

**The IALHI gender project  
IALHI Annual Conference  
Stockholm 4-7 September 2002**

**[www.ialhi.org/gender](http://www.ialhi.org/gender)**

**The gender workshop at ARAB, 5 September**

Presentation of the Internet Guide to Sources for Women's and Gender History in IALHI Institutions. In the room where the workshop was held, there was a small exhibition of materials documenting women's history in the ARAB.

Introduction by Jenneke Quast (International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam)

Why a guide like this? In the past few years, the relationship between women and labour, gender & class, socialism and sexuality, feminism and socialism has frequently been the subject of conferences, workshops and publications of labour history institutions, so the time just seemed ripe for a project like this. Secondly, collection guides are useful and guides that can be searched on the Internet are even more useful. Thirdly, archivists and librarians may find it interesting, gratifying and stimulating to look at their own collections from the gender angle.

Following a proposal to the Co-ordination Committee to make a guide to sources for women's and gender history in IALHI institutions, several members sent information on gender-related materials in their collections for inclusion in the guide. The result is a special "gender" page on the IALHI website, at [www.ialhi.org/gender](http://www.ialhi.org/gender)

The information provided takes several forms: MS Word documents, PDF files, HTML files. In cases where no electronic document is available, there is a brief description on the IALHI web page. The files are stored either on the institution's own webserver or on the IALHI server. Hyperlinks on the IALHI gender page point to the individual collection information. In a few cases there is an additional link to websites of national projects bringing together information on women's and gender related collections.

**Presentations and discussion**

The gender guide-under-construction was shown on a projection screen, and workshop participants who had sent information for inclusion in the guide briefly presented their contributions.

Franck Veyron (BDIC, Paris) had contributed an MS Word document containing bibliographic information on "Sex, gender and sexual orientation". This was prepared for an existing project in which the Service des Droits de l'homme de la BDIC is involved. Franck pointed out that this is a preliminary list, which does not cover all gender related materials in the BDIC.

Janette Martin (Labour History Archive and Study Centre, Manchester) presented an article broadly describing gender related archival materials in the LHASC and a few examples of these archives, made accessible using the International Standard Archival Description [ISAD(G)], which is also used for the Genesis project. They are available as MS Word documents from the IALHI site.

Urs Kaelin (Schweizerisches Sozialarchiv, Zurich) stressed the importance of identifying not only archival and manuscript collections, but also printed materials. The Sozialarchiv has detailed descriptions of women's organizations records and personal papers on its own website. This information is also available as an MS Word file from the IALHI website.

The FES Bibliothek (Bonn), represented in the gender workshop by Ruediger Zimmermann, published a guide entitled 'Women in the German Labour movement, an inventory of newspapers, journals, minutes and reports in the Library of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation', available as a PDF file from the website of the FES Library. A similar comprehensive guide for the FES Archive was presented by its compiler Ilse Fischer. Her presentation offered clear examples of the large number of sources for the history of women and gender that can be found in labour history collections. Her guide will be shortly available from the website of the AdsD.

The Tamiment Library (New York) has information on sources for women's history published on its website, as HTML files. Andrew Lee explained they call it a "pathfinder", reserving the word "guide" for more specific, formal, collections information.

The IISG (Amsterdam) has webpages listing papers of persons involved in the labour movements in the Netherlands and other countries. It is based on the Index of Archival Collections held by the IISH, with additional entries for women whose papers are part of the archives of their correspondents or relatives, and some introductory biographical and bibliographical notes.

It is not always easy to identify gender-related materials. Kiril Anderson (RGASPI, Moscow) explained that many repositories in the Russian Federation have such documents, but they are dispersed through the records of a large number of state organizations and agencies. The same is true - to a certain extent - for US government agencies records. Solveig Halvorsen (Arbeiderbevegelsens Arkiv og Bibliotek, Oslo) argued that gender-related materials can be found in nearly all collections. Jaap Kloosterman (IISH, Amsterdam) suggested that in these cases analytical articles broadly describing what kind of materials can be found in a repository are very helpful to researchers.

Other institutions have gender-specific information about their collections that is not - or not yet - available electronically. Stellan Anderson (ARAB, Stockholm) presented a printed index, *Women's archives: personal archives from women active in the labour movement, and archives/collections from organizations which on central and local level mainly organize women, in Arbetarörelsens arkiv och bibliotek* (August 28, 2002). The Paderborner Archiv zur Geschichte der Arbeiterbewegung, in response to our proposal, wrote a letter describing women's history materials in Paderborn. The George Meany Memorial Archives has a printed list entitled *Women in the Labor Movement: a Checklist of Sources in the George Meany Memorial Archives 1996-1997*.

### **Friday 6 September**

Project presentations: Genesis, Association Archives du Féminisme, CODHOS, Archivi Riuniti delle Donne, Sources for women's history in IALHI Institutions.

Jenny Haynes introduced the Genesis project, a mapping initiative to identify and develop access to women's history sources in the British Isles. A summary of her presentation will be sent separately; the url of the Genesis website is [www.genesis.ac.uk](http://www.genesis.ac.uk)

Françoise Blum gave an introduction of the Association Archives du Féminisme, a French project to preserve the records of women's organizations and feminists' papers. Information on the Association can be found at their website [buweb.univ-angers.fr/ARCHFEM/asso1.htm](http://buweb.univ-angers.fr/ARCHFEM/asso1.htm).

Françoise also introduced the cooperation project CODHOS, Collectif des centres de documentation en histoire ouvrière et sociale, or Association of Labour History Institutions in

France. More about this initiative can be found in the printed article included in the conference papers. The url of CODHOS is [www.codhos.asso.fr](http://www.codhos.asso.fr)

Maria Luisa Betri (Dipartimento di scienze della storia, University of Milano) gave an introduction to the Archivi Riuniti delle Donne, the Italian association aiming at safeguarding primary sources for women's history and promoting research and education in this field. The url is [www.storiadelledonne.it/ard/ard.htm](http://www.storiadelledonne.it/ard/ard.htm)

The url of the Sources for women's history in IALHI Institutions is [www.ialhi.org/gender](http://www.ialhi.org/gender)

### **Future contributions to the list *Sources for women's history in IALHI Institutions*.**

IALHI members who wish to do so can send information about sources relating to women's and gender history in their collections to Jenneke Quast, IISH, Amsterdam, email [jqu@iisg.nl](mailto:jqu@iisg.nl).

Sources that may be included:

- Anything related to *women and gender in labour history*
- Women's social and political organizations; women's trade unions
- Unions in trades and industries in which women dominated
- Reform movements in which women figured prominently (temperance movement, peace movement, sexual reform organizations)
- Papers of individuals who were involved in such movements and organizations
- Documents related to the *Frauenfrage*, feminism, women's suffrage, women's work and payment, prostitution, sexuality, marriage and the family, education for girls, prostitution, housing
- *All* material types can be included: archives and manuscripts, periodicals, photographs, posters, pamphlets, audiovisual materials and other rare or unique documents. Articles broadly describing book collections are welcomed to.

Level of description.

Analytical articles - anything to fill the gap between general collection information and item level description - are very instructive and helpful.

Format

The information can be sent in any format. It can be an existing list, whether electronic or printed. It can be an Internet address: existing online guides will be referred to by a hyperlink: to the IALHI website or to the institution's own server.

The web address of Sources for women's history in IALHI institutions is:  
[www.ialhi.org/gender](http://www.ialhi.org/gender)

J.Quast/ 13 December 2002