



Women's Studies: A Selective List of Resources

"Feminism's agenda is basic: It asks that women not be forced to 'choose' between public justice and private happiness." –Susan Faludi

"I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is. I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat or a prostitute." –Rebecca West

Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary field of study that focuses on the roles and contributions of women in all fields of endeavor. This academic field studies topics concerning women, gender, and feminism. It draws from fields as diverse as literature, social sciences, history, humanities, health and politics in order to study the experience of women. This guide is designed to provide a small sample of the resources available in our library for Women's Studies and to help beginner researchers as well as general readers learn more about this field of study.

Reference Works

Researchers can begin to explore the field of Women's Studies by perusing some of the library's reference works. This list represents a selection of specialized works available in the W.I. Dykes Library Reference Collection. These works can give you some background information on your topic of interest, show you vocabulary you can type into the databases, and list some other references for further reading. Reference books do not circulate outside of the library.

Amico, Eleanor B., ed. *Reader's Guide to Women's Studies*. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1998.

REF HQ 1180 .R42 1998

This guide discusses key books on over 500 topics and people in the interdisciplinary field of Women's Studies. Basically, it is a guide to the best books in the field. The approach is designed to help readers of various interest levels to find the best materials on a topic. It only lists books available in English. Entries are arranged alphabetically. In addition, the book features various indexes for easy access.

Biggs, Mary. *Women's Words: the Columbia Book of Quotations by Women*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1996.
REF PN 6084 .W6 B47 1996

Biggs has compiled a collection of statements and quotes by women on hundreds of subjects. The book is organized by subject, and it includes brief notes on the speakers. It also includes a complete author index.

Commire, Anne, ed. *Women in World History: a Biographical Encyclopedia*. Waterford, CT: Yorkin Publications, 1999. (10 volumes).
HQ 1115 .W6 1999

This is a comprehensive biographical guide. Entries are organized alphabetically, but the set features good charts and indexing as well as a bibliography.

Dobkin, Rachel and Shana Sippy. *The College Woman's Handbook*. New York: Workman, 1995.
REF LC 1757 .D63 1995

This exactly what the title claims: a handbook for the college woman. It takes a look at various issues from money to health to safety. It is an excellent, well-written guide organized by topics that tells women just what they need to know about the college life.

Felder, Deborah G. *The 100 Most Influential Women of All Time: a Ranking of Past and Present*. Secaucus, NJ: Carol Publishing Group, 1996.
REF CT 3202 .F395 1996

This book provides short biographical sketches on 100 influential women from a variety of professions and walks of life. According to the editor, the mission of the book "was to choose the women who have had the greatest and longest-lasting historical and cultural impact, have inspired us, and whose lives and work have much to teach us about past and present culture, society, and selfhood" (ix-x). The book includes a selected bibliography for further reading and an index.

Gaze, Delia, ed. *Dictionary of Women Artists*. Chicago: Dearborn Fitzroy, 1997.
REF N8354 .D53 1997 (2 volumes).

This set "contains substantial entries on artists working on a variety of media from the Middle Ages to the present day, in countries throughout Europe as well as America and Australasia" (vii). In addition to 600 individual entries, the volumes include a series of introductory survey essays and illustrations.

Mankiller, Wilma, et.al., eds. *The Reader's Companion to U.S. Women's History*.
Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1998.
REF HQ 1410 .R43 1998

This book is a guide to the history of women in the United States. It features essays on topics, events, and people. For example, it includes articles on topics such as labor unions, immigration, legislation, and religion. Articles are organized alphabetically and include lists of resources for further reading. This book is also available in an electronic book edition. Readers can access the electronic copy via the library catalog.

Schenken, Suzanne O'Dea. *From Suffrage to the Senate: an Encyclopedia of American Women in Politics*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 1999.
REF HQ 1236.5 .U6 S32 1999 (2 volumes).

Featuring a foreword by Ann W. Richards, this set looks at women and politics in the United States. Its entries cover individuals, organizations, movements, events, legislation, and court cases. Many of the references provided for the articles include Web sites. It features good cross-references, an appendix of facts and statistics, and a chronology.

Young, Serinity, ed. *Encyclopedia of Women and World Religion*. New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 1999.
REF BL 458 .E53 1999 (2 volumes).

This reference set is designed to make scholarly work on women and religion accessible to general readers. It features a variety of articles addressing the world's religions and women. "A special feature of this work is the inclusion of articles on subjects specifically identified with women or of particular relevance to women's religious life. . ." (from the Introduction). Signed entries are organized alphabetically and include bibliographies.

Books and Other Items in the Library's Collections

Readers can use the library's catalog (<http://library.uh.edu/>) to locate books and audiovisual materials on topics related to Women's Studies. The catalog will list items owned by the UH System Libraries. This means UHD as well as other UH Campuses.

One way to search the catalog is by using a subject search. Using the appropriate Library of Congress Subject Headings, subject searching can yield more relevant and specific results. The reason is that these searches use the exact language of the catalog. To identify LOC Subject Headings, you can do a keyword search. Once you have a list of results, open some of the records to see the citation. The LOC Subject Headings are live

links which you can click to expand your search. Some sample LOC Subject Headings include, but are not limited to:

Women—United States—History
African-American Women
Married Women
Hispanic American Women
Feminist theory
Women—Biography

Women—Employment
Lesbians
Sex and Law
Feminism
Gender identity
Women in Art

Books: A Small Sampling

The books listed below are a very selective example of the type of books available in the General Collection. These books are available to be checked out, so if they are not on the shelf, they may have been checked out. However, feel free to browse in the area and take any other books that may be of interest.

Ashby, Ruth and Deborah Gore Ohrn, eds. *Herstory: Women Who Changed the World*. New York: Viking, 1995.
HQ 1121 .H47 1995

Essed, Philomena, et.al. *A Companion to Gender Studies*. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2005.
HQ 1075 .C656 2005

French, Marilyn. *From Eve to Dawn: A History of Women*. Toronto: McArthur, 2002.
HQ 1121 .F75 2002

Kennedy, Elizabeth Lapovsky, et. al., eds. *Women's Studies for the Future: Foundations, Interrogations, Politics*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2005.
HQ 1180 .W6765 2005

Kesselman, Amy, et.al., eds. *Women; Images and Realities: a Multicultural Anthology*. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2003
HQ 1421 .W653 2003

MacNabb, Elizabeth L., et.al. *Transforming the Disciplines: A Women's Studies Primer*. New York: Haworth Press, 2001
HQ 1180 .T73 2001

Shaw, Susan M. and Janet Lee. *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2004
HQ 1180 .W689 2004

Vicinus, Martha, ed. *Lesbian Subjects: A Feminist Studies Reader*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996.
HQ 75.16 .U6 L47 1996

Yalom, Marilyn. *A History of the Wife*. New York: Harper Collins, 2001
HQ 12006 .Y35 2001

Use the Library's Databases to Find Articles

The databases listed below can assist researchers in locating articles from magazines and journals on topics related to Women's Studies. Other possibilities are available. Researchers can consult the library's website under <Research Databases>. The researcher can then pick a subject to find specific databases, for example, General Sources or History. These and other databases are accessible through the library's homepage (<http://www.uhd.edu/library>).

Academic Search Premier	Lexis-Nexis Academic
Omnifile	PsychInfo
Literature Resource Center	MLA

Internet Resources

The internet provides a broad range of resources. Listed below are a few selected general resources. Some of these resources provide links to various other items of interest, including news, academic, and other items such as Government Documents and Non Governmental Organizations (NGO's).

Women's Issues Resource Site (<http://research.umbc.edu/~korenman/wmst/links.html>)

A site compiled and maintained by Professor Joan Korenman, Founding Director of the Center for Women and Information Technology, Professor Emerita of English, and Affiliate Professor Emerita of Women's Studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). The site lists various resources on Women's Studies from activism to business to health.

American Women's History: A Research Guide
(<http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women.html>)

Site created by Ken Middleton, a Reference Librarian at Middle Tennessee State University. The site, recognized as one of the Best Free Reference Websites in 2004 by the American Library Association, provides a broad range of resources. The site also added a nice timeline entitled **American Women through Time** (<http://www.mtsu.edu/~kmiddlet/history/women/wh-timeline.html>).

American Memory Project (<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>)

This Web site is a project of the Library of Congress (www.loc.gov). According to the site, it “provides free and open access through the Internet to written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps, and sheet music that document the American experience.” It includes various resources on women’s history.

Librarian’s Internet Index (www.lii.org)

This is a small internet directory that is maintained by a group of professional librarians. Librarians actually look over the sites before they are listed, making LII an excellent research tool. Readers can run a search on the topic of “women’s studies” and find a list of excellent resources. If you want an alternative to Google and other search engines that give millions of results, give this tool a try.

This guide was developed by:
Angel Rivera
Arts and Humanities Librarian
Developed 03/06



W.I. Dykes Library
One Main Street
Houston, TX 77002
Information: 713-221-8187
Circulation: 713-221-8186



Comments or questions?
riveraa@uhd.edu