ABSTRACT

WOMEN’S ACTION IN ‘MEMORY OF THE NETHERLANDS. THE PAST DIGISTED’

Susanne Neugebauer IIAV

Presented at Gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference, August 20-24, 2003, Lund University, Sweden

In 2000 the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture & Science decided to facilitate the digitisation of Dutch cultural heritage collections. At the moment at least sixteen (which will probably grow into forty) heritage collection institutions shall be digitised and presented at one site: www.geheugenvannederland.nl (Memory of the Netherlands) in three years time. Through this site, visitors of all sorts and ages should have access to Heritage collections of the Netherlands. The first four collections are available since December 2002. An important part of this project are the educational sub sites, which form an integral part of the project.

The International Information Centre and Archive for the Women’s Movement (IIAV) is one of the participants in this heritage project. Founded in 1935 we are preserving the cultural heritage of the Dutch women's movement. Over the years, the provision of information on the current position of women has also become one of the core tasks. In addition, the IIAV has functioned since the seventies as the definitive academic library and archive for women's studies in the Netherlands. Look at www.iiav.nl!

The IIAV chose to participate in the heritage project with a part of her picture department: the Dutch poster collection, because of its very expressive character. In November 2003 visitors will be able to search the collection containing posters concerning the Dutch women’s movement since 1898. The larger part of this collection represents all sorts of activities of the women’s movement during the 1960-1980’s, the so called second feminist wave.

Until now this collection was hardly accessible, because the posters were not yet indexed. This project was a chance to get finances to do so.

With this beautiful collection concerning the women’s movement, the IIAV is also able to reach a broader audience. Another goal of the Memory of the Netherlands project is to develop educational tools. With her poster collection the IIAV could easily make a connection to the history curriculum in secondary schools. Though the educational project concerning the changed position of women and girls, 1960-1990, we hope to teach pupils about one of the major social changing in the twentieth century from the perspective of women.

In the paper/presentation we will discuss
- how did we get access to this project
- why did we choose for this collection
- the development of the educational tool
- technical, organisational, financial aspects