mostly drawn from collective biographies.) The narratives in *Notable Women* have been written by sixty-three practicing scientists and researchers, many of them science librarians and writers. Most of the contemporary women included were also interviewed, often by telephone or email, giving each of these contributions a vivid, personal flavor. With its deftly written, inspirational essays, *Notable Women in the Life Sciences* is an excellent addition to undergraduate, public library, or high school collections that wish to provide patrons with more than a straight factual reference source.

Following the “dictionary” listing of subjects, the Shearers include two appendices listing the scientists by field and awards received, an index, and the list of contributors with their credentials.

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For years, it seems, we lived in a scientific world where women were invisible. As the Women’s Movement...
gradually led to broader acceptance of the presence and importance of women in a variety of roles, publishing by and about women in science greatly increased. Marilyn Bailey Ogilvie’s annotated bibliography Women and Science, with its more than 2,600 entries, is an important exposition of women’s place in many scientific fields and across many centuries.

Ogilvie, author of a biographical dictionary Women in Science: Antiquity through the Nineteenth Century (MIT Press, 1986), is well-qualified to provide a comprehensive guide to sources on the history of the relationship between women and science. Her annotations in particular bear this out. Most are succinct summaries of the works at hand, routinely including the nature of the publication (i.e., Master’s thesis, obituary notice, or memorial) and mention of an index, references, or illustrations. Others include evaluative comments (“an uncritical biography...,” “highlights of her life, but dwelling on none,” and “a derivate account...mistakes in bibliography”). The bibliography also includes some material in languages other than English.

Ogilvie examines the subjects of her bibliography from six different angles: scientific fields, nationality, periods, persons and institutions, reference sources, and themes - while the basic organizational arrangement is alphabetical by author.

Hardly any scientific field is left uncovered. A glance at the Fields Index itself gives a cursory overview of areas of science in which women are most represented: science, medicine, mathematics, technology, and astronomy. Yet more esoteric fields like eugenics and pteridology are also included. It is unclear why some professional specializations have their own “field” (for example, anatomy or endocrinology) while others don’t (pediatrics or epidemiology). I was also startled to find fields called Art and Literature; if consistently included in this bibliography, they should have received more than one reference each.

As for other bibliographic entry points, the Nationality Index (though materials are predominantly English-language or translations) provides a quick overview of the nationalities represented and can serve as an initial stepping stone for research. The Periods Index spans antiquity to the twentieth century. Going beyond the names of women included in the bibliography, the Persons and Institutions Index also embraces names of men dealt with in feminist critique, such as Isaac Newton, Jonathan Swift, or Plato. The Reference Index, oddly, includes only four references to encyclopedias. The work concludes with the Themes Index, a useful first stop for students, researchers, and librarians seeking information about a particular spectrum of women and science.

Women and Science is an important reference tool filling a need for additional bibliographic access to secondary sources. Moreover, it helps make clear the amazing contributions of women in the sciences. At the same time, there are obviously chapters yet to be written.

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT


Sandler’s name is well-known and respected in the women’s studies community. As Director of the Project on the Status and Education of Women at the Association of American Colleges, she alerted academia to the “chilly climate” for women on campuses, and to the presence of sexual harassment and sexual assault as well. She is now associated with the National Association for Women in Education, working on these and other women’s issues in American colleges and universities. Her co-editor is a professor of educational law (Kansas State University) and along with many publications on the topic, he brings to this work experience producing videos on the elimination of sexual harassment. They have assembled a variety of experts from law, college administration, education, psychology, and counseling to address what can be done to prevent sexual harassment or to respond when it happens.

Sandler and Shoop’s introduction states that sexual harassment is more than a “people problem,” which is how too many university administrators regard it. The authors see it as an organizational and managerial problem, which is foreseeable and predictable and therefore can be reduced through a well-planned program. Having a policy in place does not constitute a program. They define sexual harassment as “unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature” when a person’s employment or academic advancement could be affected by submission or rejection, or where the conduct interferes with a person’s work or academic performance, or creates an “intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, learning, or social environment” (p.4). The introduction further describes the context for such harassment.

Shoop next contributes a chapter on the legal implications for sexual harassment on campuses, followed by Sandler’s on student-to-student harassment and Brenda Seals’ on faculty-to-faculty harassment. Other chapters cover elements of a good policy and program, aspects of the complaint process, mediation, “consensual” relationship-ship, cross-cultural issues, and more. Denise Dalaimo brings the work right up to the minute with her personal account of sexual harassment through email and an examination of a successful response.
program at MIT, called Stopit. Victims are encouraged to report online harassment to a special email address. Alleged perpetrators are then sent a form message stating that "Someone using your account did [whatever the offense is].... Account holders are responsible for the use of their accounts. If you were unaware that your account was being used in this way, it may have been compromised" (p.100).

Most recipients of the message report that their account has been compromised, and these accounts rarely generate subsequent harassing messages.

Each of the book's chapters makes use of underlined section headers, and bulleted lists where appropriate. Both these design features help busy administrators and others skim for information most relevant to their need of the moment. Unfortunately, the book lacks an overall index, which would have made this even easier. In some respects, though, it may be better not to be able to jump immediately to a particular page, as sexual harassment is complex, and reading the entire book - or at least an entire chapter - provides depth and meaning to the advice given. This book is highly recommended for all college libraries and administrative offices.

P.H.W.

WRITERS


Gathering together a "library of literary criticism" on over 570 modern women writers from 71 countries, editor and compiler Lillian Robinson has achieved the goal of comprehensiveness in terms of representation. Selecting women who have written primarily in the twentieth century, she has chosen authors from a broad range of genres, backgrounds, and styles. Although women from English-speaking cultural backgrounds (the U.S., UK and Ireland, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand) make up almost half the writers chosen, the rest of the world is covered as well. Western Europeans make up 23 percent of the remaining writers, with much smaller proportions from Eastern Europe and Russia, the Middle East including North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, the rest of Africa, and Asia. Although poetry and general fiction account for most selections, a few who write mystery, science fiction, or children's literature are included.

Perhaps the most salient characteristic to note about this collection is that each entry consists only of name, country, birth date (and death date, if applicable), followed by a lengthy section of excerpts from the critical literature on the subject. Biographical or publication information is found only incidentally in the criticism. The authors included are represented by at least two critical excerpts, but usually many more (Virginia Woolf has thirty). If the writer has had a long career, the selections reflect the changing nature of the commentary over time. Mary McCarthy's twenty-five selections range from 1942, when Malcolm Cowley considered her prose not "very well put together," to a 1992 review where Carol Brightman talks about "the characters the reader meets in nearly all her fiction." In contrast, poet Claribel Alegria of Nicaragua and El Salvador has only four long selections, two of them translated for this volume. These longer selections for the lesser-known writers tend to put the authors' writing more within a context of life and work.

The criticism comes from such disparate sources as newspaper and scholarly journal reviews, book-length biographies, monographs of literary criticism, surveys of literature, and commentaries by other known authors.

At the end of volume four, a twenty-six-page section lists acknowledgments for publishing permissions as well as an index of critics cited.

Robinson's work stands alone in its comprehensive coverage of international women writers. While most of the American and British writers can be found in other, more specialized compilations such as The Oxford Companion to Women's Writing in the U.S. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995), The Oxford Guide to British Women Writers (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), or American Women Writers (New York: Unger, 1979-1994), Robinson's selection of international women authors is unique.

This compilation would be most useful as a supplemental reference in a comprehensive modern literature collection. Most students would need to have other reference books on the writers to provide basic information about their lives and work, such as the St. James series reference books Contemporary World Writers, 2nd edition (Detroit: St. James, 1993), Contemporary Novelists, 6th edition (Detroit: St. James, 1996), or the Magill series, Critical Survey of Long Fiction: English Language Series (Pasadena: Salem Press, 1991) and Critical Survey of Long Fiction: Foreign Language Series (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Salem Press, 1984). Since so many of these women writers are not found in the primary reference sources, without the biographical information, this compilation will be of interest primarily to specialists.

NOTES


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New and Newly Discovered Periodicals


The eighteen pages of this quarterely include several stories about VBAC (vaginal birth after cesarean) births, news clips about the prevalence of cesareans and research on the topic, the perspective of a midwife, reviews of related publications, organizational news, and letters.

**CRITICAL INQUEERIES** 1995-. Eds.: Steven Angelides, Craig Bird. 2/yr.? AUD$26 (indiv. in Aus., 2 issues); US$23 (indiv. outside Aus.); AUD$40 (inst. in Aus.); US$33 (inst. outside Aus.). Single copy: US$14 (indiv. outside Aus.); US$19 (inst. outside Aus.). ISSN 1323-6989. P.O. Box 4472, Parkville, Australia, 3052. Email: c.bird@arts.unimelb.edu.au (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, September 1995)

The first issue of this “fully-refereed journal,” Australia’s “first (and only) journal of queer theory” (letter from the eds.), carries a number of articles and reviews by women writers. Among them: “From Parody to Politics: Bodily Inscriptions and Performative Subversions in The Crying Game” (Bronwyn Morkham); “Returns and Escapes: Luce Irigaray and Lesbian Utopics” (Catherine Driscoll); and “Que(e)rying Straight Sex” (Wei Leng Kwok). Tables of contents and article abstracts are available on the World Wide Web: http://www.arts.unimelb.edu.au/projects/inQueeries/queeries.htm

**XX EMPOWERED** 1996-. Publisher: Kim Whiting. 6/yr. $25.95 (2 yrs.). Single copy: $3.95. P.O. Box 1236, Colorado Springs, CO 80901. Website: http://www.cyf.com. (Issue examined: December/January 1996)

This incredibly glossy, seventy-five-page magazine (“the magazine for young females,” says the subtitle) with lots of full color pages is, according to the publisher, “about the strength, intelligence, love and power that girls have to offer...girls of all colors, shapes, sizes and styles” (inside cover). Teenage vegetarianism (with accompanying list of resources), women in “cool careers” such as artist and airline pilot, anorexia, judo, and alternative fashions are some of the topics covered in articles written by girls in this magazine, which is “about more than catching a guy and keeping him happy” (inside cover).

**GENDERReview** 1994-. Ed.-in-chief: Dorothy Munyakho. 4/yr. Ksh400 (Kenya); US$40 (rest of Africa); US$60 (elsewhere). Interlink Rural Information Service (IRIS), P.O. Box 12871, Nairobi, Kenya. Email: iris@elci.gn.apc.org (Issue examined: v.3, no.3, September 1996)

Seeking “to tackle development problems of Kenyan women not only from a general point of view, but more from a policy and legal perspective” (back cover), this forty-page magazine includes articles on anti-violence protests, food security, cancer awareness, AIDS and young women, use of a Nigerian drug (qat), the male role in fertility, and more.


Subtitled “Information for Enlightened Choices,” this eight-page newsletter offers concise articles on several topics per issue. The sample copy includes these: Alzheimer’s disease and estrogen, polycystic ovary syndrome, tai chi exercise, hemorrhoids, home pregnancy tests, and heart disease risk.


This eight-page newsletter carries the wisdom and accumulated knowledge of a physician whose practice has centered on women. The sample issue includes a lengthy article by Northrup on women’s “cyclic wisdom” and the connection between PMS and SAD (Seasonal Affective Disorder). Her advice includes meditation, possibly natural progesterone, getting more light, a nutritional diet, and exercise. The doctor also answers letters and prints “Wisdom from Readers.”


The only women writers in this new journal appear within a discussion (“Identity and Ideas: A Roundtable on Identity Politics”) and a book review on Bisexual Politics.
Other topics include gay men in the workplace, censorship by the “theocratic right,” memories about a gay fraternity brother, and an introduction to the series.

**A LEADERSHIP JOURNAL: WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP - SHARING THE VISION 1996-.** Eds.: Linda B. Salane, Trudie Kibbe Reed. 2/yr. $49; $39 (students); $59 (outside U.S.). Single copy: $52. ISSN 1088-5188. The Leadership Institute, Columbia College, P.O. Box 3815, Columbia, SC 29220-9963. (Issue examined: v.1, no.1, Summer 1996)

Designed for women leaders “from a wide array of leadership fields,” this hefty journal (138 pages) embeds its content in a “community-based leadership approach” that is facilitated by and through relationships” (p.1). Of the eleven articles and five book reviews, some sample titles are: “A Nested Theory of Conflict” (Maire A. Dugan); “Sharing the Vision: Leadership as Friendship and Feminist Care Ethics” (Gerri Perreault); “Entrepreneurial Leadership” (Barbara K. Mistick); and “Transformative Leadership for Culturally Pluralistic Realities” (Geneva Gay).

**LESBIANS ON THE LOOSE 1990-.** Eds.: Barbara Farrelly, Frances Rand. 12/yr. $30 (Aust.); $50 (elsewhere). ISSN 1324-6542. P.O. Box 798 Newtown 2042, Australia. Email: lotl@ozemail.com.au. (Issues examined: v.7, no.10, October 1996; v.7, no.11, November 1996)

Each fifty-page issue of this slick-cover Australian monthly offers a variety of features, columns, newsbits, reviews, and classifieds. Features note personalities and news in Australia and beyond, such as auto-mechanic-turned-super-model Jenny Shimizu; a media star’s after-death confessions; fiction writer Kirsty Machon; a young lesbian’s leaving her circus family; and Australia’s first national health conference for lesbians, gays, and bisexuals.


“The Indispensable Guide to Women’s Travel” is this magazine’s subtitle, and its sixty-four pages are filled with departments such as Business Travel, Cultural Pearls (film festivals in this issue), Adventure Travel, and Travel with Children as well as articles and an adventure/tour directory. Article topics in the sample issue: a traveler’s first cross-country bike ride, spas in the U.S. and abroad, and traveling in Mexico.


Reclaiming the wisdom of the goddess Metis, who was swallowed by Zeus in Greek mythology, this interdisciplinary journal “encourages a language of ‘new scholarship’ that integrates passion and critical analysis in well-crafted writing” (p.3). Among the eight articles and two poems are: “Radical Nonduality in Ecofeminist Philosophy” (Charlene Spretnak); “Thealogy Begins in Experience” (Carol P. Christ); and “Exploring Desire from a Spiritual Perspective” (Diane Mariechild).


The eight-page sample issue includes a variety of brief articles and tidbits offering advice for staying home with youngsters, such as dealing with kids’ trailing shoelaces, handling dirty towels, trading babysitting, making alphabet cards, dealing with too much school artwork, and reducing the fat content in baked goods (substitute applesauce!).

**THE OPEN DOOR 1995-.** 4/yr. $20 (suggested donation). C4 Site 20 RR 2, Burns Lake, B.C., Canada V0J 1E0. (Issues examined: Summer Solstice 1996; Fall Equinox 1996)

Within the twelve- to fourteen-page sample issues of this “Newsletter for Rural Feminists and Lesbians” (subtitle) are a variety of items, from editorials to poetry to news tidbits, books reviews, short fiction, graphics, an article on safe sex, “ads” from other feminist enterprises, and letters from readers.
Within its seventeen pages, this seven-by-eight-and-a-half-inch magazine carries the same content as its Web version (see "Computer Talk" this issue): brief articles on depression in women, women writers working on illiteracy, cartoonist Patty Leidy, travel in Costa Rica, connecting dreams and values, and keeping financial records; plus poetry, a continuing short story, a review, a cooking page, and more.


“The Role of Women in United Nations Peace-keeping” is the subject of this issue of a newsletter “published to promote the goals of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action.” Within its ten pages of documented research, the sample issue examines the historical absence of women in the military of most countries and the United Nations, then looks at the possibility that women’s presence in peace-keeping forces may contribute to more effective peace-keeping for a number of reasons.

**Special Issues of Periodicals**


Noting that ninety percent of war victims are civilians, mostly women and children, this issue focuses on “the brutalities women are subjected to and the resources they are creatively employing to overcome these barbarities” (p.3). Among the fifteen articles are: “UN Peacekeepers and Cultures of Violence” (Anne Betts Fetherston); “Reinventing Tradition: The Women’s Law” (Rosalva Aida Hernandez Castillo); “War and Domestic Violence” (Elizabeth Colson); “Sexual Coercion and Torture in Former Yugoslavia” (Maria Oluvic); and “Women as Refugees: Perspectives from Burma” (Hazel Lang).

**HARVARD EDUCATIONAL REVIEW** v.66, no.2, Spring 1996: “Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgendered People in Education.” Guest eds.: Vitka Eisen, Irene Hall. Subscriptions: $39 (indiv., U.S.); $46 (indiv., Canada); $57 (indiv., elsewhere); $26 (students in degree program); $78 (inst., U.S.); $85 (inst., Canada); $96 (inst., elsewhere). Single copy (this issue): $12. ISSN 0017-8055. Gutman Library Suite 349, 6 Appian Way, Cambridge, MA 02138. (Issue examined)

The opening article carries seven “Youth Voices” on the special topic; other articles include: “Stone Butch Celebration: A Transgender-Inspired Revolution in Academia” (Wendy Ormiston); “Negotiating Legacies: Audre Lorde, W.E.B. DuBois, Marlon Riggs, and Me” (Townsend Price-
Sprinten); “What Difference Does It Make? The Story of a Lesbian Teacher” (Carla Washburne Rensenbrink); “Race and Sexual Orientation: The (Im)possible Intersections in Educational Policy” (Kathryn Snider); and “Researching Dissident Subjectivities: Queering the Grounds of Theory and Practice” (Kenn Gardner Honeychurch). Book reviews also cover works on lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and the transgendered.


Among the special issue’s five articles are these: “Transition from a Teaching Institution to a Research Institution: An African American Female Perspective” (Myra N. Womble); “What’s in a Number? Implications for African American Female Faculty at Predominantly White Colleges and Universities” (Rosemary E. Phelps); and “African American Females in Academe: Power and Self-Development” (Theresa M. Bey).


Partial contents: “Hearing the Missing Voice” (Teresa A. Nance); “Fannie Lou Hamer: The Unquenchable Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement” (Janice D. Hamlet); “Ella Baker: Free Agent in the Civil Rights Movement” (Aprele Elliot); “Daisy Bates and the Little Rock School Crisis: Forging the Way” (Carolyn Calloway-Thomas, Thurmon Garner); and “Passing the Torch: African American Women in the Civil Rights Movement” (LaVerne Gyant).


This scholarly journal, focusing on “global issues concerning communication which are not circumscribed by the national borders of states,” includes 182 pages of articles and book reviews on “international feminism(s).” Among the articles: “Is Modern to Male as Traditional Is to Female?” (Angharad N. Valdivia); “Feminist International Relations: From Critique to Reconstruction” (Lily Ling); “Taking Hold of Electronic Communications” (Alice Mastrangelo Gittler); and “Feminist Networks North and South” (Valentine M. Moghadam).


This thirty-three-page section includes “Resisting the Canon: Feminist Cultural Studies, Sport, and Technologies of the Body” (Cheryl L. Cole); “Feminism, Theory, and the Body: A Response to Cole” (M. Ann Hall); and “Reaction and Response to Resisting the Canon: Feminist Cultural Studies as a Potential Future Direction” (Susan L. Greendorfer, Toni Bruce).


Partial contents: “Professional Jurisdiction and ALA Youth Services Women: Of Nightingales, Newberries, Realism, and the Right Books, 1937-1945” (Christine Jenkins); “New England Book Women: Their Increasing Influence” (Margaret Bush); “Zena Sutherland: Reviewer, Teacher, and Author” (Ann D. Carlson); “Writing for Parents about Children’s Literature in Mass Market Publications, 1900-1950” (Lynn S. Cockett); and “A Feminist Analysis of the Voices for Advocacy in Young Adult Services” (Jane Anne Hannigan).


Partial contents: “The English Romantic Closet: Women Theatre Artists, Joanna Baillie, and Basil” (Catherine B. Burroughs); “Blake’s Milton: The Metaphysics of Gender” (Marc Kaplan); “‘The Care of the Poor is Her Profession’: Hannah More and Women’s Philanthropic Work” (Dorice Williams Elliott).

Both articles and reviews in this issue focus on women’s writing. The four articles are: “An Affectionate and Voluntary Sacrifice”: Sati, Rape, and Marriage in British Narratives of the East” (Felicity Nussbaum); “Like the Pictures in a Magic Lantern”: Gender, History, and Edgeworth’s Rebellion Narratives” (Mitzi Myers); “Righting the Wrongs of Woman: Mary Wollstonecraft’s Maria” (Anne K. Mellor); and “Sexuality and Knowledge in Middlemarch” (Sally Shuttleworth).


Among the articles: “The Trouble with Harry Thaw” (Martha M. Umphrey); “Queer: Theorizing Politics and History” (Donna Penn); and “Telling Tales: Oral History and the Construction of Pre-Stonewall Lesbian History” (Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy). Several course outlines are also included, among them: “Crosscultural Sexuality” (Geeta Patel) and “Topics in the History of Sexuality: 19th- and 20th-Century Europe” (Dagmar Herzog).


Following the editor’s title essay come such articles as: “The Early (Feminist) Essays of Victoria Ocampo” (Doris Meyer), “Power, Gender, and Canon Formation in Mexico” (Cynthia Steele); “Spanish American Women Writers: Simmering Identity Over a Low Fire” (Ksenija Bilbija); “The Stone and Its Images: The Poetry of Nancy Morejón” (Alan West); “Filling the Empty Space: Women and Latin American Theatre” (Kirsten F. Nigro); and “The Subject, Feminist Theory and Latin American Texts” (Sara Castro-Klaren).


Partial contents: “Lawyering for Women Survivors of Domestic Violence” (Nan Seuffert); “Maori Women and Domestic Violence: The Methodology of Research and the Maori Perspective” (Stephanie Milroy); “Children of Battered Women” (Tania Pocock, Fiona Cram); “Violence Against Filipino Women in Australia: Race, Class and Gender” (Chris Cuneen, Julie Stubbs); and “How Psychologists Can Assist in the Recovered Memory Arena” (Brenda Midson).

Anniversaries

CALYX celebrates its twentieth anniversary with a special issue (Summer 1996) featuring young writers and artists and edited by young women. Address is P.O. Box B, Corvallis, OR 97339.

EARTH’S DAUGHTERS is marking its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1996 with an issue titled “Over & Under: The Ages of Women.” Address: P.O. Box 41, Central Park Station, Buffalo, NY 14215.

LILITH notes its twentieth anniversary with four special issues, the first being Fall 1996. Address is Dept. LIL, P.O. Box 3000, Denville, NJ 07834.

SAGEWOMAN offers a special issue to celebrate its tenth anniversary of publishing. The theme for Issue 35, Autumn 1996 is “Celebrating Diversity.” Cost is $6.95 ($8.95 in Canada). Address: P.O. Box 641, Point Arena, CA 95468-0641.

WOMAN AND EARTH ALMANAC, published in both Russian and English, has reached its fifteenth anniversary, producing a special eighty-two-page issue to commemorate the occasion. Address: 70 Terry Road, Hartford, CT 06105.

Transitions

MAKE is the new name for the former Women’s Art Magazine. Address is Fulham Palace, Bishops Avenue, London SW6 6EA.

MS. MAGAZINE, which we announced last issue as having delayed publication, is (despite financial problems of its new parent company) still “very much alive and producing issues bimonthly,” according to an email message sent to us after our last issue appeared. Subscriptions address: P.O. Box 50008, Boulder, CO 80323-0008.
LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD: GIVING GIRLS AN EQUAL CHANCE FOR BASIC EDUCATION—THREE COUNTRIES’ EFFORTS profiles innovative and courageous steps taken for the benefit of girls’ education in three countries: Pakistan, Malawi, and Bangladesh. The thirty-eight-page report costs $7.95. Order from: The World Bank, Office of the Publisher, 1818 H St., N.W., Washington, DC 20433. Phone: 202-473-1155; fax: 202-522-2627.

Prepared by the National Council of La Raza, UNTAPPED POTENTIAL: A LOOK AT HISPANIC WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES discusses topics of concern to Hispanic women such as employment and health. Request copies of the report from: the Council, 1111 19th St. N.W., Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20036.

GIRLS IN THE MIDDLE: WORKING TO SUCCEED IN SCHOOL is the latest report from the American Association of University Women Educational Foundation. Based on extensive observation and focus groups in middle schools, the research addresses girls’ behaviors influenced by socioeconomic and ethnic factors; constructive roles adults can play for girls’ success in school; and more. For a copy of the report, contact: Silvia Bossi, AAUW, Media Relations, 1111 16th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20077-5761. Phone: 202-785-7723; email: media@mail.aauw.org.

Number 22 of the Zimbabwe Women’s Resource Centre and Network bibliography series is FEMINISM, published in 1995. The eighteen-page bibliography is available from the Centre, 288c Herbert Chitepo Ave., P.O. Box 2192, Harare, Zimbabwe.

GENDER FAIRNESS REVISITED: A MATERIALS UPDATE is an annotated bibliography of books, CD-ROMs, and videos for junior and senior high school students that contain quality representations of women. Compiled by Alice Evans Handy, the bibliography has been published in Book Report v.14, no.4 (January-February 1996): pp.33-39.

PATHWAYS AND PROGRESS: CORPORATE BEST PRACTICES TO SHATTER THE GLASS CEILING is a seventy-five-page report featuring eight case studies on companies that have helped women advance. Send $8 to: Women Employed, 22 W. Monroe St., Suite 1400, Chicago, IL 60603.


THE EDUCATION OF GIRLS AND WOMEN IN AFRICA is a thirty-six-page report that includes color illustrations and a map. Published in 1995, the report is available from: Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE), c/o FEMNET, P.O. Box 54562, Nairobi, Kenya.

A twelve-page report THE EQUITY AGENDA: WOMEN IN SCIENCE, MATHEMATICS, AND ENGINEERING highlights recommendations from a group of experts in diverse fields for future advancements and research that will be useful for practitioners, policy-makers, employers, and others. The report is available separately for free, but is also included in the book The Equity Equation: Fostering the Advancement of Women in the Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering. H (Jossey-Bass, 1996). For a free copy, contact: Merta Trumble. Phone: 313-998-7080; email: mtrumble@umich.edu.

SALARIED AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN: RELEVANT STATISTICS is an annual report that presents data on white-collar women. The publication includes statistics on the current female work force; family income; women in unions; women in higher education; plus more. Send $4.50 to the Department for Professional Employees, AFL-CIO, 200-877-9881. Phone: 202-522-2627.

A new report prepared by the ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools, MEXICAN AMERICAN WOMEN: SCHOOLING, WORK, AND FAMILY, is now available. The order number is EDO-RC-95-9. For additional information, contact: ERIC, P.O. Box 1348, Charleston, WV 25325.

A new publication from the Chicago Area Women's Studies Association (CAWSA) is CAWSA GUIDE TO WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAMS IN THE CHICAGO AREA. The guide profiles degree programs, program offerings and emphases, and includes contact information. To order a copy, send a $10 check payable to CAWSA to: Carol Cyganowski, DePaul University English Department, 802 W. Belden, Chicago, IL 60614.

BEST PRACTICES FOR GENDER INTEGRATION IN ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS FROM THE INTERACTION COMMUNITY: FINDINGS FROM A SURVEY OF MEMBER AGENCIES documents the

Recommendations for women's health research priorities are included in RESEARCH AGENDA FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL FACTORS IN WOMEN'S HEALTH. The report highlights recommendations made at the 1994 women's health conference, Psychosocial and Behavioral Factors in Women's Health: Creating an Agenda for the 21st Century. For more information, contact: the American Psychological Association, 750 First St. N.E., Washington, DC 20002-4242. Phone: 202-336-5500.

The CHILDBIRTH PICTURE BOOK (CBPB) TEACHING PROGRAM TO PREVENT FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM) is designed for trained women leaders working with African immigrant families from countries that practice FGM. Accompanying the picture book is text and a discussion guide. For more information on setting up a training program, contact: Fran P. Hosken, Women's International Network NEWS, 187 Grant St., Lexington, MA 02173. Fax: 617-862-9431.

A grant from The Breast Cancer Fund has helped produce BREAST CANCER AND WOMEN OF COLOR PERSPECTIVES, a series of four fact sheets documenting breast cancer's effects on African American, Native American, Latina, and Asian American women. Differences in incidence rates, treatment experiences, and action agendas are shown. The fact sheets are published by the National Women's Health Network, an organization devoted to women's health activism and education. Sheets are free of charge to Network members; nonmembers inquire. Write to the Network, 514 10th St. N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC 20004. Phone: 202-628-7814.

LOVE BROUGHT TO BOOK: A BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHY OF 20TH-CENTURY AUSTRALIAN ROMANCE NOVELS, edited by Juliet Flesch, includes three introductory essays that debate whether romance fiction can be considered feminist or not. The forty-three-page bibliography includes over one hundred Australian writers. The paperback costs $19.95 from the National Centre for Australian Studies, Monash University, Clayton, Melbourne, Victoria, 3168 Australia. Phone: 61-3-9905-5241; fax: 61-3-9905-5238.

R.B.


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Women, Race, and Ethnicity: A Bibliography (1970-90) is an annotated, selective bibliography of 2,400 books, journals, anthology chapters, and nonprint materials.

The History of Women and Science, Health, and Technology: A Bibliographic Guide to the Professions and the Disciplines (1970-95) is an excellent tool for curriculum development, providing over 2,350 records from biographical and historical books and articles.

Women of Color and Southern Women: A Bibliography of Social Science Research
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Women’s Health and Development: An Annotated Bibliography
Women’s Health (1995) provides 200 records drawn mainly from English-language journals and other holdings of the World Health Organization Library in Geneva. The bibliography was compiled by the Division of Publishing, Language & Library Services, Office of Library & Health Literature Services, and is dedicated to the memory of the late chief of the library, Dr. Deborah Avriel (1935-95).

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