Notes From The Chair

Even before the recession and the Occupy Movement focused attention on increased inequality in the US, college admissions professionals were fretting about the changing demographics in the US. The not so slow but steady growth of Latino student populations in K-12 schools. The decline in family income of K-12 students, especially in public schools. There was also new attention paid to returning non-traditional aged students and part-timers, and the challenges for college recruitment and retention they bring with them. Academic librarians on the other hand were (and are) still talking about Millennials and Digital Natives.

The idea for this year’s program started as early as 2008 and was the topic of my Midwinter discussion in 2011. Trendy programs get bigger audiences but trends in librarianship come and go quickly. There was a time when librarians used the words Digital Native, Milennial and Gen Y, to mean students who were naturals with technology. They were born digital; so learning to use online tools was easy for them. Now you often hear Digital Native lament; they lack basic research skills and have a hard time evaluating the information they find online. They were born digital and have been using technology all their lives but have no idea how it works.

We still hear both of these themes, although the handwringing about searching skills seems to have the upper hand. But the thing the labels have in common is they assume uniformity in our students. That they all have the same access to technology; they are all glued to laptops, smart phones and now tablets. They all have high-speed DSL and unlimited data plans. They are using these tools to do school work. They all suck at it. Librarians still make sweeping generalizations about our students.

One of the less popular observations by librarians about Millennials, and other labels associated with generational thinking, is that the labels all have embedded class biases. The students we are talking about when we talk at Millennials, are primarily upper middle class, mostly white and attend selective colleges and universities. And while this may fit the student profile that many librarians in ACRL see, it is not an accurate reflection of the higher education student population in the US now or in the future.

(continued on the next page...)
Why am I talking about privilege, class and inequality in the WGSS newsletter? Because the headline speaker for our program, “Insert Catchy Label Here: Or the end of Gen Y, Digital Natives and the Millennial Student Myth,” is Virginia Eu-banks, author of Digital Dead End: Fighting for Social Justice in the Information Age. She will be joined by two librarians, Roberto Delgadillo, Humanities, Social Sciences and Government Information Services Manager at UC-Davis, who will tell us about his experience working with Latino community college students and Yago Cura visiting us from the wilds of the Los Angeles Public Library system.

Pamela Mann
2011-2012 WGSS Chair
Reference, Instruction & Outreach Librarian

Uncoming Conferences...

Heading to ALA Annual 2012 in Anaheim?

Locations for programs and meetings will be available on the ALA Web site approximately one month prior to the beginning of Annual Conference; look for the “Event Planner” link on the ALA Annual Conference Web site at www.ala.org/annual.

Heading to ACRL 2013 in Indianapolis?

Find updated program details and speaker information on the ACRL at Annual Conference Web page. Go to www.acrl.org, select “Conferences & Continuing Education,” and click on “ACRL @ ALA Annual Conference 2012” for the latest.
COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Two members of the WGSS CDB Committee met at the midwinter meeting in Dallas. The main discussion topic was merging this committee with the E-Resources Committee. Both committees agree that this makes sense. The other big topic of discussion was what to do about the Core Journals list http://www.libr.org/wss/projects/serial.html which has not been updated since 2008. The committee will discuss both these issues over email and have final recommendations by annual.

Submitted by Cindy Ingold
Committee Chair
University of Illinois

RESEARCH

The Research Committee met at Midwinter in Dallas to discuss the latest draft of our revised Research Agenda on Women and Gender Studies Librarianship. The final two sections will be completed by Annual 2012 and the newly revised document will be available on our website this fall. The field of women and gender studies librarianship has undergone deep transformations in the years since the first one was produced and we are excited to share the changes with the section. Also, the Committee discussed new search terms for use in updating the Bibliography on Women and Gender Studies Librarianship to include gender studies and came up with: gender, men’s studies, male, masculinity, feminis*, queer, LGBT, sexuality, and transgender. However, at the Executive Committee meeting it was noted that the GLBT section already has bibliographies on these last four topics, so we may include gender and men’s studies only, then link to theirs. The Research Committee is looking for new members, so if you would like to get involved with these projects, let us know!

Submitted by Jennifer Gilley
Committee Chair
Pennsylvania State University

MEMBERSHIP

The Membership Committee met at Midwinter and revised the letter sent to dropped members and discussed how we can get feedback and encourage participation in WGSS. The WGSS Midwinter Social was held at Wild Salsa in downtown Dallas and had ten people in attendance. Excellent salsa, guacamole and conversation was enjoyed by all!

Submitted by Juliann Couture,
Committee Chair
Arizona State University

INSTRUCTION

The WGSS Instruction Committee continues to work on reviewing and revising the information literacy standards for women’s and gender studies. The committee may also explore ways to assess the professional development and resource needs (in the area of information literacy instruction) for WGSS members. Per discussion at the WGSS Executive Committee meeting at ALA Midwinter, assessment of professional development needs for instruction might be incorporated into a broader survey that would include questions from other WGSS committees as well.

Submitted by Sharon Ladenson
Committee Chair
Michigan State University

(Reports continued on page 4)
PUBLICATIONS

The Publications Committee met virtually this Midwinter, via I-linc. We’ve already decided to look into other software for next year’s virtual meeting, so please offer suggestions if you have any!

Our main topic of discussion was the printing and distribution of our latest brochure—we printed only 500 copies because we recognize that information quickly becomes out of date. Please e-mail Nina Clements (ninaclements@gmail.com) for brochures—we have plenty left.

The committee also discussed the section blog, which is currently having linkage issues with the WGSS web site. We hope to have those issues resolved soon. Another topic of conversation is a possible collaboration with the Research Committee to better help WGSS members contribute to the larger scholarly conversation. We plan to discuss this at Annual, so please join us if you’re interested.

Submitted by Nina Clements
Committee Chair
Kenyon College

Submit a proposal for ACRL 2013:
Imagine, Innovate, Inspire
Indianapolis, April 10-13

Session formats

Proposals are sought for a variety of formats including contributed papers, cyber zed shed presentations, panel sessions, preconferences, virtual conference webcasts, workshops, poster sessions, and roundtable discussions.

How to submit

Proposals must be submitted via the Program Proposal Form, available online: www.acrl.org/acrlconference.

Deadlines

May 11, 2012: Proposals for contributed papers, panel sessions, workshops, and preconferences
November 9, 2012: Proposals for cyber zed shed presentations, poster sessions, roundtable discussions, and virtual conference Webcasts.

Questions?
Conference website: www.acrl.org/acrlconference
Contact: Margot Conahan
mconahan@ala.org
WGSS hosted a lively discussion group titled “Subject Librarians: Current and Future Directions” at the 2012 Midwinter conference. There was a good turnout with about 45 librarians in attendance, including several from our section.

The discussion began with an introduction of the issue and an overview of trends. After the distribution of potential discussion questions (and our new section brochure!), we broke into smaller groups for about 30 minutes. When we later reconvened, we shared the discussion with the larger group for the remaining hour.

Some discussion observations: Some subject librarians no longer serve on research desks, many still conduct collection development duties (although a few said they only do collection development on demand via faculty requests due to budget cuts), libraries are still advertising for subject librarian positions, and some serve in hybrid roles (subject librarian/e-resource librarian). One participant mentioned their subject librarians no longer do general orientation-type BIs—that tutorials and parapros take care of that type of instruction. Another librarian said they do research on demand in their subject areas for the entire campus, not just academic departments (ie Foundation). Some stated that they are getting more involved in data sets and copyright education in their disciplines. Very few formally assess or measure the impact of their work as subject librarians, and few have formally established what it is clients want or expect from a subject librarian.

PR of services offered by subject librarians is described as a weak point in the literature. One idea from the group was to include a section on Libguides with specifics on what you can do as a subject liaison for those in your departments.

To view the handout for this discussion, please see: http://libr.org/wss/conferences/past.html

Thanks to all who attended and participated in the discussion!
ACRL WGSS 2012 Award Winners

Submitted by Jane Nichols and Heather Tompkins

ACRL Women & Gender Studies Section (WGSS) announces the 2012 recipients of the Significant Achievement and the Career Achievement Awards. The awards are given annually to honor those who have made outstanding contributions to women & gender studies through significant one-time contributions, and long-standing contributions to the field during a career.

Plaques will be presented to the awardees at 8 a.m. on June 25, 2012, at the WGSS conference program during the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim.

2012 Career Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship

Ellen Greenblatt is awarded the 2012 Career Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship for her outstanding contributions to advancing Women Studies and LGBTQ librarianship. Through her scholarship and service, she has been at the forefront of LGBTQ librarianship. Greenblatt served as one of the first co-chairs of the former ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Gay & Lesbian Task Force and was the first editor of WSS Links Lesbian Sites. In addition to her book, Gay and Lesbian Library Service (1990 with Cal Gough), she has published numerous articles and most recently edited Serving LGBTQ Library and Archives Users (2011). She co-compiled the thesaurus for EBSCO’s LGBT Life® database and a revision of the Homosaurus, a bilingual LGBTQ Thesaurus, for the International Gay and Lesbian Information Centre and Archives in the Netherlands. Greenblatt teaches the first and only library-related course in the U.S. focused on LGBTQ resources and issues at San José State University’s School of Library and Information Science. Most recently she has turned her attention to the development of a database of LGBTQ-related literature for children and young adults, underwritten by an ALA Carnegie Whitney Grant.

Greenblatt is Scholarly Communications Librarian at the University of Colorado Denver and lecturer at the San José State University School of Library and Information Science.

2012 Significant Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship

Kayo Denda, Rhonda Marker, Li Sun, Lucy Vidal, Alicia Graham, and Kirsten Canfield all from Rutgers University have been awarded the 2012 Significant Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship for The Poster Collection portal. The portal provides digitized access to approximately 300 posters from women’s rights organizations around the world. Rutgers University Libraries (RUL) collaborated with the Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL) and the Women’s and Gender Studies department of the School of Arts and Sciences on this project. Nominees emphasized the collections unique value for researchers interested in visual representations of women’s human rights activism. They were also impressed by the collaborative aspect of the project which brought together resources and expertise including subject librarians, a metadata librarian, and staff at the Center for Women’s Global Leadership.

To view the portal visit: http://cwgl.rutgers.edu/globalcenter/additional.html

Kayo Denda has been at Rutgers since 2000, first as Women’s Studies Librarian (2000-08), and then as head of the Margery Somers Foster Center at Rutgers. Denda is a long time member of the Women and Gender Studies Section and is a recent past Chair having served 2009-2010.
Conference Schedule: WGSS @ ALA Annual 2012

Saturday, June 23, 2012

Introduction to Women’s Issues, 1:30 - 3:30pm (HIL-LagunaB)

General Membership Forum, 4:00 - 5:30pm (DIS-Castle C)

WGSS Social, 6:00 - 8:00pm (Location, TBD)

Sunday, June 24, 2012

2012 Conference Planning Meeting, 8:00-10:00am (DIS-Explorer)

2013 Conference Planning Meeting, 8:00-10:00am (DIS-Outpost)

All Committees Meeting, 10:30 - 12:00pm (DIS-Castle A&B)

Executive Committee Meeting, 4:00 - 5:30pm (DIS-Monorail B&C)

Monday, June 25, 2012

Annual Program: “Insert Catchy Label Here or the end of Gen Y, Digital Natives and the Millennial Student Myth”, 8:00 - 10:00am (ACC-205A)

Moderator: Pamela Mann, WGSS Chair (2011-2012)

WGSS Awards (will take place during this program)

Want More?

Saturday, June 23, 2012: 8:00-10:00am
Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship (COSWL) (MAR-Desert Springs)

Sunday, June 24, 2012: 6:00-8:00pm
GLBT Round Table Social (GLBT RT) (OS-Torilla Jo’s 1510 Disneyland Dr. Bldg A)

8:00-10:00pm
Feminist Night at the Movies (SRRT - FTF) (ACC-202A)
Member Updates

Sarah Pritchard, Northwestern University, and Sue Searing, University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign:
Each wrote companion pieces for the March issue of American Libraries which highlighted a new book, Right Here I See My Own Words by Sarah Wadsworth and Wayne Wiegand (U. of MA Press, 2012), which is about the library at the Woman’s Building at the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition/Chicago World’s Fair. The articles, “Women in the White City: Lessons from the Woman’s Building Library at the Chicago World’s Fair” (Searing), and “Library History and Women’s History: an Ongoing Convergence” (Pritchard), also trace the way ALA librarians’ involvement in the project laid the seeds for future activism surrounding both women’s issues and international engagement.

Pamela M. Salela, University of Illinois @ Springfield:
Co-taught WGS411: Feminist Theories in the fall of 2011 and taught her own section of WGS301: Introduction to Women, Gender & Society in the spring of 2012. The latter course fulfills one of the core requirements of the WGS minor as well as a U.S. Societies general education requirement. She will be teaching the course again in the fall. She states that it has been very instructive to be in charge of a classroom and brings a greater understanding on how to better incorporate information literacy into the curriculum.

Sue Searing, University of Illinois @ Urbana-Champaign:
Continues to coordinate the annual Edible Book Festival at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, and has compiled a guide for other academic librarians who are planning an edible book event: http://uiuc.libguides.com/ediblebooks.

Rebecca Tolley-Stokes, East Tennessee State University:
Was recently awarded the Frances Neel Cheney Award for 2011. This award recognizes a person who has made a significant contribution to the world of books and librarianship through the encouragement of the love of books and reading. Rebecca was officially honored at the Tennessee Library Association’s Annual Conference on March 22, 2012.
WGSS Member Profiles

Jill Barr Walker
Instruction & Public Services Librarian
NYU Abu Dhabi

Education: BS in Psychology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
MS in Library & Information Science (Gender & Women’s Studies minor), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Current position: I’m the Instruction Librarian at a new branch of NYU in Abu Dhabi. We have 300 students from 68 countries around the world.

What you enjoy doing in your spare time?: I love to travel and being in the middle of the world makes it easy. So far this year, I’ve visited Romania, Lebanon, New York, Australia, Paris, and Scotland. I've also enjoyed taking Arabic classes and having informal lessons in Nepali, Urdu, and Tagalog from members of NYUAD’s international community.

Why did you join WGSS?: I’m interested in women’s issues and joined WGSS to learn from the intelligent, thoughtful professionals who contribute to this group. Working in an academic environment in the middle east provides a great opportunity for me to help students challenge their previously-held beliefs about women, gender and sexuality.

Laura Wilson
Reference & Instruction Librarian
Westfield State University

Education:
MLIS, Simmons College
MA, French, Boston College

Current position:
I am currently a Reference and Instruction Librarian at Westfield State University in Westfield, MA. I have been working in this position since August 2011 and this is my first full-time library job! Aside from reference and instruction duties, I do collection development for several subject areas, including Ethnic & Gender Studies.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?
I am currently reading “Dangerous Liaisons” by Laclos. I enjoy cooking, travel, writing letters via snail mail and video games.

Why did you join WGSS?:
Women's and Gender Studies is a subject area that I am not very familiar with, so I joined WGSS to learn what other librarians who have interest in this field are currently discussing.
Welcome New Members!

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