

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 The result for today's researcher is a plethora of materials on women in the form of published and unpublished materials.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 databases OCLC and RLIN that can locate materials throughout the

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 secondary resources currently available, not only for women specifically targeted to women in engineering. there, it only requires some time and inclination

Repositories with collections related

Archives of Women in Science and Engineering
Cornell University; Harvard University - Science
Women in America; Library of Congress; National
Technology; Pennsylvania State University;
Berkeley; University of Colorado; University
University of Minnesota; University of Tennessee.

Discussion Lists on the Internet

EdeEquity (concerns gender educational equity)

majordomo@confer.edc.org

H-Women Women's History Discussion List

listserv@uicvm.uic.edu

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@umdd.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)

U.S. Woman Engineer/Society of Women Engineers Newsletter
The Woman Engineer
Women and Engineering News (College of Engineering-Cornell University)

Selected Secondary Resources

- Directory of Archives and Manuscripts Repositories in the United States.
Washington, D.C.: National Historical Publications and Records Commission.
- The Glass Ceiling and Women in Engineering: Report of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) Women in Engineering Task Force. Alexandria, Va.: National Society of Professional Engineers, 1992.
- Hinding, Andrea, Editor. Women's History Sources: A Guide to Archives and Manuscript Collections in the United States. New York: Bowker, 1979.
- McIlwee, Judith Samson. Women in Engineering: Gender, Power, and Workplace Culture. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1992.
- Moseley, Eva Steiner, Editor. Women, Information, and the Future: Collecting and Sharing Resources Worldwide. Fort Atkinson, Wi.: Highsmith Press, 1995.
- Oldenzil, Ruth. Gender and the Meaning of Technology: Engineering in the United States, 1880-1945 Thesis (Ph.D.) Yale, 1992.
- Malinowsky, H. Robert. Reference Sources in Science, Engineering, Medicine, and Agriculture. Phoenix: Oryx, 1994.
- A National Survey of Women and Men Engineers: A Study of the Members of 22 Engineering Societies. New York, N.Y.: Society of Women Engineers, 1993.
- Rossiter, Margaret. Women Scientists in America: Before Affirmative Actions, 1940-1972 Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.
- Women Scientists in America: Struggles and Strategies to 1940
Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1982



Who's Who in Science and Engineering. Wilmette, Ill: Reed Reference Publishing Company.

Women in Engineering: An Untapped Resource. New York, N.Y.: Catalyst, 1992.

Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering. (Directory) Washington, D.C.: National Science Foundation, 1982- .

World Wide Web Sites for Women in Engineering

Advocates for Women in Science, Engineering, and Mathematics
<http://wwide.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
http://www.ieee.org/ieee_women_in_eng/women.html

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
<http://keating.anu.edu.au/~jason/wie.html>

Women's Resources on the Web
<http://www.women-online.com/women/>