WOMEN IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CAREERS: A BASIC READING LIST

This selective list was prepared for "Retooling Strategies for the Future: A Conference for Adult Women," at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, April 22, 1989. The publications cited below have been chosen to inform and inspire women who are contemplating scientific, technical, or math related careers.

Most of the materials are available at the Madison Public Library and/or the libraries of the UW-Madison. In addition, many of the books are currently in print and may be ordered through A Room of One's Own or other area bookstores.

Women's magazines, such as Ms., Working Woman, and Essence, frequently print profiles of successful women in nontraditional occupations. Use the standard magazine index, Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, to locate such articles.


A thick collection of conference papers, some of a general nature and some focused on particular scientific fields. See, for example, Shirley A. Jackson's "From Clerk-Typist to Research Physicist," pp. 296-299.

A statistical study of the education and employment of women with Ph.D.'s in scientific and technological disciplines.

Reports on a study that proved marriage and motherhood do not affect women scientists' productivity, as measured by the number of research papers they publish. See also a synopsis in PSYCHOLOGY TODAY, June 1987, p. 14.

Unlike many articles aimed at Black women, this one offers more than just a pep talk.

Papers from a 1981 conference, providing an excellent overview of issues facing women scientists and engineers.


A comparative study of women and men engineers.


Role models in print!


Nine articles present "an historical, international, and educational review of women in science, especially in biology."


Originally published by the New York Academy of Sciences under the title SUCCESSFUL WOMEN IN THE SCIENCES. Includes some personal stories.


An inspiring collection of first-person accounts by women in nontraditional occupations, with practical information on getting the necessary training and landing jobs.


An older work, but still interesting. Includes a chapter on "The Commitment Required of a Woman Entering a Scientific Profession."


A special section on women in computer service industries.


A look at forty-four blue-collar occupations, with information on how to find the training and the jobs. Spiced with quotes from women already in such positions.


An overview of opportunities in engineering for women.


Statistical highlights from the 7th edition of PROFESSIONAL WOMEN AND MINORITIES: A MANPOWER DATA RESOURCE SERVICE (272 pp.).
A survey of women's education and employment in scientific and technical fields.

Encouraging women graduate students in the sciences is the theme of this speech.

Statistical data on the participation of women and minorities in science and engineering employment and training.

A brief overview of job opportunities in the computer industry, with typical salaries (as of 1982) noted.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following books recount the history of women in scientific, technical, and math related fields, present feminist critiques of scientific theory and practice, and analyze the impact of science and technology on women's lives.


Argues against biologically determinist views of women's oppression and explores the idea of "feminist science."

A collection of scholarly articles by scientists and professors at UW-Madison and elsewhere.

Until her death in 1988, Ruth Bleier was a professor of Neurophysiology and Women's Studies at UW-Madison. In this book she exposes the sexist underpinnings of accepted biological theory.

A collection of essays examining the effects of male-dominated science and technology in such familiar areas as contraception, mental health, and childbirth, as well as the new frontiers of selective breeding, psychological testing, evolutionary theory, etc.

Demonstrates that computer-based technological innovations have not improved women's job mobility.

A dozen papers that discuss socio-environmental influences on women's math ability.

An intimate portrait of five years in the life of a cancer researcher.

Journalistic profiles of women scientists. An extract appeared in the October 1983 issue of Ms., pp. 51-52, 130-137, under the title "Women in Science: A Passion for Discovery."


A collection of scholarly essays that first appeared in SIGNS: JOURNAL OF WOMEN IN CULTURE AND SOCIETY.

Hubbard, Ruth; Mary Sue Henifin; and Barbara Fried, editors. BIOLOGICAL WOMAN -- THE CONVENIENT MYTH. Cambridge: Schenkmann, 1982.

A biography of a Nobel Prize winning plant geneticist. Keller argues that McClintock's approach to science differs from that of her male colleagues.

Nine erudite essays by a leading feminist critic of scientific ideology and practice.

A survey of five centuries of scientific and social thought, showing how modern science and capitalism, emerging during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, "sanctioned the domination of both nature and women."

A fascinating anthology of articles from the journal POPULAR SCIENCE, showing how scientific notions and social mores reinforced each other at the turn of the century.
Short biographical pieces on women who made significant contributions to the field of mathematics.

Ramaley, Judith A., editor. COVERT DISCRIMINATION AND WOMEN IN THE SCIENCES.

Autobiographies by women scientists in ten countries.

Rosser, Sue V., editor. FEMINISM WITHIN THE SCIENCE AND HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS:
Contributed papers examine the status of women in the physical sciences, archeology, public health, and medicine, and assess the impact of feminism on theory and practice in the science and health care professions.

The best historical study of American women in the sciences before World War II.

Rothschild, Joan, editor. MACHINA EX DEA: FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON TECHNOLOGY.
A collection of essays on the past, present, and future relationships of technology to women’s work and lives.

Summarizes biological arguments against feminism and feminist theories about biology.

Sayre, Anne. ROSALIND FRANKLIN AND DNA: A VIVID VIEW OF WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE A GIFTED WOMAN IN AN ESPECIALLY MALE PROFESSION. New York: Norton, 1975.
The story of the under-recognized female researcher who shared in the groundbreaking research on DNA and genetic codes.

A collection of articles on women’s contributions to technological progress, and the impact of technology on women’s lives.

Six profiles, thirteen short articles, and artwork on the theme of women’s relation to science and technology, with special attention to spiritual concerns.

Challenges the assumption that women in scientific and technical are by definition "liberated."


an eclectic sampler of feminist writings.
ORGANIZATIONS


Compiled by Susan Searing, UW System Women's Studies Librarian. 9/83; first revision, 4/89.