WEB EXHIBITION ON THE HISTORY OF THE WOMEN’S MOVEMENT OF THE 1970IES IN NORWAY

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Presented at Gender and Power in the New Europe, the 5th European Feminist Research Conference
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A web exhibition, www.kampdager.no was launched on the international women’s day 2003 at KILDEN, the Norwegian Information and Documentation Centre for Women's Studies and Gender Research. Inspired by the Swedish exhibition "Kärlek, makt, systerskap" www.ub.gu.se/systerskap and the Danish "Kvindekilder"www.kvindekilder.dk, it is the result of a co-operation between KILDEN and NIKK, the Nordic Institute for Women’s Studies and Gender Research. Through funding from Norwegian Cultural Net and the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research as well as resources from the co-operating institutions, material on the movement’s activities has been gathered and made available for a broad public. The exhibition is as of now in Norwegian language only.

One part of the website is built up around ten "stories" with interviews of, or articles by, the activists. Here links are found to background information, such as digitalized photos, scanned newspaper and magazine clippings, buttons, posters, front pages of books and magazines, music as well as bibliographies.

Another part consists of an index list of catch words and slogans, where you can find overview and in depth articles on different themes, also with links and cross-references.

A separate guide for teachers and students is part of the exhibition, as well as a guideline to other sources and archives around the country that contains relevant material for the history of the women’s movement.

Hopefully the project is only the first step towards a permanent website on women’s history in Norway. Secondly, it is meant to be input to a broader Nordic or even European network co-operation or project on web-based information on the history of the women’s movement or broader- on women’s history.
ABSTRACT

DIGITALIZATION OF WOMEN’S JOURNALS AT THE WOMEN’S HISTORY COLLECTIONS

Elisabeth Hammarberg, Women’s History Collections, The Swedish National Resource Library for Women’s, Men’s and Gender Studies

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The Women's History Collections at Göteborg University Library is a special library for women's, men's and gender studies. The Collections were founded in 1958 as a private initiative and have since 1971 been a part of Göteborg University Library. In 1997 the Women's History Collections became the Swedish National Resource Library for Women's, Men's and Gender Studies. The principal goals of the Women's History Collections are compiling bibliographies, collecting manuscripts and other material concerning the women's movement in Sweden.

The digitalization project started some years ago and consists of three Swedish women’s journals from the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The three journals are: “Framåt”, “Tidskrift för hemmet” and “Rösträtt för kvinnor”.

We had several reasons to choose these journals:
- They are among the most important women’s journals in Sweden from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries
- They are only available at a few libraries
- The paper quality is poor (they are falling apart)
- There would be no problems with the copyright.

Today we have a full-text collection of 10,000 digital pages, when the project is finished there will be about 15,000.

The articles can be found by browsing the journals tables of contents in the project website (http://www.ub.gu.se/samlingar/kvinn/digtid/) or by searching the databases KVINNSAM (http://www.libris.kb.se/english/special.database.DAKS.html).

The project has been financed by BIBSAM (the Royal Library’s Department for National Coordination and Development).
ABSTRACT

DIGITIZING PHOTOGRAPHS – A Project at the Women’s History Collections

Berith Backlund, Göteborg University Library, Sweden, Anna Sjödahl Hayman, Göteborg University Library, Sweden

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The objective of this workshop is to present the project of digitizing photographs belonging to the Women’s History Collections at Göteborg University Library. The collections contain about 2000 pictures. We will start by digitizing those from the Women’s Vote Movement, that are about 200. We have studied other digitizing projects and will report on what we have learnt from that, which options we can see and we will also show some examples of databases that we find functional.

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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 tot 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
ABSTRACT

LOOK BACK IN ADMIRATION.
THE ARIADNE ‘WOMEN IN MOVEMENT’ PROJECT

Christa Bittermann-Wille and Helga Hofmann-Weinberger, Ariadne, Austrian National Library

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Ariadne, a women’s information and documentation center at the Austrian National Library, is running a digitization project aimed at increasing awareness of the richness and diversity of the social and political discourse of the early Austrian women’s movement. Not only are documents (books as well as periodicals) presented online in full-text versions, but the context of the movement and its organizational structure is explored by a special web portal (http://www.onb.ac.at/ariadne/vfb/vfbindex.htm). By “context” we mean the persons (women and men) and organizations involved, the educational institutions and a brief overview of historic events relevant for the period from 1848 (year of the revolution) to 1918 (end of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire).
The technological development means that digitalisation of texts and material for the internet has become a cheap as well as technically easy procedure. Moreover, the internet has become one of, if not THE, most important and most frequently used sources for seeking information. When it comes to minor archives and information centres, this opens up new and unsuspected possibilities for representing the cultural heritage to an even larger group of users. It also makes it possible to employ various types of presentations such as educational introductions to subjects within women’s history, story telling and quizzes, and it makes easy the publication of large quantities of material such as pamphlets and journals. All this may be seen as a welcome revitalization of the debate on women’s politics from primary school level and upwards.

In my paper, I will touch upon the following aspects of the digitalisation project:

· preservation of old material
· democratization of knowledge
· reaching new user groups with information
· the development of new means of presentations
· securing women’s history as part of the cultural heritage
REWIND NET is the network of women's information and documentation centres from 15 countries, mostly post-communist countries from Central and Eastern Europe and some from Middle Asia. Although established only at the beginning of 2001, the network developed significant twofold activities, on the national level and regionally. There are also some products that are results of common activity, like Regional Women's Directory database, and some others.

The emphasis of the network is on common work of national centers on activities/projects on the regional level – researches, lobbying, seminars, as well as on services – various data regarding women’s groups and their activities in the region and wider, on-line databases of documents and libraries etc. Information services (info pool) through the Regional WEB-site. All of these mentioned points are on high level of development.

One of the emphasises is also cooperation with other similar network’s. Internally, the network is working on developing common standards, developing and maintaining a structure of shared responsibilities.

Before the establishment of the network such organizations only existed in half of the countries. At the moment, the structure of both national women's INDOC's and their regional coordination is well established. However, due to the very short time of existence, it is still fragile and could be jeopardized by many internal and external factors.

As for the “problems” of operating, the size of the network and the level of development, which is still rather initial then advanced, is very demanding regarding operating. There are two forms of difficulties, one at a national level, and another on the level of regional coordination. Both levels are dealing with the structure of work as well as with the conceptualisation of the content. Last but not least, the problem of financial support is basic.

Talking about problems of cooperating, there is less problem of cooperating with each other. At least, so far, we have not noticed any problem of that kind. There may be possible problems with organizations and networks outside this one. This relates particularly to those from more advanced countries, centers that are well established, operating for much longer time, therefore, having different experiences, criteria, insights. Different levels of development, different socio-historical experiences, different approaches and different speed of development are the possible conflict points.
The objective of this workshop is to present and to demonstrate two bibliographical databases produced by the Women’s History Collections at Göteborg University Library.

KVINNSAM is an interdisciplinary database with references from the collections in Göteborg University Library. The database contains about 100,000 records from the early 1970’s onwards. It has been on the web since 1998, with search interfaces in both Swedish and English.

GENA is a database of PhD-theses in Women’s Studies, Men’s Studies and Gender Research in Sweden. It contains about 700 PhD-theses from 1960 onwards. The search interface is in Swedish.

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ABSTRACT

MAPPING THE WORLD OF WOMEN’S INFORMATION SERVICES: AN ONLINE DATABASE OF WOMEN’S INFORMATION CENTERS AND LIBRARIES WORLDWIDE

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In this paper I will present an overview of the history and development of the Mapping the World database of Women’s Information Services around the World, one of the databases of the International Information Centre and Archives for the Women’s Movement (IIAV) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. (www.iiav.nl). In the practical presentation of the database, I will show you how you can search the database.
ABSTRACT

DATABASE EXPANDING HORIZONS:

DATABASE FOR EXPERTISE ON GENDER AND ETHNICITY

Tilly Vriend, Coordinator Databases of the International Information Centre and Archives for the Women’s Movement (IIAV), Amsterdam
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HOW DO UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES SERVE THE NEEDS OF GENDER STUDIES PROGRAMS?

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The more women's and gender studies courses are offered as special curriculums at various universities the more urgent it is to focus on the role of university libraries in this process. How university libraries serve the needs of gender studies students and staff today? There isn't any discussion and literature about this theme in Germany till today. Every institution solves the problem it's own way.

To answer the above question I will analyse a second questionnaire which I sent to more than 20 gender studies centers at universities in Germany, Austria and Switzerland (the first one started in February 2000 with no utilisible results). All the centers are different in case of how long they exist, how many students and staff they have, how they affiliated to the university structur. Therefore it is a wide range of possible answers and worthful to look at similarities or to discuss possibilities in order to generalise them.

Comparing the answers of various centers against the background of relevant literature in this field I hope to be able to suggest some useful general methods in planning, supplying and providing gender studies literature in or together with university libraries.
ABSTRACT

Gender and outstanding issues – is feminist librarianship possible?

Rosie Ilett, University of Glasgow, Scotland.

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This paper will explore gendered meanings within the British library, within public libraries and within women's libraries and archives that operate outside official structures and have a different purpose. It will reflect personal and professional reflections and understandings of feminism and librarianship, and includes material from my PhD thesis (University of Glasgow, September 2003 submission). It will take a third-wave feminist position, that moves beyond second-wave feminism to include more recent approaches from cultural and critical theories.

The paper will propose that libraries are gendered, directly resulting from the construction of modernist librarianship, and of the library as a quasi-domestic, female-controlled third-space between the public and domestic worlds, at the end of the nineteenth century. It will argue that this has ensured that the library continues to inhibit women as librarians, to decrease potential feminist-inspired challenges, and ignores the andocentric nature of the organisations of knowledge manifested within library classification schemes.

The paper will propose that women's libraries and archives, developed through twentieth-century British feminism may offer different models of librarianship and new types of feminist space. Reflections will be made on the changing fortunes of three contemporary women's libraries that represent different stages of feminism, and different approaches to librarianship. I will explore whether feminism and librarianship can be explicitly linked and whether feminism can offer opportunities for the development of new types of knowledge and library spaces with wider significance.
This paper is part of the large scale European project SIGIS - Strategies of Inclusion: Gender and the Information Society. In SIGIS, public and private initiatives to include women in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are studied in the UK, Ireland, Norway, Italy and the Netherlands. In this paper, the preliminary findings of a part of SIGIS will be presented: the experiences of female users of the public and private policies and products. These experiences have been reported in 18 cases study reports covering a diverse range of inclusion initiatives. The experiences of over 170 (mostly) female users and non-users of these initiatives were collected, mostly by interviewing them, but also by distributing and analyzing questionnaires and by analyzing messages by users on fora, discussion platforms and mailing lists. The preliminary conclusion of this report is that three factors seem crucial for the inclusion of women in the information society and can be found in several or even most case-studies. These factors are firstly, that women indicate that they often lack access to resources. Secondly they experience a lack of skills and knowledge. Last but not least, women need to experience the computer and the Internet as something that fits their lives. Several women struggle with a low self esteem and lack of self confidence regarding computers, which can partly be explained by the problematic relationship between women and technology. This problematic relationship can also be addressed by changing the image of ICTs to something that is pleasurable to use and that fits women’s lives. Inclusion strategies will only be successful if these specific constraints articulated by women are seriously addressed.