

Online Reference Resources

REVIEWED BY KARLA STRAND

In honor of Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March), I want to share some of my most recent favorite resources from across the internet.

BLACK WOMEN'S STUDIES (BWST) BOOKLIST (BWSTBOOKLIST.NET)

Created and curated by Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans (professor evans.net), professor of African American studies, African women's studies, and history at Clark Atlanta University, this new open-access resource fills the need for a connection between classic and more recently published texts in Black women's studies. BWST Booklist currently references more than 1,400 predominantly academic books. Users can browse the entries alphabetically or by a variety of themes including theory, identity, disciplines, activism, and location. At this time, both the alphabetical and thematic lists are offered as downloadable PDFs on the main page of the website. Of course it would be ideal for such a list to be an interactive database, but we in the Office of the Gender and Women's Studies Librarian know how challenging that can be — we ourselves are in the process of creating an online database of new books on gender and women's studies based on what has been a print-only publication for about 40 years — so a PDF that can be searched (use Ctrl-F), downloaded, or printed will work just fine. The thematic list includes a robust introduction by Dr. Evans explaining the background and goals of the project, a history of Black women's studies, and suggestions for how to use the list. This is a valuable resource on Black women's studies for librarians, academics, or anyone interested in learning more.

CITE BLACK WOMEN (CITEBLACKWOMENCOLLECTIVE.ORG)

Discussions of citation politics have been growing and evolving in academia and on social media over the last few years. We've always known that citation is important in recognizing and crediting the work of others and in avoiding plagiarism. But there is increasing focus on critical examination of who we are citing and on challenging the reproduction of exclusive power structures through our citation practices. Enter Cite Black Women, created in 2017 by Christen A. Smith, professor of anthropology

and African and African diaspora studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Smith wanted to call attention to existing citation practices and encourage everyone to examine how they can incorporate the work of Black women into the core of their work. To that end, Dr. Smith began selling T-shirts adorned with the phrase "Cite Black Women" (I happen to have a purple one). Soon it was on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook, and #CiteBlackWomen became an increasingly popular hashtag. Now there's even a podcast! It's imperative for librarians and academics to become informed about citation politics and to examine their own practices. Cite Black Women is a great place to begin.

CITE A SISTA (CITEASISTA.COM)

This digital project centers the experiences, knowledge, and work of Black women. It all started as a Twitter chat held by Brittany Williams and Joan Collier for a University of Georgia class assignment in 2016. The #CiteASista hashtag grew, and with it came more content on the website, national conference presentations, and opportunities for relationship building in online groups and in-person meetups. While popular among those in academia, Cite A Sista has never lost its centering of Black women outside higher education. Besides challenging citation practices and focusing on ways to cite more Black women, Cite A Sista also offers Black women invaluable opportunities for engagement, encouragement, and resistance, both inside and outside the academy.

WOMEN ALSO KNOW HISTORY (WAKH) (WOMENALSOKNOWHISTORY.COM)

Dedicated to raising the visibility of women historians (and inspired by womenalsoknowstuff.com, a political science site), WAKH was created by historians Keisha Blain, Emily A. Prifogle, and Karin Wulf. This important site addresses the dearth of women historians on panels, used as experts, or quoted in articles. The centerpiece of WAKH is a searchable online database of women historians that now hosts 3,300 profiles and is still growing, and the hashtag #WomenAlsoKnowHistory is thriving on Twitter. This project has gone a long way toward bringing awareness of women historians to a wider audience.

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