LIBRARIES AND THE NEW SCHOLARSHIP ON GENDER

A Selected Reading List


A exceptionally thoughtful "how to" article. Suggests using the "development of the discipline" framework to introduce women's studies students to reference tools and research strategies. Emphasizes the dual nature of women's studies -- as an academic and an activist endeavor -- and the corresponding need to explain both scholarly and popular sources.

A survey of bibliographies, guides to special collections, periodicals, computerized indexing services, microform sets, and government publications, with introductory comments on "special problems in women's studies research."

An overview of current and developing information resources -- their uses and their limitations.

A case study of a small college collection, addressing strategies for evaluating holdings, selecting and acquiring new titles, and stimulating use by students.

Assesses the impact of women's studies on the social sciences and the responsibilities of libraries.

A comparison of the treatment of women in several standard encyclopedias.

A study of the inadequacy of standard subject headings for non-white women.


Kenney, Anne R. "The Role of Librarians and Archivists in Promoting Women's History." Show-Me Libraries 36 (January 1985): 5-12. Documents the underutilization of primary sources for women's history and suggests how librarians and archivists can improve access to such materials.


Organized like the Library of Congress subject headings list and designed to offer alternatives to biased terminology.

A brief argument for librarians to collect and preserve women-produced information that the "gatekeepers" of the publishing establishment deem unworthy.

A call for radical restructuring of libraries, to free them from the male-defined systems of subject headings, call numbers, and index terms.

Analyzes LC class numbers and subject headings assigned to works of literary history and criticism related to women’s studies.

An evaluation of collections and services designed to meet women’s needs, with special attention to the different missions and constituencies of public and academic libraries.

Review essays and checklists of commercially published microform materials.

"[E]xplores the role of the reference librarian in an interdisciplinary field bridging scholarly and policy information, and in a library that serves the public, academic, business and policy communities." Draws on Pritchard’s experiences as reference specialist in women’s studies at the Library of Congress.

A review of the "growth of computer services for research, policy, and teaching by and about women."

A model for public programming that draws on the combined expertise and resources of academic libraries, public libraries, women’s history scholars, and community activists.

An assessment of the coverage of women’s studies and feminist periodicals in indexing/abstracting services.

A plea for the incorporation of library research training into the women's studies curriculum.


Text of a wide-ranging speech.


A library research guide in the classic mold, detailing the use of the catalog, indexes, and other tools, and describing major reference sources.


Originally presented at the Women and Memory Conference in March 1986. An exploration of issues in acquisitions and cataloging, and a glimpse at changes in information access that new electronic technologies bring.


A discussion of the values underlying library acquisition decisions in women's studies, plus evaluations of reviewing journals, bibliographies, core periodicals, audiovisual catalogs, and nontraditional sources of information.


Describes women's studies programs at U.S. colleges and universities and their library support services. Includes contact names.


An early overview of tools and methods for building library collections, with an out-of-date bibliography of key reference books.


A critically annotated bibliography of essential women's studies books and periodicals. Supplemented by Loeb, Searing, and Stineman (above).


Advice on searching for periodical literature, with a directory of printed indexes and online services.


Describes projects in which paid student assistants produce annotated bibliographies of women's studies materials for individual courses. The bibliographies are used for advising students, revising syllabi, and building the library collection.

-- Compiled by Susan E. Searing
Women's Studies Librarian
10/88; revised 4/90