CHAPTER 4
WOMEN'S STUDIES
INFORMATION RESOURCES
4.1. Introduction

In terms of writing a research paper, a resource can be a book, article, Internet site or other source where one find information that is used in writing a paper. Even a person can be a resource. In the same sense that resources for getting water might include a lake, a stream or a well, any one of these information "places" could be a resource for information. Documenting information resources is vital for the proper growth and development of a subject. Information is often discussed in association with the terms knowledge and communication. The term information has not been extensively used until quite recently; Shannon in 1949 is credited with the development of the mathematical theory of information. Coupled with the recent large scale adoption of the term there have been numerous attempts at definition - probably one is available for each member of the society. Here are a few:-

Information is data that has been processed into a form that is meaningful to the recipient and is of perceived value in current or prospective decisions. Unesco / PGI defines information as "knowledge in communicable form, is recognised today as one of the main requirements for development. Indeed the ability to record and use data, information and knowledge is one of the most important human characteristics" (Evans, 2001).
Information is "the communication or reception of knowledge or intelligence; something obtained or received through informing; [and] the process by which the form of an object of knowledge is impressed upon the apprehending mind so as to bring about the status of knowing" (Chakrabarti, 1993).

"Information is some meaningful message transmitted from source to users. In this process information may be stored in information products and systems organised for providing a memory in numerical, sound and image forms. Information may also be communicated through interpersonal channels. The "source" may be documentary material, institutions or people" (Evans, 2001).

The historical development of information presents several phases. The earliest or oral phase is of considerable importance and traditionally most information would have been captured thus. Majority of Women's Studies literature is now based on Oral information, as the subject seeks to develop and strengthen its root through the restoration of the past and bringing out the real picture of the status of women in the society. The method however has its drawbacks in that the amount of information that can be stored by an individual or even collective memory is limited in quantity and by the lifespan of individuals. The second major phase emerges with the evolution of systems of writing and the associated tools and materials with which and, on which to write. While the printed book may aptly be looked as a form of information technology- a reading machine. The latest phase in the communication of information has come about through the use of electronics. We now have ever faster means of communicating, processing and producing
information, and media which provide colossal stores for information. This promises changes, equivalent if not more far ranging, than the effect of printing.

4.2 Information as Resource

Information forms the major base on which the growth of knowledge and so much else depends. Without information decisions will be random ad-hoc choices, projects are unlikely to meet set objectives; reports will not adequately reflect situations. Systematic organisation and dissemination of information is one of the vital resources of the country for its proper development, and the importance of it is now considered by majority of countries of the world.

- Individuals and organisations are at the same time producers and consumers of information.

- The value of information is in its utilisation.

- Looking at information as a product that must be designed, developed, packaged and promoted on the basis of identified user needs is a new concept that is gaining ground with the application of information technology.

- Information is potentially a plentiful resource and is also potentially inexhaustible.

There is promise of improved availability and access to information sources through national and international networks. The use of electronic technology allows
rapid access to information. Staff should be able to concentrate on value added services and become more involved with the user and their problems and projects. The image of the service will be enhanced from improved and wider ranging services.

In the fast changing world information is comprehended as something which is invented, created and developed by scientists, scholars, researchers, writers, artists and many other people. It is then recorded in different formats, publications, sometimes filmed and sometimes recorded in magnetic tapes for faster transmission.

Libraries and information centres procure these items to build up useful collections. The purpose is not merely preserving them for posterity or exhibition of cultural heritage, but for exploiting them for comprehensive and exhaustive study to find solutions to several problems, assist in drawing quality planning or to use for research and development.

Highly specialized training courses, trade fairs, exhibitions, fashion shows, get-togethers and such other activities generate information that may not be available anywhere else. Traditional skills and capabilities available with rural artisans, farmers and others may be invaluable sources of information.

Oral communications in formal meetings, seminars, symposia etc constitute important sources of information. Audio records of contemporary events, activities, personalities, deliberately captured, also constitute useful sources of information.
While all these types of information sources are not easy to capture and record in a formal way, the very recognition of these types of sources would create awareness among information sections regarding sources of information.

Need for Information Organization

The different categories of information sources that exist today are based upon conventional approach. These are document oriented rather than user oriented. In order to make proper use of information, these sources need to be organized according to the need and requirement of the user. For organizing the information sources, it is necessary to study the user's need. Based upon such need, the sources need to be organized which will enhance the usability of information. The realization of the fact that information is a valuable commodity has put more responsibility on the producers of secondary information. Sources to tailor these according to the need of the user from all aspects-packaging of information content, physical form of availability, method of representation etc need to be identified.

The matching of information need with the sources of information, documenting them for accessibility and organizing responsive and anticipatory services and all the rest of these are to be based upon a careful assessment of information needs.

Information resources comprise published and unpublished records of information in all fields of knowledge. They may be textual, numeric or graphic, in any physical form, in any language produced within the country or outside. Only a part of this information is available in the market place; the rest has to be collected.
carefully in relation to user needs by the respective information systems in the relevant subject areas.

Information is power. Where information is concerned, there are the haves and have nots. The information rich and the information poor. Our very lives depend upon it and we are no strangers to the power of information. But it would be a difficult task to do an in depth study of how information is generated. But research is one of the better known areas where information takes root. Most of what we know today is the result of research. The works of experts in the field of science, technology, humanities and social sciences continue to give birth to information. Governmental and non-governmental organizations also generate information during their different routine tasks performed by them, whether or not they are aware of the fact.

The generated information cannot just flow about in air. Information contained in different sources. Information finds its way into the following types of sources.

Primary sources;

Secondary sources;

Tertiary Sources:

There are also audio -visual sources such as filmstrips, slides video and audio tapes etc.
Secondary publications provide access to primary information in the form of bibliographies, indexes, abstracts, current awareness lists and a host of others.

Tertiary sources of information, such as referral directories or ongoing research bibliography of bibliographies, guides etc are available in machine readable form which can be shared by library and information institutions.

Individuals and organizations do serve as good source of information, although these sources of information cannot be brought under the formal categories of information sources, they are useful and may be indeed vital in specific situations. Personal interviews, properly tape-recorded are recognized method of oral historical research.

Vendors, suppliers, contractors, customers, consultants, advisers, guides and such others can serve very often as excellent sources of information.

It is now a well known fact that information has touched each and every aspect of our lives. Information has an impact on the quality of life, which is indisputable. It goes without saying however that it is the availability of, or the easy access to information that has made the difference. There is no area of life that information does not touch. Now with the use of new techniques particularly the internet, the possibilities are limitless. Whether one requires information on education, entertainment, health, household goods, family travel or marketing—it is all available in various sources such as television, radio, newspapers, trade literature, public libraries, information centres and computers. The correct use of information can go a long way in improving the quality of life. Where the availability of and
easy access to information that makes all the difference, there the information made available needs to be utilized correctly in order that it has a positive effect.

4.3 Organizations Producing Information Resources on Women in India

Starting from female foeticide to child abuse to domestic violence to sexual abuse; the list of violence against women just keeps on getting longer. In such a scenario, in a country like India, where majority of cases are under sight, it is very obvious for organizations to come forward and take matters into their own hands. To name a few among many that serve the women of the country are the National Commission for Women, Self Employed Workers Association (SEWA), Majlis, Sakshi and Saheli: A Women's Organization. Each of these organizations sets out with its own mission which reconcile at the ultimate goal of upliftment of women in all sectors of life.

It is found to be very much important to locate and identify such organizations that are not only working towards upliftment of women at the grass root level but also developing/major producers of information resources on Women’s Studies. The study has been made by visiting different such women’s organizations that are directly or indirectly associated in the production of Women’s Studies Information Resources. Some of them are government sponsored, some are NGO’s and some are result of individual or group efforts. Considering the vastness of such
institutions and organizations the study has been limited to a few of them especially on the basis of the available information in respective websites.

In some cases, it is felt that the literature produced by these organizations may not be recorded in their sites, and therefore the researcher has tried to collect some information from print resources also, though in most cases it was not possible due to different constraints. The visit to different Women's Studies institutions located in different universities of North East India has been made at different times during the study period and the scholar is able to collect some information about the organizations discussed below.

❖ Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) <http://ywcaindia.org/>

The YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) is a set of autonomous community-based non-governmental organizations. As non-profit membership associations, the YWCA is run by and for women of the community and their families.

The World YWCA was founded in 1894 by four associations of Great Britain, Norway, Sweden, and the United States. YWCA work had first begun in Britain when Christian women responded to the housing, recreation, and spiritual needs of young girls who had migrated to the cities during the Industrial Revolution. Since that time the YWCA has grown into global movement of women that continues to meet the needs of women and girls in over 100 countries worldwide.

The YWCA of India with 85 local associations and membership of 10,000 women is part of a global movement of 25 million women and girls in 110 countries.
Being a pioneer women's movement in India it advocates for women's rights, works towards their development, promotes and sustains women's leadership for justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and care for the environment.

Since the first YWCA started in Bombay and it has grown from providing accommodation to working women and students to areas of advocacy and community outreach programmes. The YWCA works to improve survival, protection and participation of children of all ages through early childhood care, education programmes and advocacy for their rights. The YWCA is totally committed to advocating for women's rights, working towards their development, promoting and sustaining women's leadership for justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and care for the environment.

Advocacy action of the YWCA strives for the removal of all forms of discrimination and violence against women in the law, media, employment, status at home and in other spheres of life. The YWCA of India also serves on Complaints Committees set up by Ministries, Government institutions and Public Sector Undertakings for prevention of sexual harassment at the workplace.

Its goal is the promotion of holistic development of women and girls through its programmes and also to develop an active membership that is responsive to the changing needs of the community in a changing world.

Some of its important publications are—First step – A Handbook On Prevention of Domestic Violence; Working women's hostels-A blue print on standards; Crimes against women-A compendium of laws and legal mechanisms for
empowerment of women; Anti-ragging booklet- Laws and measures for a ragging-free campus; Advocacy booklet- a voice for the voiceless; Booklet on sexual harassment at workplace.

Some of the periodical publications of YWCA are: YWCA of India youth magazine (bi-annual), World YWCA publications (3 copies per year) and related set of publications.

❖ **Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)**<http://www.sewa.org>

The Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) was born in 1972 as a trade union of self employed women. It grew out of the Textile Labour Association, TLA, India's oldest and largest union of textile workers founded in 1920 by a woman, Anasuya Sarabhai. The inspiration for the union came from Mahatma Gandhi, who led a successful strike of textile workers in 1917. He believed in creating positive organised strength by awakening the consciousness in workers. The main office of SEWA is located at Ahmedabad, Gujrat.

It is an organisation of poor, self-employed women workers. These are women who earn a living through their own labour or small businesses. They do not obtain regular salaried employment with welfare benefits like workers in the organised sector. They are the unprotected labour force of our country. These are workers of the unorganised sector

SEWA's main goals are to organise women workers for full employment. Full employment means employment whereby workers obtain work security, income security, food security and social security (at least health care, child care and
shelter). SEWA organises women to ensure that every family obtains full employment.

Toward this end, SEWA has been supporting its members in capacity-building and in developing their own economic organisations. SEWA grew continuously from 1972, increasing in its membership and including more and more different occupations within its fold. The beginning of the Women's Decade in 1975 gave a boost to the growth of SEWA, placing it within the women's movement. In 1977, SEWA's General Secretary, Ela Bhatt, was awarded prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award and this brought international recognition to SEWA. SEWA has developed over 500 resource materials in the form of research papers, booklets, annual reports, reference books, manuals, Ela Bhatt's papers and books.

SEWA Academy Documentation Centre is collection of SEWA's history. The books are classified in two main sections namely, SEWA publications and other publications through the Akshara Classification: An Alternative Classification and Documentation System.

SEWA publication section includes SEWA publications, articles & papers written on SEWA, which is part of SEWA database. Besides, articles, papers and speeches written by Ela Bhatt are compiled as archive. Also, fortnightly newspaper 'Anasooya' is compiled year wise since 1982 till present and 'Akashganga' – a monthly magazine for adolescent girls is compiled year wise since 1996. SEWA's annual reports, manuals and CDs are available at SEWA Academy Documentation Centre. SEWA's researches in the areas of women, women at work, women's
development are all compiled and housed at SEWA Academy Documentation Centre.

❖ Saheli < https://sites.google.com/site/saheliorgsite/>

Saheli was set up in 1981 in New Delhi, India, primarily as a crisis intervention centre. Early struggles against oppression and violence within marriage, family and community led to campaigns against dowry, domestic violence, rape, sexual harassment, comminualism, war and discrimination against women in the law.

An integral part of the autonomous women's movement in India, Saheli continues today as a non-funded feminist collective, working on volunteer power, individual donations and on the solidarity of friends and supporters.

Reaching out to women victims of domestic violence was one of its main goals at the time of inception in 1981. It has been known both as a campaign as well as crisis centre. It has been involved with diverse issues ranging from rape, domestic violence, sex determination tests, dowry deaths, unethical sale of emergency contraceptives, vaccines against cervical cancer and other feminist issues. It continues as a non funded feminist collective and survives on volunteer power, individual donations and the strength of its convictions.

The special flavour of Saheli's publications is that they do not bear the name of the author and emerge from the collective experience of the group which include those who may not write. Since 1984, they have brought out newsletters regularly to share their work and thinking. Periodically they have emerged as consolidated views in the form of souvenirs. Special reports have been published on specific subjects or
issues relating to their campaigns and research. As an effort to reach a broad audience they publish almost all material in Hindi along with English.

❖ Jagori < http://jagori.org/>

Jagori started its work in 1984 from Delhi and described itself as a “Women’s Resource and Training Centre”. The challenge was taking feminist consciousness to rural areas. New communication tools were developed, such as feminist songs, which are still central to Jagori’s work.

Jagori’s activities are - to enable marginalized and oppressed women in rural and urban areas with awareness and action for rights, Jagori undertakes training, documentation, grassroots action research, advocacy and campaigning in partnership with stakeholders including individual women and their partners, community members, civil society representatives, and other state/ institutional actors.

The Resource Centre of Jagori works towards-

- Production and distribution of educational and advocacy materials serving the information needs of women’s groups, NGOs, researchers, media, academia, schools and colleges, community women in resettlement areas, youth and other regular users

- Digitizing and archiving crucial materials from the women’s movement since 1984

- Fellowship support to women activists

One of the first activities of Jagori was production of feminist songs and poems on the theme of oppression of women within the family and religion. These
were distributed in cassettes and book forms to groups, not simply women’s groups, not only in India but in neighbouring countries Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan. Its publication covers feminist songs such as *Aman ki Awazee, Children books Dhammak-Dhamma* by Kamla Bhasin books on gender, women and law and also good number of posters. *What is patriarchy?* by Kamla Bhasin, *What is feminism?,* by Kamla Bhasin and Sayeed Khan and *What is gender?,* by Kamla Bhasin are some of the important publication of Jagori.

❖ **Anveshi: Research Centre for Women’s Studies < www.anveshi.org>**

Anveshi was set up in 1985 in Hyderabad by a small group of activist-scholars to provide resources to research and develop a feminist theory relevant to women's lives in contemporary India. Today it is one of the foremost non-university research centers in India. Their work focuses on six research initiatives: education; health and health care systems; law and critical legal theory; dalits and minorities; development; and public domain. Projects in these initiatives examine the shifts in development theory; the crisis of medicine in the Indian context; hegemonic perspectives in school textbooks; the question of secularism and minority in Indian politics; the problematic nature of law and rights in domestic violence; and thinking about what it entails to be a 'Dalit woman' in modern India.

Anveshi Research Centre for Women’s Studies is an organisation that is committed to research. Anveshi works at an interdisciplinary location drawing scholars and activists from many fields. Anveshi draws on researchers with both academic and activist experience. Knowledge of the discipline or the field, and
actual life-experiences become the basis of research, thus reaching beyond the confines of the formal academic system.

Anveshi has brought out several publications that have influenced critical thinking in education, minority and dalit issues, health, culture, gender and law in India. While many of these publications have emerged directly from in-house projects and studies. Many of these publications are distributed through publishing houses. Some, however, are in the form of reports, monographs and edited collections in both English and Telugu. These are available at the Anveshi library.

Anveshi’s publications are grouped under the six main research initiatives of Anveshi:

- Dalits and Minorities
- Critical Development Studies
- Education
- Health and Healthcare Systems
- Law and Critical Legal Theory
- Public Domain and Outreach

**Mahila Samakhya** <http://mhrd.gov.in/mahila>

The Mahila Samakhya programme was initiated in 1989 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development under the Department of Education. It was born out of the New Education Policy of 1986, which stressed the need for an intervention to
create gender equality through women's education. The Mahila Samakhya
programme was launched to pursue the objectives of the National Policy on
Education, 1986. It recognized that education can be an effective tool for women's
empowerment.

The programme is currently being implemented in the states of Andhra
Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujrat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala,
Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Mahila Samakhya views education as a tool for empowering women. To
Mahila Samakhya education does not mean merely imparting literacy, but building
awareness and skills in women, so as to affect change in their lives and society.

❖ Asmita Resource Centre for Women <http://www.asmitacollective.in/>

The Asmita Resource Centre for Women is an Indian NGO based in Andhra
Pradesh. A grassroots organization initially formed to conduct training and prepare
training materials for other women's efforts groups, Asmita was founded on August
15, 1991. Its original members included teachers, poets, social scientists, doctors,
and other socially conscious professionals and community members.

Asmita works towards bringing about a socio-economic transformation by
bridging gender inequalities; provides legal aid counseling, access to health care to
women, training modules and programmes on gender, health, law, development and
cultural action.
Asmita, the nodal agency for a UNESCAP NGO project to disseminate the PFA widely in India; a focal point of the National Alliance of Women; the lead agency for Women's Program of the Aisa South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education.

Asmita houses the National Secretariat of the Indian Association for Women's Studies. Asmita seeks to build a social order which empowers women, supports the growth of self-esteem and self-confidence, interprets tradition and culture in ways that strengthen and empower women.

Asmita works to raise awareness of gender issues at all levels - media, academia and service sectors - to make them more effective and enabling for women in need. They have designed simple audio visual material on critical themes such as violence, human rights, women's rights, reproductive rights and rights of the girl child.

Asmita has good number of publications in Telugu, Urdu and English. Their work in this area spans classical dance, creative writing, film and publishing in various genres. Out of these creative writing is their longest standing preoccupation and the films are most recent.

Some of the important publications in English are The Woman Unbound: Selected short stories, women: Cartoons on discriminations, Women and Governance etc. In Telugu Asmita publishes various booklets covering Reproductive Rights of Women, the Domestic Violence Bill introduced by the government of India in the Parliament, sexual harassment at workplace, booklet about local governance etc.
Majlis Legal Centre is a forum for women's rights discourse and legal initiatives. It is a group of women lawyers and social activists committed to informing, educating and empowering women on their legal rights. Majlis offers legal services, conducts legal awareness trainings, engages in policy level interventions, public campaigns and public interest litigation in order to help women access justice.

Majlis started in 1991, in Bombay. The beginning of the organization is embedded in the energetic phase of the women's movement in the '80s. It was initiated by a group of artists, rights activists, architects and social scientists.

The programmes of Majlis are covered under following titles:

MOHIM- Women and Child Development, Pune and Majlis Legal Centre have entered into a collaboration to monitor the effective implementation of the PWDV Act within the State of Maharashtra. The aim of this monitoring cell is to train, guide, monitor and documentation work of all stake holders who are appointed or designated under the Act.

RAHAT is a programme to provide Socio-Legal Support to Survivors of Sexual Assault at every step to ensure that the survivor is not revictimised.

Under Gender sensitizing and Legal Rights training, training is provided to individuals and institutions that interact with victims of violence to help them protect women's rights effectively. The different training programmes include:
- ‘Know your Rights’ – legal literacy to community based organizations and educational institutions.

- Gender sensitization to Police, Judges and Government officials

- Legal skills and strategies to lawyers and social workers

- ‘Dealing with Sexual Harassment at Workplace’- guidelines and procedures to committee members.

Customized training is also provided on request.

Under Public Campaigns and Public Interest Litigation programme, Majlis prepares responses to policy documents from government, court interventions in the form of PILs, organising conferences on women’s rights, and holding public meetings.

Majlis has a good number of publications also, which they bring out to support their campaigns. Defending Women against Domestic Violence-a reference of case law. Property Rights for Women on Divorce, Family Law Textbook etc are some of the publications of Majlis.

**National Commission for Women (NCW) <http://ncw.nic.in>**

In August 1990 the Parliament of India had passed the National Commission for Women Act in response to the demand of women's organizations and social workers. Accordingly on 31st January, 1992, the National Commission for Women was set up. The Assam State commission for women came into existence in the year 1994.
The Assam State Commission for Women was constituted as stated above under the status of the State assembly. It has a wide ranging mandate and has been empowered with the powers to have a say on any matters related to the women specially in the fields of education, health, socio-economic aspects, legal justice and so on aiming at economic and social upliftment of women setting the goal of raising the status of women.

Some of the mandates, under State Commission for Women's Act, 1994 are as follows:-

a) To investigate and examine all matters relating to the legal safeguards provided for women under the Constitution.

b) To present and report the state Govt. upon the working of these Safeguards.

c) To review existing provisions of the constitution and other laws affecting women and recommended amendments to meet any lacunae, inadequacies in such laws.

d) To look into non-compliance of policy decisions, guidelines on instructions aimed at mitigating hardships and ensuring welfare and providing relief to the women and take up such issues with appropriate authority.

e) To participate and advise on the planning process of socio-economic development of women and evaluate the progress made.
f) To inspect Jail, remand home etc. where women are kept under custody and seek remedial action, where necessary from time to time and the matter is still under process in the Social Welfare Dept. though queries were met from time to time.

The Commission constituted a Legal Advisory Committee for counseling and to give legal advice to the various complaints received in the office of the Commission. In many cases it is observed that proper guidance and legal assistance to the distressed women have helped the complainant to settle and reconcile their cases without going through legal procedures.

To meet the information needs of the Commission and various interested individuals and organisations, the National Commission for Women formally inaugurated and started its own Library in 1994. It has now evolved as a defacto Resource Centre for Research Scholars/Activists with a collection of nearly Twenty three hundred books covering different issues relating to women's advancement.

NCW publishes its own books from time to time. It also sponsors research studies on various aspects concerning women issues and helps in getting them published. Nearly hundred publications, both in English and Hindi, have so far been published. The commission regularly brings out a monthly newsletter Rashtra Mahila in Hindi and English.

❖ Sakshi: Centre for Information, Education & Communication <http://www.sakshingo.org/>

Sakshi means "Witness". Over the years, Sakshi has sought to be an active witness to the violence that plagues women and children.
Sakshi’s goals are to open the doors of Primary Education for “unreached children” without access to it and also to provide Developmental Services to slum communities, primarily by empowering women and the marginalized and building awareness about the importance of education and upliftment of the girl child.

In October 1992, Sakshi formalized as a Violence Intervention Centre. Sakshi is based in Delhi and presently Sakshi’s intervention process is exemplified in four key inter-related projects, research, documentation and organizational capacity building are ongoing Sakshi activities. Sakshi’s work is concentrated in the fields of Education, Health and Community Development. In 1993, Sakshi began work in the area of Health & Hygiene wherein, supported by the United Nations and World Health Organization, Thus, supported by Government agencies, Sakshi began work in the area of Elementary Education, running Early Education Centers to care for the health and education of pre-school children and Non-Formal Education Centers and Remedial Classes to track down, motivate and equip drop-outs to rejoin the mainstream.

Over the last two decades, Sakshi executives' combined expertise in medicine, education and management, dedication to giving back to the less fortunate and ability to spark the same passion in others and have them sign up to the cause, has led Sakshi to scale ever greater heights

❖ Akshara <http://www.aksharacentre.org/>

Akshara grew out of the contemporary Indian women's movement in the 1980s with the campaigns against violence against women. It was established
formally in 1995 as a response to the growing need for material with a gender perspective. It was established as a not for profit and is a project of a registered Trust- FREA India. Akshara is a women’s resource centre, based in Mumbai. Its major goals are -

- To raise women's and public consciousness on gender inequality
- To work towards empowerment of women and youths
- To prevent violence on women
- To build partnerships with different social movements for gender equality, laws and policies

The website www.standupagainstviolence.org is a space which describes the types of violence, and helps in understanding its nature, to deal with fears and to think of the steps one can take. It is a space which helps in finding a solution.

Akshara’s programs empower women to know their rights, live without threats of violence within their homes and communities, and build necessary skills to ensure wellbeing for themselves and their families. Akshara works with under privileged women and men, communities; focuses on public awareness and attitudes and advocates for systemic and policy changes. Also provides educational Scholarship to girls from lower socio economic backgrounds

They have published a number of booklets and books and have produced several videos. *The Issues At Stake: theory and practice in the contemporary women' movement in India* by Nandita Gandhi and Nandita Shah; *Contingent Workers* by
Nandita Gandhi and Nandita Shah, a book which explores how women workers in two industries in Mumbai are affected by neo liberal economic policies and changes in industry; *Not Just a Matter of Faith* by Swatija Chayanika, a set of essays on communalism, religion, and women in India; *Shades of Courage*: Special Cell for Woman and Children TISS, Mumbai (in English and Marathi), a booklet giving stories of women/survivors of domestic violence, are some of the publications of Akshara.

### 4.4 Information Resources on Women

Proper access to information resources can bridge the difference between information literacy and information illiteracy, which is the main hurdle towards empowerment and development. Information resources on women are developing at a faster rate due to growing concern in the field from different sections of the society. Growth in study and research in the field also results in the growth of literary output in the field. Various women organizations are also actively participating in the process of growth of literature by documenting various activities performed by them towards women empowerment and development.

#### 4.41 Print Information Resource

Due to the support of government towards different research activities related to women issues, and also due to inclusion of Women's Studies in the academia as well as growing concern in the field is giving a positive boost towards
increasing literary output in the field. Considering the issue in India only, a good number of Publishing houses are coming up who are devoted towards Women’s Studies publishing only. It provides a clue towards the number of publications on Women’s Studies that are coming up in India.

Feminist publishing in India is of relatively recent in origin. Two of the important publishing houses devoted exclusively to books on women’s issues are: KALI FOR WOMEN, <http://www.spinifexpress.com.au/fasiapub/india/kali.htm> started in 1984 and based in Delhi and STREE based in Calcutta. Both are committed to put third world women’s issues prominently on the map of feminist publication in the world and have already made their mark in that direction. KALI’s has been the pioneering venture in feminist publishing in India, starting out in the mid eighties with a series of books on women’s history in India. Some of their most influential and significant book have been on the history of representation of women in India (Recasting Women, We Were Making History). Their series called “Kali archive” publishes reprints and translations of women’s writings from the late nineteenth and the early twentieth century’s. Kali also deals with issues of representation of women in the media, their social roles under right wing Hinduism and Islam, as a workforce in agriculture, and as victims and saviours of environmental degradation. Kali’s list of authors includes well known writers like Radha Kumar, Vandana Shiva and Maria Mies and many others.

Kali for Women has now split into two independent imprints- Zubaan and Women Unlimited respectively.
Zubaan <http://www.zubaanbooks.com/> was set up to specifically continue Kali's work. Zubaan, has inherited half the backlist of Kali so that reprints of many backlist titles are assured.

Women Unlimited continues all the publishing activity of Kali for Women, often publishing jointly with Kali; explore new issues, anticipate trends, develop new perspectives and offer the best of feminist scholarship, activist material and creative writing, in India and South Asia.

STREE <http://www.stree-samyabooks.com/> has pioneered a series, gender, culture and politics that brings out English translations of women’s writings in the regional languages of India to introduce the diversity of women’s experiences across the range of Indian cultures to a national and international audience. STREE always look out to publish in new areas, and new authors, often making pioneering contributions. The work of many authors like, Omprakash Valmiki and Thirumaavalan had not appeared in English before STREE published them. STREE does carry a list that caters primarily to the academic audience and also desires attention from a general audience interested in the question of women in present day India.

Both STREE and KALI are interested in publishing books in regional languages in India and have started working in that direction. There is wealth of publishable materials on women in almost all the important regional languages in India that used with a little imagination, can open up a hitherto hidden world of feminine experiences. Feminist publishers like STREE and KALI can make a
difference in the books produced by bringing their experience and understanding of feminist issues in the context of the feminist movement in India.

Aside from book publication, there are a number of Indian feminist journal of international repute, *Manushi* and *Indian Journal of Gender Studies* (previously *Samya Shakti*) being the two important ones. Brought out by women with long involvements with the feminist movement in India, both the journals serve as important forums for debates on feminist issues of significance among the activists and the academicians in India.

Along with this a good number of open access journals are available online, such as *Journal of International Women’s Studies, Genders* etc majority of which are international in coverage.

4.42 Online Information Resources

Libraries are now to involve in the creation of non-bibliographic databases in addition to the customary catalogues. These new databases will compromise statistical, geographical, graphic and other data needed for scientific, planning and project implementation work.

Through electronic mail, facsimile and other technologies -as well as improved telecommunications infrastructures information services are enabled to better provide for document delivery and access to remote databases and networks. In addition CD/ROMs allow for the greatly extended availability of information nationally and across regions especially in cooperative arrangements.
Electronic publishing can improve availability of foreign information. Compatibility and standardization of systems advance in support of networks and sharing concepts. Common software packages and improved data exchange formats are spreading widely in the developing world.

In order to utilise the growing range of electronic resources, users must acquire and practice the skills necessary to exploit them. These skills include a knowledge of the structure of the database and the instructions which must be input into the computer by the searcher, as well as an understanding of the ways in which the instructions are linked with one another.

Like print sources, there are innumerable number of sources of information that are available on the internet, which can be used to provide information services to users. Some of them are counterparts of print versions and some are new. The sources of information on the internet are available from different website homepages developed by organizations and individuals. These sources are very handy to use. Here access to information can be done in most cases by entering ‘keywords’ in the ‘search box’ proved in different websites. It is not mandatory to know the exact URL address to search information on specific topic.

All the information sources on internet need not necessarily come for free, some publications are subscription based and some are pay per view basis. But still plenty of information is available in public domain, which can be accessed without paying any extra cost.
Types of resources available on net:-

General sources: General sources include such information sources, which are useful in our day today life.

Reference sources: reference/information sources are in most cases are basically the counterparts of print sources. These include dictionaries, encyclopaedia, directories etc. Some of the few important reference sources available today on the net are:

Online databases: Online databases are databases that are located on webservice/website and are accessible by a standard browser. The coverage of subjects or types of services depends upon the service provider. These databases use information retrieval engine i.e. search engine to search requested information. The access to databases can be done either through USER NAME and PASSWORD or through IP address of the institute or library. It depends upon the type of service one has agreed upon. Internet has ensured easy access to online databases. It has replaced earlier versions of online database, wherein one used to connect to remote database like DIALOG through ISD line connected through international gateway, i.e. VSNL.

Online W S Information Resources

Women’s Studies is now holding a separate status of independent discipline and as such more and more academicians are now attracted towards the subject and try to understand and discuss the issues and problems of women from their own perspective which resulted in the abundance of research in the field and thereby
producing more and more literature in the field. Not only print resources, electronic information resources are also available in large number, which is again giving another scope for the development of the subject as women around the world can now share their experiences and can have an idea of the problems, sufferings and as a whole of the status of women from different parts of the world. Electronic information sources offer the users different opportunities from their predecessors. These advantages include the fact that electronic information sources are often faster than consulting print indexes, especially when searching retrospectively. They open up the possibility of searching multiple files at one time, a feat accomplished more easily than when using printed equivalents. These sources are also updated more often than printed tools.

In the following a brief description is given to some of the web portals, databases, websites and web pages on Women's Studies, considering that these would be very much helpful for the scholars and academicians in the field.

- **Australian Women's History Forum**
  <http://www.auswhn.org.au>

  This portal is intended as a classroom resource for students and teachers, but it will also interest general users seeking information on women's history in Australia. The Australian Women's History Network exists to promote research and writing in all fields of women's history. The portal provides the following links:-

  - **International Federation for Research in Women's History (IFRWH)**
    <http://www.ifrwh.com>
- The Australian Women’s Archives Project  
  <http://www.womenaustralia.info>

- Australian Women’s History Forum/Australian Women’s History Month  

- The Australian Historical Association  
  <http://www.theaha.org.au>

- The Australian Women’s and Gender Studies Association  
  <http://awgsa.org.au>

- Australian Feminist Journals *Australian Feminist Studies*  
  <http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/titles/08164649.asp>

- Australian Women’s Book Review  

- Hecate  

- *Intersections: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific*  
  <http://intersections.anu.edu.au>

- Outskirts  
  <http://www.chloe.uwa.edu.au/outskirts>

- IFRWH Newsletter  
  http://www.ifrwh.com/id42.html

- Femina: Sites For, By and About Women  
  <http://www.femina.com/>

  Femina was created in September of 1995 and debuted online to provide women with a comprehensive, searchable directory of links to female friendly sites and information on the World Wide Web. Femina is the only website of its kind, with a comprehensive database and powerful, intuitive search engine created by Cybergrrl, Inc.
It claims to be "a comprehensive database and powerful, intuitive search engine created by Cybergrrl. Inc." At the very least it does provide a great variety of links to web materials. Academic Institutions and Organizations devoted to Women's Studies.

**Feminism and Women's Studies**

<http://feminism.eserver.org/>

Originally created by the Carnegie Mellon University Women's Center and now hosted by Eserver, the site contains documents and links to quality information on Women's Studies. The Feminism and Women's Studies site, one of 44 websites hosted by the EServer, was first designed in 1993 by members of the Carnegie Mellon University Women's Center. One of the earliest Women's Studies web sites on the Internet. The EServer is a cooperative that has published writings in a wide range of arts and humanities fields, free of charge, to Internet readers since 1990.

The welcome page is used to introduce the users to the Feminism and Women's Studies site. The website is organized under the following heads:

- **Activism** - Explores feminist activism and the way organizations are using feminism in the real world
- **Links** - Select websites relevant to feminism and Women's Studies.
- **Gender and Sexuality** - Explores the issues surrounding gender and sexuality, especially where feminism is concerned.
- **Theory** - Covers a variety of academic topics concerned with feminism and Women's Studies.
- **History** - Sites that chronicle important benchmarks in the history of Women's Studies.
- **Programs** - Links to Women's Studies programs at colleges and universities.
- **Health** - Provides information on various women's health topics.
- **Workplace** - A collection of links that deal with issues surrounding women.

■ **Funding Information Portal on Women's Studies**
<grantsinfo.unc.edu/guides/womens-studies>

The Funding Information Portal is a central repository of resources maintained by the Graduate Funding Information Center and the Office of Research Development that aids UNC-Chapel Hill faculty, staff, postdoctoral scholars, and graduate students in seeking information on funding sources for independent research, collaborative projects, fellowships, program development, and other scholarly activities.

The portal is compiled by Michigan State University libraries and mainly provides links to web sites, databases and books providing information regarding different funding agencies, public, private foundation, research projects, grants and fellowships available in Women's Studies.

■ **Gender Inn**
<http://www.uni-koeln.de/phil-fak/englisch/datenbank/e_index.htm>

The Universität zu Köln hosts this "searchable database providing access to over 7,500 records pertaining to feminist theory, feminist literary criticism and gender studies focusing on English and American literature." It also publishes one ejournal - gender forum.

*Gender Inn* is a searchable database providing access to over 8,400 records pertaining to feminist theory, feminist literary criticism and gender studies focusing
on English and American literature. *Gender Inn* is continually updated. All records are carefully indexed using a search index. It also offers a selection of bibliographies on some areas of Women's and Gender Studies.

The complete database is available in both English and German.

**India together**

<http://www.indiatogether.org/women/>

*India Together* (IT) is an electronic publication devoted to coverage of public affairs, policy, and development in India, providing news in proportion to the country's broad development experiences. IT was founded in 1998 by Subramaniam Vincent and Ashwin Mahesh.

IT provides in-depth information & news on the issues that matter covering 15 major topics such as agriculture, economy, children, education, environment, government, health, human rights, law, society, media, peace, poverty, RTI and women and over 15 states. The magazine also helps leaders, experts, practitioners, scholars and artists take their ideas, insights and concerns expeditiously to an interested national and global audience.

**Infochange India**

<http://infochangeindia.org/Women/>

www.infochangeindia.org is an online repository of information and analysis on social justice and sustainable development in India.

Infochange is an initiative of the Centre for Communication and Development Studies (CCDS), a non-profit institution that uses innovative communication processes to build an informed, open and inclusive society. CCDS
fosters new platforms for research, advocacy, dialogue and citizens' action on pluralism, social justice and sustainable development in India.

Currently in its 11th year online, Infochange is a free-access resource base, with special sections on poverty & livelihoods, social exclusion, environment and climate change, women and child rights, the impact of globalisation, governance, public health, urbanisation, migration and displacement, gender and sexual rights, cultural diversity and peace-building and more.

Infochange won the Manthan Award, supported by the Department of Information Technology, Government of India, for best e-content for development.

■ iKNOWPolitics:International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics <http://iknowpolitics.org/>

International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics is an interactive network of women in politics who share experiences, resources and advice, and collaborate on issues of interest.

The International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics (iKNOW Politics) is an online workspace designed to serve the needs of elected officials, candidates, political party leaders and members, researchers, students and other practitioners interested in advancing women in politics. It is a joint project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women), National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA).
The goal of iKNOW Politics is to increase the participation and effectiveness of women in political life by utilizing a technology-enabled forum. The iKNOW Politics Web site plays a central role in achieving this goal by offering users the opportunity to:

Access resources, including the online library and the information and expertise of other users, experts and practitioners;

Create knowledge through mediated discussion forums, information exchange and consolidated expert responses to member queries; and

Share experiences by using tools specifically designed to facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and best practices among members of a global community committed to the advancement of women in politics.

In order to provide the highest possible level of accessibility and ensure wide-scale use, the content and resources on the iKNOW Politics Web site are available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

■ Intute: Women’s Studies
<http://www.intute.ac.uk>

Intute is a Europe-based web portal that attempted to provide a trusted source of selected, high quality Internet information for students, academics, researchers and practitioners in the social sciences, business and law. Intute is a free online service that helps one to find web resources for studies and research. The origin of Intute lies in the 1996 Electronic Libraries (eLib) Programme, where a number of librarians and researchers won JISC funding to develop their ideas for new Internet gateway services. In response to user needs and the changing environment, Intute
was launched in 2006; a single organisation with a unified culture, interface, technological platform and identity.

Intute was created by a consortium of seven universities, working together with a whole host of partners. These are:

- University of Birmingham
- University of Bristol
- Heriot-Watt University
- The University of Manchester
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- University of Nottingham
- University of Oxford

**Medlineplus: Women's Health**

MedlinePlus is the National Institutes of Health's web site for patients and their families and friends. Produced by the National Library of Medicine, it brings information about diseases, conditions, and wellness issues in language that is easily understandable to common people. MedlinePlus offers reliable, up-to-date health information, anytime, anywhere, and freely. This page leads to others related to women's health topics. There are usually many subpages here and most are at other websites.

MedlinePlus can be used to learn about the latest treatments, look up information on a drug or supplement, find out the meanings of words, or view
medical videos or illustrations. One can also get links to the latest medical research on any topic or find out about clinical trials on a disease or condition.

- **National archives: Archives Library Information Center (ALIC): Women**  

  This annotated pathfinder list links to a variety of resources, which ALIC describes as "listing of historical websites relevant to women in the United States." Guide sections include Bibliographies, African-American Women, Biographies, Politics and Women, Women’s Suffrage and Women in the Military.

- **National Council for Research on Women**  
  <http://www.ncrw.org/>

  The National Council for Research on Women (NCRW) is a network of leading U.S. research, policy, and advocacy centers with a growing global reach dedicated to advancing rights and opportunities for women and girls. NCRW harnesses the collective power of its network to provide knowledge, analysis, and thought leadership on issues ranging from reducing women’s poverty to building a critical mass of women’s leadership across sectors. The National Council for Research on Women (NCRW) is a network of 120 leading research, policy and advocacy centers dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls.

- **Portals to Women & Gender Resources**  
  <http://guides.lib.virginia.edu/womenstudies>

  Maintained by University of Virginia library. It has three main portals such as:

  i) Discovering American Women's History Online
This database provides access to digital collections of primary sources (photos, letters, diaries, artifacts, etc.) that document the history of women in the United States. Browseable by subject, state, time period and resource type.

The database offers features like:

- Detailed descriptions and links to more than 600 digital collections
- Quick access to basic and advanced searches on every page
- Options for browsing by subject (300+ entries), place, time period, and primary source type
- Options for narrowing search results by subject, time period, place, and primary source type

This site is maintained by Ken Middleton (ken.middleton@mtsu.edu), Digital Initiatives Librarian at Middle Tennessee State University's Walker Library.

ii) Women and Gender Studies Web Sites/WSSLINKS

WSSLINKS developed and maintained by the Women & Gender Studies Section of the Association of College & Research Libraries. The purpose of WSSLINKS is to provide access to a wide range of resources in support of Women's Studies. A comprehensive list of links maintained by the Women and Gender Studies Section (WGSS) of the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). The links are named as General Sites, History, Arts, Business, Culture, Film, Education, Health, Politics, International, Philosophy, Science and Technology, Theology, Lesbian sites and Archives.
iii) World Wide Web Virtual Library: Women's History

It is a gateway site covering resources from countries all over the world, links to discussion lists, conferences, research groups and associations, archives and libraries, museums, journals and references. The main purposes of this virtual library is to list women's history institutions and organizations, locate archival and library collections, and provide links to Internet resources on women's history. In addition, also included are a list of Women's Studies journals and a few comprehensive link collections useful as a starting point for searching the Internet for Women's Studies in general.

South Asian Women's Network (SAWNET)
<http://www.sawnet.org/>

SAWNET (South Asian Women's NETwork) started as a mailing list in Nov 1991, with about 40 subscribers. The mailing list was originally run by its founders by simply emailing the collected posts to all subscribers every day.

SAWNET is a completely volunteer affair, and the organization has no formal structure, no finances, and no board of directors. It exists entirely in the electronic medium, has no bylaws, and is not registered as an organization anywhere. The mailing list is run by a group of volunteer moderators and now reaches about 1100 women in four continents. SAWNET acts as a medium of communication by & for South Asian women. It is a forum for and about women from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
Voice of the Shuttle (VOS): Gender Studies

<VOS>://vos.ucsb.edu/index.asp>

VOS is a massive project based at the University of California at Santa Barbara. The Voice of the Shuttle began in late 1994 as an introduction to the Web for humanists at the University of California, Santa Barbara. VoS became publicly accessible on March 21, 1995, when the Humanitas server on which it resided opened to global Web access. It grew in that period to over 70 pages of links to humanities and humanities-related resources on the Internet. Its mission has been to provide a structured and briefly annotated guide to online resources that at once respects the established humanities disciplines in their professional organization and points toward the transformation of those disciplines as they interact with the sciences and social sciences and with new digital media. This particular webpage provides a wide-ranging group of academic-approved links in women's and gender studies.

Wikigender

<http://www.wikigender.org>

Wikigender is a project initiated by the OECD Development Centre to facilitate the exchange and improve the knowledge on gender equality-related issues around the world. A particular focus lies on gathering empirical evidence and identifying adequate statistics to measure gender equality. In this respect, Wikigender serves as a pilot project for the OECD Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies. Based on the work of the OECD Gender, Institutions and Development Data Base, Wikigender aims to highlight the importance of social

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institutions such as norms, traditions and cultural practices that impact on women's empowerment.

- **Women's Feature Service (WFS)**
  <www.wfsnews.org>

  Women's feature service (WFS) began in 1978 as a UNESCO initiative, located within Inter Press Service (IPS) - the third World news agency headquartered in Rome, Italy. The objective was to ensure more gender analyses and views in the media. WFS became an independent organisation in 1991. It is based in New Delhi, India. The only women's features syndicate in India, WFS produces articles with a gender perspective, works with journalists in India and abroad to generate features, profiles and analyses on a wide range of people and issues, ensures that women's voices are heard in the media by generating articles for newspapers, magazines, journals and websites in India and abroad produces over 300 features annually. Focuses on themes and concerns not usually highlighted by the mainstream print and electronic media.

- **Women's Information Network (WIN)**
  <http://www.winonline.org/>

  WIN is a professional, political, and social network dedicated to empowering young, Democratic women. WIN informs, connects and empowers women by providing opportunities to network with other women, serve in a leadership position, gain valuable professional and political skills, and give back to our broader movement for political and professional equality.
WIN started in 1989 among this group of young women at a small dinner party at Karen Mulhauser’s home. The women discussed how to find jobs, where to go to meet people, how they had planned their lives, and how they turned all the unplanned parts of their lives into success. These women committed to forming WIN to create opportunities for both young and established women to continue meeting, mentoring, and sharing resources with like-minded women.

Women Living Under Muslim Laws

Women Living Under Muslim Laws is an international solidarity network that provides information, support and a collective space for women whose lives are shaped, conditioned or governed by laws and customs said to have derived from Islam.

For more than two decades WLUML has linked individual women and organisations. It now extends to more than 70 countries ranging from South Africa to Uzbekistan, Senegal to Indonesia and Brazil to France. It links:

- women living in countries or states where Islam is the state religion, secular states with Muslim majorities as well as those from Muslim communities governed by minority religious laws;
- women in secular states where political groups are demanding religious laws;
- women in migrant Muslim communities in Europe, the Americas, and around the world;
- non-Muslim women who may have Muslim laws applied to them directly or through their children;
women born into Muslim communities/families who are automatically categorized as Muslim but may not define themselves as such, either because they are not believers or because they choose not to identify themselves in religious terms, preferring to prioritize other aspects of their identity such as political ideology, profession, sexual orientation or others.

WLUMIL was formed in 1984 and evolved into the present network in 1986. The network aims to strengthen women’s individual and collective struggles for equality and their rights, especially in Muslim contexts.

**Women Power Connect (WPC)**

<www.womenpowerconnect.org>

WPC is registered under the Indian Societies Registration Act and has 1,400 individual and institutional members across the country. WPC works actively with members of Parliament to protect the interests of women in India. The core idea of WPC is to bring activists and social thinkers on a common platform so that we can collectively work towards better legislative coordination.

WPC was born out of the realization that despite substantial grassroots efforts, women’s organizations and groups in India lacked the co-ordination necessary to translate those efforts into legislative and policy outcomes necessary for true progress. Women Power Connect (WPC) is a national level organization of women’s groups and individuals working together for formalizing the process of legislative coordination. Our activities are aimed at influencing legislators and policy makers to frame gender-friendly policies, which impact women positively.
Women's Studies / Women's Issues Resource Sites
<http://userpages.umbc.edu/~korenman/wmst/links.html>

Women's Studies / Women's Issues Resource Sites is a selective, annotated, highly acclaimed listing of web sites containing resources and information about Women's Studies / women's issues, with an emphasis on sites of particular use to an academic Women's Studies program. It lists sites on specific women-focused topics, which are


Women's Studies Database
<http://mith.umd.edu/womensstudies>

The University of Maryland Women's Studies web site, begun in September 1992, serves those people interested in the Women's Studies profession and in general women's issues. Links and materials are divided into categories and include unusual content like Film Reviews and a Reading Room of texts and support materials.

The database provides links under following headings: Conferences, Announcements, Syllabi, Bibliographies, Calls for Papers, Computing, Employment, Government and History, Film Reviews, Gender issues, other websites, Programme support, Reading room and Reference room.
WMST-L is an international electronic forum for people involved in Women's Studies as teachers, researchers, librarians, and/or program administrators.

It is an international e-mail forum for discussion of Women's Studies teaching, research, and program administration. WMST-L is an international electronic forum for people involved in Women's Studies as teachers, researchers, librarians, and/or program administrators. It offers a rapid and cost-free way for participants to ask questions and exchange information about the academic side of Women's Studies: current research, teaching strategies, useful texts and films, online resources, innovative courses, building Women's Studies majors, minors, and graduate programs, and other academic issues. WMST-L also welcomes announcements about relevant conferences, calls for papers, job opportunities, publications, and the like.

The site also provides links to Women's Studies Online Resources, which helps one to find information-rich, high-quality web sites focusing on Women's Studies or women's issues; women- or gender-related e-mail lists; Women's Studies files from the WMST-L File Collection; links to Women's Studies programs around the world; financial aid for women; and more.

Women's Studies Resources

Women's Studies Email List (WMST-L)

Women's Studies Email List (WMST-L)

Women's Studies Resources

Karla Tonella, of the University of Iowa maintains this portal. The opening page includes links to "Mainstream News concerning women," and the subject areas include topics like Women in Development and Feminist Theory.
Women’s Studies Portal
<www.womenstudies.in>

This site is maintained by CWDS Library, The CWDS Library is a specialized research resource centre for a comprehensive collection of published and unpublished material relating to Indian women. This site aims to serve as an information gateway to enhance the information access to the research community working in the area of Women’s Studies and related disciplines. The site provides information on a range of resources in the following areas:

i. E-Library on Violence Against Women

ii. Journals on Women’s Studies

iii. Organisations Working on Women’s Issues in India

iv. Key websites: Provides a list of government websites related to women, also a list of networks dedicated towards women issues both from India and abroad.

Womenwatch
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/>

Womenwatch is the central gateway to information and resources on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women throughout the United Nations system, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Secretariat, regional commissions, funds, programmes, specialized agencies, and academic and research institutions. The portal contains a directory of resources on selected topics including the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action, statistics and indicators, gender mainstreaming and online clearinghouses on themes currently on
the United Nations global agenda, such as climate change. Recent developments also include UNGENews, a real-time news feed of all United Nations news on gender equality and empowerment of women. Multi-lingual sections of Womenwatch are currently being developed, with the objective to make the Womenwatch directory of resources as multi-lingual as possible, i.e. available in all UN official working languages, English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

Womenwatch is a joint United Nations project created in March 1997 to provide an internet space for global gender equality issues and to support implementation of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action. It was founded by the former entities UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) that has now merged into UN Women. Womenwatch is managed by a taskforce of the ‘Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality’ (IANWGE), led by UN Women.

■ WWWomen.com

This Women's Search Directory is a general web directory that includes links to resources on all aspects of women's lives. Subject areas include anything from "Mothers/Parenting" to "Women Go Shopping.". Launched in 1996, WWWomen.com screens every link submission for relevancy to women's interests. It avoids adult and offensive links. WWWomen still offers the largest collection of exclusively female-oriented web links online.
WWWomen.com has one of the most vibrant and dynamic online communities for women. With over 50 different topics, women are sharing their life experiences and feelings and feeling a wonderful sense of community and support.

WWWomen sponsors and maintains a free service which links together women's sites in a kind of chain, called The WWWomen's WebRing. A user can click on a special graphic of each participating site and jump from one women's site to another women's site.

The above list covers only a portion of Women's Studies information resources available online. Over the last two decades information organizations and also information sources on women are developing in good numbers providing a favourable environment for the discipline to develop in right direction. Now it would be the responsibility of the Women's Studies scholars to use the information resources in the right perspective for the development and empowerment of women of the country.