SORTING THE WHEAT FROM THE CHAFF: LOCATING AND USING RESOURCES FOR WOMEN

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The twentieth century has been referred to as the information age, and we see constant references to the growth and influence of the information superhighway. In this new technological culture, knowledge equals power and it is to our every advantage to learn how to navigate our way through the mountains of data and locate what will aid us in our careers and lives.

As women we face multiple barriers in the modern world. At a recent conference, librarian Joan Challinor said “If women are to assert their rightful place in the world’s evolving social, intellectual, political, and economic systems, they must investigate the issue of their access to and use of the world’s growing information base.” The value of information for functioning efficiently in American society has become increasingly clear in the last thirty years.

The impact of the revitalized women’s movement of the 1960s cannot be underestimated - culturally, politically, socially, or historically. The publication of Betty Friedan’s “The Feminine Mystique” in 1963 touched a sensitive nerve in the American psyche. The women’s movement brought a new interest to women’s issues; and stimulated the development of numerous women’s studies programs and a social history that, for the first time, focused on the role of women. The result for today’s researcher is a plethora of materials on women in the form of published and unpublished materials.
Sifting through these materials and finding helpful resources is a time consuming process, and therefore it is worthwhile to focus our attention on learning to quickly evaluate sources and locating organizations that will provide the information that we need. What should women in engineering look for, in regards to the resources currently available?

1. Archival and historical collections
   Can include pamphlets, ephemera, correspondence, photographs
2. Articles and Periodicals
3. Bibliographies and bibliographic databases
   Bibliographies can be located in either published form. of a published book or article. There are also national daba
   OCLC and RLIN that can locate materials throughout the I
4. the Internet - discussion lists and the World Wide Web
5. Library indexes
6. Organizational newsletters and statistics
7. Reports and working papers
8. Secondary books

The next part of this discussion will focus on sc resources currently available, not only for work specifically targeted to women in engineering. there, it only requires some time and inclinatio

**Repositories with collections related**
Archives of Women in Science and Engineering
Cornell University; Harvard University - St
Women in America; Library of Congress; N
Technology; Pennsylvania State University;
Berkeley; University of Colorado; University
University of Minnesota; University of Tennes.

**Discussion Lists on the Int**
EdeEquity (concerns gender educational equity)
  majordomo@confer.edc.org
H-Women Women’s History Discussion List
  listserv@uicvm.uic.edu

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING CONFERENCE: CAPITALIZING ON TODAY’S
1996 WEPAN National Conference
Society of Women Engineers  
sbswe-1@ccvm.sunysb.edu  
Women in Science and Engineering  
wisenet@uicvm.uic.edu  
WEPAN (Must be a WEPAN member)  
WEPAN-L@vm.cc.purdue.edu  
WMST-L Women’s Studies Listserv  
listserv@umd.d.umd.edu

Selected Library Resources
Compendex Plus (Engineering Index)  
Dissertation Abstracts International  
McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology  
Science Citation Index  
U.S. Patent Search

Selected Organizations

1) American Society for Engineering Education  
1818 N St. NW, Suite 600  
Washington, D.C. 20036  
http://www.asee.org/asee/about/vision.html

2) Center for Research on Women  
Wellesley College  
106 Central Street  
Wellesley, MA 02181-8259

3) Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology (CPST)  
1500 Massachusetts Avenue NW--Suite 831  
Washington, D.C. 20005

4) Federation of Organizations for Professional Women  
2001 S St. NW--Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20009

5) International Center for Research on Women  
1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW--Suite 302  
Washington, D.C. 20036
6) National Academy of Engineering
   2101 Constitution Avenue NW -- NAS 046
   Washington, D.C. 20418
   http://www.nas.edu/

7) National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering
   3 West 35th Street
   New York, NY  10001

8) National Council for Research on Women
   530 Broadway, 10th Floor
   Seattle, WA  10012-3920

9) National Society of Professional Engineers
   1420 King St.
   Alexandria, VA  22314
   http://www.nspe.org/

10) National Women’s History Project
    7738 Bell Road
    Windsor, CA  95492-8518

11) Programs for Women and Girls
    National Science Foundation
    4201 Wilson Blvd.
    Arlington, VA  22230

12) WEEA (Women’s Education Equity Act Program)
    Equity Resource Center at EDC, 55 Chapel Street
    Newton, MA  02158-1060

13) Women in Mining National
    1801 Broadway, Suite 400
    Denver, CO  80202

Newsletters and Periodicals

Comments (Commission on Professionals in Science and Technology)
Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women’s Studies Resources
Graduating Engineer
Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering
Manpower Assessment Brief (U.S. Dept. of Energy)

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING CONFERENCE: CAPITALIZING ON TODAY’S CHALLENGES
1996 WEPAN National Conference
Selected Secondary Resources


Women Scientists in America: Struggles and Strategies to 1940 Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982
World Wide Web Sites for Women in Engineering

Advocates for Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics
http://wwwide.com/awsem.html

Archives of Women in Science and Engineering
http://www.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/wise/wise.html

Engineering Coalition of Schools for Excellence in Education
http://web.mit/edu/ethics/www/ecsel/

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Women in Engineering

International Network of Women in Technology
http://www.witi.com/

National Science Foundation
http://www.nsf.gov/nsf/homepage/about.htm

Organizations Encouraging Women in Science and Engineering
http://xerxes.nas.edu:70/1/cwse

Society of Women Engineers
http://www.swe.org

Some Women’s Studies and Women in Science Resources
http://www.astro.phast.umass.edu/~brockman/womenstudies.html

Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering
http://www.ai.mit.edu/people/ellens/Gender/
wom_and_min.html

Women in Engineering links

Women’s Resources on the Web
http://www.women-online.com/women/