A QUICK GUIDE TO LIBRARY RESEARCH ON WOMEN AND LITERATURE

This bibliography of reference tools supplements the handout that accompanies the slide/tape module, WHERE ARE THE WOMEN? RESOURCES IN WOMEN'S STUDIES: LITERATURE & THE ARTS.

GETTING STARTED


There are many basic research guides in the fields of American and English literature. This one has the best coverage of women authors and feminist criticism.


The opening chapters of this handbook offer a brief introduction to the field of women's studies, discuss the organization of library resources (including catalogs and indexes), and present model research strategies. Later chapters present bibliographies and indexes for types of material (e.g., articles, dissertations) and fields of study (including literature). The final chapters highlight such specialized tools as biographical sources, microforms, and online databases.


These two volumes cite and evaluate nearly 3,000 core books in women's studies. The second volume contains an extensive chapter on periodicals as well. Organization is by discipline and genre.
BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF LITERARY WORKS BY WOMEN


This set provides biographical and critical background on over a thousand authors. Each entry includes a checklist of the author's works and a selected bibliography of secondary literature. In addition to women of established literary reputation, these volumes cover authors of popular fiction, non-literary works, letters, diaries, autobiographies, and children's books.


This easy-to-use bibliography treats 133 of the most important women playwrights. After a brief list of general works, the book is divided into sections on the individual women, providing for each a complete list of her plays, sources for biographical information, and references to criticism and reviews.


Although concentrating on only a thirty-year span, this bibliography includes 3,407 books by 1,723 authors. The compilers selected works that illustrate a "feminist tradition" in writing by women, particularly as evidenced by unconventional female characters. The annotations are derived from contemporary reviews, and therefore they vary greatly in length, style, and relevance to literary research.


The standard GRANGER'S INDEX TO POETRY has meager coverage of women-focused anthologies, so this volume is an important guide to poems published between 1945 and 1983. Anthologies with ethnic perspectives are included. Title and first-line indexes, but no subject index.


A guide to the published works of more than 5,500 women poets in the U.S., this volume is particularly useful for its inclusion of elusive small press and feminist press books.


English translations of literary writings by women are spotlighted in this handy guide. Over one-third of the volume is devoted to translations of works by French, French-Canadian, and other Francophone authors. Other chapters treat materials originally in Portuguese, German, Italian,
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ADDENDUM, May 1989

BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF LITERARY WORKS BY WOMEN


This index refers to over 4,000 poems by more than 400 Black women poets, from the Colonial period to the present. Anonymous poems and songs are also cited. The author index, title/first line index, and subject index make this a handy source for quick look-ups.


References to diaries and letters published in books and magazines, including local history journals, are listed chronologically from 1669 to 1982, with author and subject indexes. The annotations place the writings in historical context, outline their contents and themes, and offer basic biographical background on the authors.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF LITERARY WORKS ABOUT WOMEN


This two-volume bibliography covers fiction and non-fiction books that present young readers with non-stereotyped female and male characters. Briefly-annotated entries are grouped by reading level, with a helpful index.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF LITERARY CRITICISM


In 1981, the MLA International Bibliography (the standard guide to journal articles in literary history and criticism worldwide) revised its format, making it easier to locate feminist writings. This bibliography covers the critical seven years preceding the MLA's revision, a period when scholarship on women and literature blossomed. References to nearly 2,000 works are arranged by century and genre, with additional thematic categories and a subject index.


"Feminist criticism" in this bibliography means not only literary criticism, but studies in the arts and social sciences as well. Humm succeeds in synthesizing a large body of scholarship and theory, arranging some 900 entries first by subject and then chronologically.
BIOGRAPHY


This handy one-volume encyclopedia presents short bio-critical articles on nearly four hundred women writers from England, Ireland, and other areas of the Commonwealth. Entries include bibliographies.


Doubling as a core anthology and a biographical reference book, this volume profiles forty-one Black women writers of fiction, poetry, essays, and autobiography. For each writer, Shockley presents a short account of her life and career and one or more selections from her works. Selective bibliographies are included.

-- Prepared by Susan Searing, UW System
Women's Studies Librarian, May 1989
Japanese, Russian, and Spanish.


An unannotated bibliography of over 830 books by more than 375 authors.


This pioneering bibliography, first published in 1973, remains an excellent introduction to works of fiction by women. Although many countries and time periods are represented, most of the 800+ entries are for twentieth-century American and British novels. The evaluative annotations and the thematic index make this a handy guide for personal reading.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF LITERARY WORKS ABOUT WOMEN


Covering 579 novels from a twenty-year period, this bibliography features long annotations that summarize the plots and themes of the works.

Daims, Diva, and Janet Grimes. TOWARD A FEMINIST TRADITION... (see above)


Novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and biography (both factual and fictionalized) are included in this bibliography. The compilers use a letter code to indicate the degree of emphasis on lesbian characters and action in each work cited, and asterisks to convey their judgment of the quality of the material.


A chronological bibliographic guide to women characters in book-length science fiction. Selected stories are singled out for in-depth descriptions of their characters and summaries of their plots.


An annotated guide to 540 books for children that "exhibit active, adventurous, persistent, self-confident, independent, creative, proud, courageous, and individualist females."
BIBLIOGRAPHIES OF LITERARY CRITICISM


The essays in this volume review writings by and about 24 major authors, ranging from Anne Bradstreet to Sylvia Plath. Each chapter surveys an author's works, assesses critical response, notes the existence of bibliographies and biographies, describes collections of manuscripts and letters, and points to avenues for further research.


An exhaustive listing of over 1,500 books and articles published between 1900 and 1975 on women and English literature in the 17th and 18th centuries. A good portion of the volume is devoted to works on individual women; there are also sections on background studies, genre studies, and the treatment of women in the fiction of major male writers.


These bibliographies list critical works published between 1970 and 1977. Included are English-language books, articles, and dissertations on female characters in literature, feminist criticism, and women writers.


The first volume cites articles published between 1960 and 1975 on over 600 women writers from the U.S., Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and writers in English from Africa. The second volume treats over 1,000 authors, extending coverage to 1984. These are the most thorough guides available to critical articles about women authors.


This bibliography covers general works on American women writers. Books and articles devoted to single authors are not listed. The entries cover such areas as feminist sensibility and style, feminist and "phallic" criticism, and problems faced by women writers.
BIOGRAPHY


This source provides over 2,000 brief descriptions of published autobiographies, letter diaries, journals, memoirs, reminiscences, and travel accounts by American women of the past thirty years; not limited to "literary" women.

AMERICAN WOMAN WRITERS: A CRITICAL REFERENCE GUIDE... (see above)


A guide to autobiographical books (including published diaries and letters) by 224 women. While there is some overlap with NOTABLE AMERICAN WOMEN: THE MODERN PERIOD (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1980), this source is distinguished by its inclusion of women who are still alive and by its focus on the written record rather than the subject's actual life. For each book discussed, there is a summary of the contents, an evaluation of its usefulness for women's studies, and a brief survey of its critical reception.


Covering primarily (though not exclusively) English and American authors, this is a handy identification aid to over 4,000 pseudonyms used by women.


A companion volume to TOWARD A FEMINIST TRADITION by Diva Daims and Janet Grimes (see above), this bibliography cites biographical and autobiographical information for 1,565 authors at the turn of the century. The sources include books, published letters and diaries, entries in collective biographies and encyclopedias, and obituaries.


Nearly five hundred bio-critical essays, written by specialists in Restoration and eighteenth-century studies, are gathered in this volume.
GUIDES TO THE PERIODICAL LITERATURE


Published by the Women's Studies Librarian, this publication reproduces the contents pages of some women's studies and women's movement journals. Although not a subject index, FEMINIST PERIODICALS can be scanned to keep abreast of the latest scholarly and popular writings.

STUDIES ON WOMEN ABSTRACTS. 1983-present. Quarterly.

Providing long abstracts, this relatively new resource has a British slant. Both books and articles are covered.

WOMEN STUDIES ABSTRACTS. 1972-present. Quarterly.

The most useful index to women's studies publications. Articles from both scholarly and popular periodicals are listed, plus selected books, documents, pamphlets and other materials. Each issue offers about a thousand references; despite the title, few are abstracted. The arrangement is by broad subject categories, with a detailed subject index in each issue. Watch for shifting terminology from issue to issue, however.

Compiled by Susan Searing, UW Women's Studies Librarian, 2/87