

## Assessment of Library Collections

### Women's Studies

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### OVERVIEW

The library's collections in Women's Studies appear to be in fairly good shape in terms of core resources for advanced undergraduate research. The essential question is whether collection development is keeping pace with the faculty's needs, given the aim for library resources and services to be commensurate with FIU's Research One ranking.

For example, the citation-rankings approach to evaluation of journals collections has limited applicability to Women's Studies. It generally does not account for newer journals that, though lacking a certain impact in the scholarly system, may be relevant on campus. For such needed breadth and innovation in collection development, the library relies on its collaborations with the faculty.

### BOOKS

Approval plan coverage in the social sciences and the humanities—having no substantive subject limitations—is well-suited to cover the broad cross-disciplinarity of Women's Studies.

Faculty orders are afforded through another budget that does not have departmental limits (the library attempts to acquire everything requested each year).

### JOURNALS

Of the citation-impact ranked journals in the literature of Women's Studies, the library has 17 (63%) of the 27 titles.

- Among the titles not in the collections that are priorities for acquisition are *Journal of Women's Health*; *Feminist Economics*; *Gender Work and Organization*; and *Violence Against Women*.

Unranked journals. Women's Studies journals without citation-impact factors that crop up in discussions of the literature are largely covered in the *Project Muse* online-journal package.

- Such titles include *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*; *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*; *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*; *Hypatia: Journal of Women's History*; *Legacy*; *NWSA Journal*; *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State and Society*.

Online journal archives: the library's collections include JSTOR Arts & Sciences I through IV.

## DATABASES

The library's collections of databases and other online resources, about 300 in number, include the core ones in Women's Studies.

- Under Women's Studies in the library's resource guide are *Contemporary Women's Issues*, and *GenderWatch*.
- Under Gender Studies are *Ethnic Newswatch*; *Black Studies*; *Chicano Database*; *Sociological Abstracts*; *Handbook of Latin American Studies*; *ATLA Religion Database*; *Anthropology PLUS*; and *Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts*, among others.

Online books: of the 56,000 *NetLibrary* electronic books owned by the library, 2,218 titles have *women* as a keyword descriptor; and 542 titles have *gender* as a keyword descriptor.

## ARCHIVES and SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Vicki Silvera, Head

The University Archives (of Green Library) has the official records of the Women's Studies Center and the published papers of Center conferences. Some additional archival collections should be singled out.

- Judge Mattie Belle Davis. This is the inaugural collection of the Miami Dade Women Archives. Judge Davis has the distinction of being admitted to the Florida Bar in 1936. She was appointed to serve as a judge of the Metropolitan Dade County Court (1959-1972) and later was judge of the Civil Division of the County Court of Dade County (1973-1980). Judge Davis was founder and later president of the Florida Association of Women Lawyers and was active in the National Association of Women Judges.
- Elaine Gordon. Gordon was a lawmaker and trail-blazing legislator recognized for her devotion to women, children and the elderly. She was a liberal Democrat from South Florida, who proved herself adept in the power circle dominated by men from the conservative districts in the Florida Panhandle. She served in the Florida House of Representatives for 22 years (1972 to 1994). One of her male colleagues gave her the high compliment of being "slicker than owl spit." She was a lead sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment, headed the House Health Care Committee, and helped set the state agenda on issues involving children, health care, mental health, and women's reproductive rights.

- Association of Caribbean Women Writers' and Scholars. The ACWWS is an international organization whose archives are housed in the University Archives. The association's aim is to disseminate and promote the literature and oratory of Caribbean women and to provide a forum for the advancement of the critical study and teaching of the works of Caribbean women writers and scholars.

### **Digital Collections Center**

Gail Clement, Head <http://digitalcollections.fiu.edu/>

The Digital Collections Center develops and preserves digital information resources of interest to scholars, educators, learners, and citizens. Established in 2004, it is in the formative stage of its partnerships with other library units, faculty, and regional and international organizations. The resources and services it is creating will advance FIU's institutional stature in the scholarly communication system at large, while also contributing to the cultural richness and civic engagement of the South Florida community.

Of general importance to all programs is the *FIU Digital Commons*, aimed at capturing, storing, providing access to and preserving the scholarly and creative output of the FIU faculty, staff, and students. Examples of resources for this institutional repository are theses and dissertations, teaching materials, conference papers, patents, invited lectures, datasets, art and specimen slides, video or audio performances, technical reports, working papers, electronic journals, and supplementary materials accompanying a publication.

A multimedia collection that pertains to Women's Studies, *A Tale of Two Women*, highlights the lives and work of two extraordinary Floridians, Marjory Stoneman Douglas and Marjorie Carr. These two women shared a love of the natural world; an interest in conservation and wildlife protection; and the courage to confront the potent influence of developers, boosters and the Army Corps of Engineers in Florida. Each was known for her exceptional intelligence, courage, persistence, and skills in persuasion. <http://everglades.fiu.edu/two/index.htm>

In addition, the Florida university library consortium of digital collections (PALMM) has an Archival Collection (<http://findaid11.fcla.edu/cgi/f/findaid/findaid-idx?page=browsecolls>) that contains digitized historical records and papers from prominent women, such as Eartha M. White and composer Mana Zucca, as well as women's organizations such as the Florida State College for Women.