

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALA/SRRT TASK
FORCE ON WOMEN

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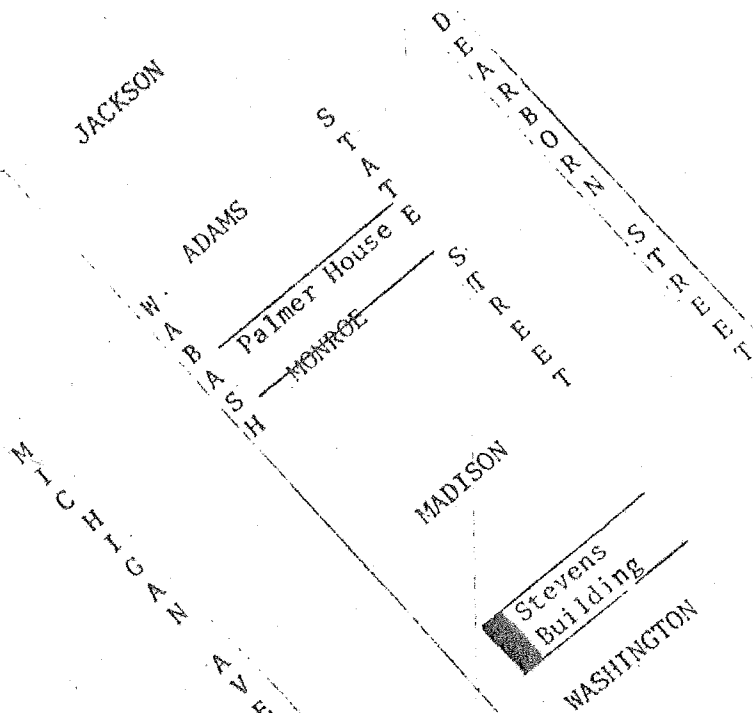
January 1976

Ed. Kay Cassell

TASK FORCE ON WOMEN MEETINGS AT MIDWINTER

On Sunday night, January 18, from 8:30-10:30 p.m. there will be a meeting with Council members to discuss topics of mutual interest. A short business meeting will follow.

On Tuesday, January 20, the Task Force will meet at 2 p.m. at the Eleanor Association in the Stevens Building, Suite 1819, 16 N. Wabash followed by a small celebration from 4 - 6 p.m. See map below for directions.



TFW SEXIST SUBJECT HEADING COMMITTEE

The Committee will meet at the 1976 Midwinter ALA meeting on Monday, January 19, from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in Room 704 Palmer House. We need more members in terms of both spreading the work around and of the credibility of our recommendations.

Background. The Committee was organized in Spring 1974. We have already had significant impact on LC women-related subject heading practice. We met with the ALA RTSD Subject Analysis Committee and with Ed Blume, Chief, Subject Cataloging Division, Library of Congress, who is the LC liaison to the Subject Analysis Committee, at the 1974 and 1975 ALA Annual Conventions. At the 1974 meeting the Committee presented documentation of sexist bias in the Library of Congress Subject Heading List (LCSH). (The 1974 Supplement to the LCSH lists the changes made by LC.) At the 1974 meeting, however, Blume informed us that LC could not possibly undertake the thorough review of its subject heading list which we insisted was needed. Since LC could not do the review, we decided to do it.

We have developed principles for the establishment of subject headings relating to people and peoples; these principles were presented to the ALA Subject Analysis Committee at the 1975 Annual Conference. The ALA Committee endorsed the principles and recommended to the Library of Congress and other libraries that the principles be followed when establishing or up-dating subject headings relating to people or peoples.

I (supported by a Council on Library Resources grant) have just completed a three month examination of LC's women-related collection and of the access that is provided to that collection. We expect to have compiled a non-sexist thesaurus of indexing terms by late 1976. If you want details, come to our meeting; (the three of us feel so foolish meeting in a room arranged to hold twenty), or if you can't make it to Midwinter, write for additional information--and an assignment.

Joan K. Marshall
Brooklyn College Library
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210

MICHIGAN WOMEN IN LIBRARIES

Female librarians met informally in East Lansing on November 7 and 8, 1975 to talk about the possibility of forming a group to discuss the opportunities and problems of women in libraries.

Inspired by the two ALA preconferences on Women in 1974 and 1975 sponsored by the ALA SRRT Task Force on Women, they are seeking to meet the needs of Michigan women librarians. Topics of interest brought out were career goal-setting, consciousness-raising, horizontal career development, affirmative action programs and the ALA resolution on equality for part-time library workers.

Possibilities for the structure of the group include forming a

round table within MIA, being an ad hoc group and forming a chapter of Women Library Workers. The structure of the Michigan group will be determined at meetings to be held in the spring. If you are interested in receiving mailings, please send \$3 to Barbara Rising, 2861 Lanergan, Troy, MI 48084.

OLPR STUDY OF U.S. LIBRARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The ALA Office of Library Personnel Resources has issued its Survey of Graduates and Faculty of U.S. Library Education Programs Awarding Degrees and Certificates, 1973-1974. The purpose of the survey was to collect data about ethnic and sexual composition of faculty and students in library education programs. Its conclusion, in part, states: "Librarianship is a profession in which more than three quarters of all Master's degrees in 1973-1974 were awarded to women; and almost three-quarters of the 6th year certificates were awarded to women. At the doctoral level, however, only slightly more than one-third of the degrees were awarded to women; this number is disproportionate to the number of women who hold Master's degrees in library science. Most faculty members teaching in library education programs are White men, with White women making up the next largest group. Of the ethnic groups represented on these faculties, Blacks have the largest number... In terms of faculty rank, White men hold more positions at every level except instructor. White women are employed at all levels of academic rank, but far fewer of them hold the rank of Professor than do White men."

IWY CELEBRATED BY LIBRARIES IN NEW YORK STATE

A number of New York libraries submitted information on programs they had sponsored for International Women Year in response to a flyer from the New York Library Association's Ad-Hoc Committee on Women.

New York Public Library submitted a bibliography of 250 influential women writers as well as information on a program held at the Donnell Library Center honoring women composers.

Glen Cove (Long Island) Public Library celebrated IWY with a special "Week of the Woman". Local women knowledgeable about women's place in society spoke. The programs included lectures on "What Did Labor-Saving Devices Really Save", on careers combined with marriage and motherhood, on women and mythology and on sexism and pre-school children. Several films on women were also shown.

The Earl W. Brydges Public Library in Niagara Falls ran a two week "Focus on Women" cosponsored by the library, AAUW, BPW, Zonta, Quota, and Professional Women Writers. Programs on the changing roles of families and the role of women today and in the future were presented.

NYLA PASSES RESOLUTION ON SEXIST TERMINOLOGY

At its November 1975 meeting the New York Library Association passed a resolution stating that future publications and official documents will be revised to avoid sexist terminology.

WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL EQUITY PROGRAM

The Women's Educational Equity Act of 1974 was passed in order to provide focused Federal support for programmatic efforts to achieve educational equity for women. Its proposed rules and criteria indicate that libraries might be eligible for funding. It specifically mentions information service - "developing and maintaining a communications network in the field of educational equity for women" and collecting and organizing relevant data. The proposed rules were published in the August 11, 1975 Federal Register. For further information and to be placed on their mailing list, write to Joan Duval, Women's Educational Equity Act Program, Room 3121, FOB-6, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Washington, D.C. 20202.

from Lavonne Swearingen
University of Rochester
Women's Commission

WOMEN LIBRARIANS IN THE NEWS

Media Report to Women of November 1, 1975 carried an article on Women Library Workers, Emergency Librarian and Women in Libraries. They also ran an excerpt from Emergency Librarian's interview with Anita Schiller (July-August 1975).

NEW BOOKS

Jo Freeman's The Politics of Women's Liberation (McKay, 1975, \$8.95) is her doctoral dissertation. In this book she discusses the rise of the women's movement including NOW and the local independent women's groups. She also discusses the policy impact of the movement on legislation. An interesting book for background on the movement.

Another Voice; Feminist Perspectives on Social Life and Social Science (eds. Marcia Millman and Rosabeth Moss Kanter) (Anchor Press, 1975, \$3.50) presents the research of women in sociology. The articles are well written and well documented. It includes Pam Roby on blue collar women, Rosabeth Kanter on women in management, Judith Lorber on women in medicine and Sarah Lawrence Lightfoot on educational systems.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

"Little Miss Muffet Fights Back" is available in a revised edition for \$1 from Feminist Book Mart, 41-17 150 St., Flushing, N.Y. 11355.

"Liberating Our Children, Ourselves" by Suzanne Howard discusses women's studies for teacher educators. Bibliographies, which are the course syllabi, are provided for several possible topics. This work is available from the American Association of University Women, 2401 Virginia Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20037 for \$1.50.

A new work on the ERA, Everything you need to know about the ERA, has been published by Meranza Press (P.O. Box 1614, Riverside, CA 92502). It is available to members of organizations for women for \$6.45 (hard cover) and \$3.95 (paperback) and to others at \$7.20 and \$4.45.

"Congressional Clearinghouse on Women's Rights" is a weekly informational service to Members of Congress to advise them of the progress of Women's Rights around the country. It includes the status of current legislation on women's issues, status of Congressional hearings and pending legislation and a bibliography of selected news items. Be sure your representatives in Congress know about it.

The American Association of School Administrators has published one of its Executive Handbook Series (vol. 4) on sex-stereotyping in textbooks and how to get rid of it. This handbook entitled "Sex Equality in Educational Materials" can be obtained by sending \$1.00 to AASA, 1801 N. Moore St., Arlington, VA 22209.

Press Women, the official magazine of the National Federation of Press Women, has published a special issue on equality to honor the NFPW's commitment to International Women's Year. The issue includes a good statistical report on the status of working women and a bibliography including career/education information and job information. Copies of this special issue are available for \$1.00 from Lois Lauer Wolfe, editor, 1105 Main St., Blue Springs, MO 64015.

Women Employable Newsletter is a New York-based clearinghouse of workshops, employment information, situations and help wanted and news of topical interest to women in the working world. You can receive the next six issues for \$4.00 by writing Women Employable % Ethel Cory, #17-A, 37 Washington Square West, New York, N.Y. 10011. The editors are publishing a guidebook entitled "How to set up a non-profit service for part-time jobs for women".

"Women: A Selected Bibliography" is free on request from the University of Michigan Library Extension Service, 2360 Bonisteel Blvd., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48105.

"Equal Rights for Women in Education" (Report 70) is available from the Education Commission of the States, 300 Lincoln Tower, 1860 Lincoln St., Denver, CO 80203. It gives an overview of federal court decisions and shows what areas have been extensively interpreted and those neglected.

The Research Center on Women at Alverno College has 12 unannotated bibliographies on women available including such topics as women of non-western cultures, women and life styles, women and the arts and women and religion. The entire set costs \$10 and individual bibliographies are \$1 each. To order, contact Research Center on Women, Alverno College, 3401 S. 39th St., Milwaukee, WI 53215.

Several reports on women have been published by WEAL. "Women Graduates", a statistical survey of the proportion of women earning degrees in higher education in the U.S., is available for \$1.50; "Marriage: Focus on Change", a summary of current attitudes towards marriage and the family in several countries, is available for \$1; and "Education and the Participation of Women in World Development", a survey of the literature including a bibliography, costs \$2.

All orders must be postpaid and sent to WEAL Educational and Legal Defense Fund, National Press Bldg., Washington, DC 20045.

RESULTS OF WLW MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

On December 2, 1975 the Women Library Workers (WLW) issued a report on its survey. The purpose of WLW is to combine the energies of credentialed and non-credentialed women to change the existing distribution of power in libraries, where women are the workers and men make the decisions. Returns on a survey sent to over 1,000 prospective members indicate that both locals and a national organization will be required to achieve this purpose: Local chapters combatting instances of discrimination and actively raising issues that affect women as workers and; A national network providing information and support through a newsletter, a directory of member's resources (SHARE Directory), workshops and other publications.

Full (voting) membership should be open to all women involved in library or information dealing fields, with strong emphasis on recruiting non-credentialed library workers. At present there are 9 active chapters. 16 other geographic areas with interested members have been identified. Anyone interested in participating in local groups write WLW for the name of the contact person in their area. For further information on WLW, contact Carole Leita, 555 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131.

FEMINIST CREDIT UNION OPENS IN NEW YORK

The N.Y. Feminist Federal Credit Union is now open. Women wishing to participate in this credit union may do so by joining one of the sponsoring organizations. The New York-New Jersey Librarians/Library Workers Feminist Caucus, one of the sponsoring organizations, may be joined by sending \$1.00 annual dues to Betty-Carol Sellen, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210.

LETTERS

A letter to Paul J. Carnese, Publisher, Library Journal, from Helen Ripplier Wheeler Re LJ Oct. 15 75 V 100 #18 p. 1878

"The article in question appears to mislead intentionally; in any event, the effect is to mislead and this, in a civil rights class action, is damaging to numerous persons and groups and not in the public interest. It is doubtful that a professional reporter (there is no byline; the person/persons responsible or source are not identified) would routinely prepare copy which by structure and omission misleads. The reader assumes that Dr. Wheeler was indeed contacted &/or interviewed--note the use of quotes.

The facts are that the civil action related to Louisiana State University's having been found out of compliance in Wheeler's 1972 class action in terms of discrimination against employed women, and that also noted in the findings was discrimination in terms of race. The suit filed in federal court recently related to implementation of these findings. Because of LJ's male-bonding

emphases throughout this period on providing visibility for Donald Foos--who is listed low among the defendants--, it would seem that publisher/editor are endeavoring to reinforce LSU's efforts to downplay the case and to structure little exposure it gets so that the uninformed public perceives it incorrectly as a personal matter.

Regular news releases and an attempt to respond were provided by me until Editor-in-Chief John N. Berry, III on January 9, 1974 declared that he had "decided not to publish the letter in any issue of Library Journal..." ...Editor Berry also decided not to publish the Letters-to-the-Editor supporting my efforts from feminists in and outside of librarianship"

The full text of this letter is available by writing Women in Libraries.

FEMINIST PRESS IS FIVE YEARS OLD

The newly-issued, illustrated and annotated catalog of The Feminist Press introduces its now 40 publications with these words: "The Feminist Press is five years old this year -- and fewer and fewer people are asking us if we're a movement newspaper or a group of women who run a printing press. We're neither of these, of course, but they're not bad questions because the Feminist Press is a lot more than a publishing house. To begin with, we don't choose our books to make a profile, but to fill a need. And we know what you need because we hear from you all the time..." For a copy of the 1976 catalogue or other information about its educational service, write the Feminist Press, Box 334, Old Westbury, NY 11568.

from Media Report to Women
12/1/75

WOMEN'S WORK - BEGINNING ITS SECOND YEAR

Women's Work is a publication devoted to expanding the job market for women, particularly into new fields. Information is provided about the job market and employment trends and the progress made in various job areas. Topics in previous issues include non-traditional work for women, setting up your own business, starting a day care center and changing image of household workers. This magazine is available to individuals and groups for \$5.00 per year from Wider Opportunities for Women, 1649 K Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

SMITHSONIAN TRAVELING EXHIBITION SERVICE

The Smithsonian Institution has prepared a special exhibition on the role that women have played in the American labor movement. Entitled "Workers and Allies: Female Participation in the American Trade Union Movement, 1824-1976," the show is available for local bookings. Contact: Laverne Love, The Smithsonian, Office of Equal Opportunity, Washington, D.C. 20460.

INTERNATION WOMEN'S DECADE

Remember that International Women's Year did not end in December, but is the beginning of the International Women's Decade, 1975-85. The United Nations calls it the Decade of Women and Development. So let's keep the action going!

WOMEN IN LIBRARIES is published bi-monthly from Sept. - June. Subscriptions are \$2 for individuals and \$5 for institutions. Make checks payable to ALA/SRRT Task Force on Women and send to Kay Cassell, Bethlehem Terrace, Apt. H-181, Slingerlands, N.Y. 12159.

Kay Cassell
Bethlehem Terrace, Apt. H-181
Slingerlands, N.Y. 12159

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