

WOMEN'S STUDIES ARCHIVE

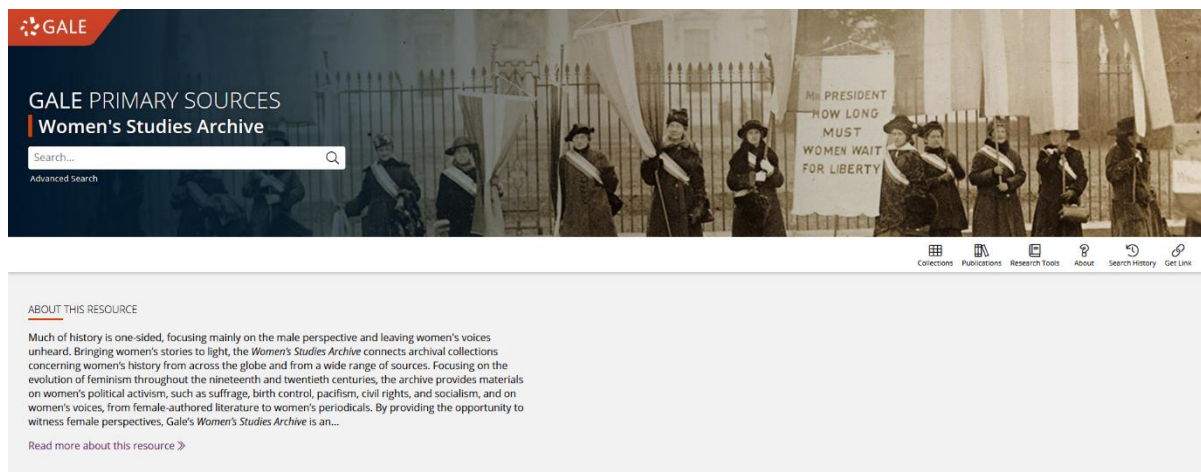
ISSUES AND IDENTITIES

ORIENTATION RESOURCES

Various source media. Women's Studies Archive: Voice and Vision



The aim of this guide is to give you a better understanding of how to use the *Women's Studies Archive: Voice and Vision* (WSA:V&V) for your research purposes. It will cover finding and filtering material as well as explore some key topics covered by the archive.



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is aimed at students and researchers who are using Gale Primary Source Archives for the first time. It will take you through the different stages of using a digital archive.

If you are unfamiliar with researching in a digital archive it is worth reading the guide through from start to finish.

If you have some experience working with digital archives and are looking for guidance on *WSA:V&V* specifically, head straight to the **KEY TOPICS** section. Here you will find information on some of the main historical themes addressed by the collections in this archive. There are also some critical thinking questions and useful search terms to help you start your research. The questions in **green** are entry level questions, the questions in **red** are more advanced.

If you are looking for examples of research conducted in this digital archive, the final section **CASE STUDIES**, will provide you with this. This section draws upon documents found in the *WSA:V&V* to show you how to use digital primary sources for research and teaching. Again, there are some critical thinking questions and useful search terms to help you start your research. The questions in **green** are entry level questions, the questions in **red** are more advanced.

LANGUAGE AND TERMINOLOGY

In this section, you will identify the language and words that will produce useful results when you are using the search function in a digital archive. In all Gale Primary Source Archives you will find language and terminology that is old-fashioned, unfamiliar and potentially offensive. The documents and other sources held in these archives are reflective of the period in which they were written. To that end, you will need to think about the words and phrases that you choose to conduct your search.

As an example, if you were searching in this archive for information on the suffragettes, you would most likely start by searching for “suffragette” or “first-wave feminists”. However, the term “suffragette” only came into use from 1906, so to capture earlier results you would need to also search for “suffragist”. It may be helpful to use a wildcard search (suffrag*) to capture both terms. After you have searched for “suffragette” and “suffragist” you will notice other terms appearing in your selected source materials. You can use these terms to extend your search. For example, contemporary authors used the terms suffragette and suffragist interchangeably, even after 1905, so you may need to narrow your search using ‘militant suffragists’ or ‘the militants’. The more time you spend in the archive looking for sources the more familiar you will become with the variety of terms that might be relevant to your topic, as well as their idiosyncrasies (such as non-standard spelling). For example, suffrage can refer to women’s suffrage, but also other forms of suffrage, such as adult suffrage, so any results you found from this term would have to be assessed to make sure they were referring to the suffragettes.

It is also important to think carefully about your search terminology when using historical primary sources to investigate individuals. For example, if you were researching “Emmeline Pankhurst”, it is important that you also conduct a search for “Mrs Pankhurst”. Societal norms of the time dictated that women be referred to as Mrs., so adjusting your search terms will enable you to find results that are contemporaneous with her life. Naming conventions are particularly important when you are researching multiple individuals from the same family. Searching for “Miss Pankhurst”, for example, will provide results on only her daughters, while a broader search for “Pankhurst” encompasses all four women in the Pankhurst family. Remember, it is always important to assess your results to make sure that they actually refer to the individual you are interested in – ‘Miss Pankhurst’, for example, could refer to either Sylvia, Christabel or Adela Pankhurst.

It is important to think about what kind of viewpoint you would like to investigate. *Are you looking for contemporary reporting from the time of the event/individual? Are you looking to investigate the impact of that event/individual in later years (e.g.: the legacy of the Pankhursts in modern feminism)?* By thinking carefully about the terminology you are using, you can begin to tailor your search results more specifically to your research question. The more time you spend in the archive looking for sources the more familiar you will become with the variety of terms that might be relevant to your topic, as well as their idiosyncrasies (such as non-standard spelling).

BASIC SEARCH AND FILTERING



In this section, you will perform a 'Basic Search' using keywords in *WSA:V&V*. It will also cover how to 'Filter' your results, and the steps needed to find a useful and comprehensive set of sources tailored to your research questions.

When you enter a search term it will be used to scan both the content of the sources and the tags that have been applied to said sources. In *WSA:V&V* your search is being applied across the 15 collections available in this archive.

Let's start with a topic that significantly affected the history of the UK, and was well covered within journalism:

Suffrage

- Search your key term, Suffrage, in *WSA:V&V*. You will receive roughly fourteen thousand results, spread across a variety of content types (manuscripts, monographs, newspapers and periodicals).
- Filter your results. Using the filter buttons on the right of your results list you can refine your list. You can use these filters to help ensure the source material you are using relates directly to your research question. For example, if you were interested in the specific role of Jane Addams in the suffrage movement you can filter your results so that you are just looking at sources that are about her.
- Assess your results. It is important to remember throughout that these searches are the starting point of your research and as such will provide you with a very broad range of documents. Once you have filtered your results you will still need to analyze them to assess their relevance to your topic. In our examination of the suffrage movement, for example, you may want to focus on sources written within a certain time period.
- Iterate on your search. As you become more familiar with your topic you may also need to go back to your earlier searches and re-assess material you previously discounted. You may also need to undertake new searches using terms you have learnt during your research process. For example, having looked at sources about Jane Addams, you may want to explore articles about other key figures in the women's rights movement, such as Carrie Chapman Catt and Christabel Pankhurst.

The screenshot shows the search results for 'suffrage' in the Gale Primary Sources Women's Studies Archive. Annotations include:

- Search:** Points to the search bar containing the term 'suffrage'.
- Filter:** Points to the 'Filter Your Results' section, which includes options for Archives, Publication Date, Subjects, Author - Items By, Person - About, and Search Within.
- Iterate:** Points to the 'All Content Types' section, which shows 'All Content Types' selected and 'Monographs (357)' as the primary result.
- Assess:** Points to the list of search results, which includes items like 'Woman suffrage and wages', 'Woman Suffrage. Letter from Mrs. Clara T. Leonard', and 'Woman suffrage. By Rev. James Freeman Clarke'.

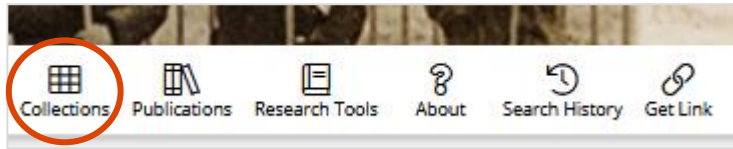
Advanced Search

The 'Advanced Search' function allows users to refine their search for multiple terms and apply the filtering process at the beginning of your search. This can be useful for when you have a very specific research question or in the latter stages of your research project when you have a more defined idea of the source material you are looking for.



Browse

The 'Collections' option allows you to browse through the collections in the archive page by page. This can be particularly useful when you do not know where to start and want to find results organically. You can then refine your search later using the search features above.



Browsing through a collection, as opposed to searching by keyword, will allow you to find source material that may not come up via keyword search. Browsing will also give you a better broader understanding of the topic or era you are researching and will ensure you have a good grasp of the context in which your key sources were created. It will not only deepen your thinking on a topic but may introduce ideas, perspectives, and questions you had not previously considered.

Certain collections (e.g. periodicals) may be better suited to browsing than a keyword search. Assess the content you are using, and what you would like to get out of it and decide which approach will work best. Often, a combination of the two will yield the best results.

KEY TOPICS

This section will introduce you to six key topics that are covered in *WSA:V&V*, to guide you through the process of exploring a particular research area. There are also questions designed to help guide your research into these topics in the archive and understand them within the context of newspapers as a source. *The questions in green are entry level questions, the questions in red are more advanced.* You will also find lists of further useful search terms that will assist you in broadening your knowledge of these subjects. These terms have already been tested via *WSA:V&V* search function so should provide you with helpful results.

Women, Work and Equal Opportunities

The fight for equal rights and gender equality in the workplace has over a century of history, and still continues today. Changing views towards discrimination and the equality of men and women have formed a central pillar for female led activism, and have shaped the development of policy and legislation throughout the twentieth century.

- Identify the key themes surrounding the oppression of women in the workplace and the fight for equality in legislation.
- Discuss the similarities and differences between the development and implementation of equal rights legislation in the USA and the UK.
- Examine the intersection of suffrage activism and labour activism.
- Analyze the impact of formal support networks on changing the face of the workplace across the twentieth century. How do they compare to informal methods of organization?
- Assess the ways in which the concerns of women of colour differed from those of white women regarding workplace discrimination.

Other useful search terms: United States, Equal Rights Amendment, National Organization for Women, working woman, woman activist, sex discrimination, federal equal rights, women's liberation, ACT.

Women and the Peace Movement

Pacifism has often gone hand in hand with the women's rights movements, with many female activists, such as Jane Addams and Carrie Chapman Catt advocating for suffrage alongside disarmament. Through the papers and correspondence of key activists, we can get a first-hand insight into the aims and achievement of the peace movement.

- Discuss the impact of key female activists on the peace movement.
- Identify the role of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in the early peace movement.
- Examine the interaction between the peace movement and the women's rights movement.

- Evaluate the importance of correspondence in supporting and strengthening the peace movement.
- Analyze the difference between local and international activism, and its impact, in relation to the peace movement.

Other useful search terms: women's suffrage, equality, vote, United Nations, Dorothy Detzer, Katherine Devereux Blake, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, peace activists, peace negotiations.

Women as Authors and Publishers

Female writing has frequently been absent from the history of publishing, with women's voices and the role of women authors minimized within literature. Female-authored literature, which takes a variety of formats, are essential sources for understanding women as both authors and readers, and for exploring the ways in which that authorship intersects with issues of gender and identity.

- Describe the ways in which women's roles are defined and explored in female-authored works.
- Explain the importance of pseudonyms to female writers, and the reasons behind their use.
- Analyze the importance of female-run printers to the suffrage movement.
- Examine the ways in which material written by women for differs from material written for women by male authors.
- Assess the impact of women's voices across different types of works aimed at women.

Other useful search terms: woman journalist, literature, Society of Women Writers and Journalists, women's literature, author, story, American Antiquarian Society, author, books.

The Chicana Movement

Through the 1950s and 1960s, the Chicano movement demanded better civil rights for Mexican Americans, and although successful, many female activists felt excluded from its predominantly male leadership. Chicana activists started their own organizations, which focused on issues specific to Chicana women and played a significant role in bringing intersectionality to the fore.

- Identify the issues that were central to the Chicana cause.
- Discuss the extent to which the Chicana Movement could be classed as unified.
- Discuss the role of Alicia Escalante in transforming the welfare system in the US.
- Examine the importance of hearing the narratives of women of color in their own voices. Explain the difficulties in finding these voices and the reasons why they have often been underrepresented in history.
- Examine the development of intersectionality in activism.

Other useful search terms: Women's Rights, working women, Hispanics, California, Women executives, Chicana Service Action Center, CFMN, Alicia Escalante, Francisca Flores, Intercambios Femeniles, Dolores Huerta, raza.

Female Activism

Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries women have advocated for and impacted a range of social and political changes. From suffrage, pacifism and temperance, to the labor and Chicana movements, women have been at the forefront of the fight for safety, advancement and equality.

- Identify how women's role in society evolved as their involvement in activism has grown.
- Describe and compare the representation of female activists in different forms of media.
- Discuss the intersection of different female-led movements, and the ways in which they supported or counteracted each other.
- Compare the experience and impact of women's activism and resistance on a national and international level.
- Examine the importance and impact of race on the effects of key female-led activist movements.
- Evaluate the affect of different methods of communication on specific activist move.

Other useful search terms: women's rights, gender equality, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Alicia Escalante, vote, women's suffrage, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, women civil rights activists, Pankhurst.

Women's Roles

Domesticity, the idea that women should stay in the home to raise children and care for the household, was the dominant gender ideology in nineteenth-century Western Europe and North America, especially for working class women. From the 1960s women sought to break free of these gender norms, resisting stereotypes and creating new opportunities for themselves.

- Identify the way in which stereotypes of women develop throughout the twentieth century.
- Compare the way that women are presented in different types of sources.
- Analyze the ways in which class affects the roles that a woman was expected to perform.
- Explore the importance of race in understanding the roles and expectations of women at different points in history.
- Assess the impact of activism on the development of gender norms throughout the twentieth century. In what ways did female activists adhere to or reject expectations?

Other useful search terms: women's roles, gender equality, sex, working women, feminism, role of women, women's rights, liberation, status of women, love, writing

CASE STUDY

These case studies provide some examples of the sorts of material found in *WSA: V&V*. They will show you how the source material found in *WSA: V&V* relates to some of the key topics discussed above. They will also introduce you to the kinds of specific questions you can use to interrogate individual sources. If you are interested in the topics discussed in these case studies, at the end of each study you will find suggestions for how to investigate further.

These case studies can also be used as a teaching tool. They can be used to help educators explain using digital primary sources to new users. Together with the instructions above (Basic Search and Filtering), they can help in explaining to new users how to navigate a digital archive. They also provide clear examples of the source materials in *WSA: V&V*, and the kinds of critical thinking that need to be applied to these sources.

March 2, 1976
Sterilization
Page 2

In Los Angeles, a lawsuit was filed nearly six months ago by eleven Chicanas. Ten of these eleven were sterilized under conditions which precluded an informed decision regarding sterilization as a birth control method. One woman was scheduled for sterilization, and but for a delay due to an infection, would now be sterilized.

The abuses suffered by these Chicanas included: lack of counseling regarding alternative forms of birth control; absence of information on sterilization in Spanish; and, lack of consent to the sterilization operation.

Please read the enclosed information regarding the regulations. It is important that each of us contact the Department of Health now and demand that we, as women, be protected from abuses such as were suffered by the Chicanas in Los Angeles.

Please contact the Coalition for more information. For those of you who can, please attend the next meeting of the Coalition.

In The Struggle,

Sandra Salazar
Sandra A. Salazar
Law Clerk

SAS/ss

CSAC Board of Directors-
Meeting 1976. 1976. MS
Comisión Femenil Mexicana
Nacional Archives: Series V:
Chicana Service Action Center
(C.S.A.C.; Independent of CFMN
in 1975) Box 39, Folder 9.
University of California, Santa
Barbara. *Women's Studies
Archive*,
https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A_YLNRG539419940/WMNS?u=webdemo&sid=WMNS&xid=08172c09
. Accessed 10 Dec. 2020.

- Explain the situation being described by this letter.
- Examine this letter as a source. What is its purpose? Who was it written by? How does this impact our understanding of the events it describes?
- Discuss the importance of race on the use of sterilization as birth control.
- Explore what we can learn about eugenics from this source.
- Examine what we can learn about Chicana attitudes towards contraception using this source.
- Compare the concerns outlined in the source with those of the second-wave feminist movement. To what extent do the issues of the Chicana Movement and the second-wave feminist movement intersect?

- Sterilization Abuse
- Abortion
- Reproductive Rights
- Women's Rights

- Women's Health
- Involuntary Sterilization
- Birth Control
- Tubal Sterilization

Women's Bureau

From the suffragettes to the Me Too movement, women have continuously fought for equality, and this battle has resulted in legislation that has improved and safeguarded the lives of women. A key factor regards the role of women in the workplace, and the legislation involved in protecting workers from harassment and discrimination.

The pamphlet below was written by the US Department of Labour's Women's Bureau. Established in 1920, the Women's Bureau was created to address standards and policies that would promote the welfare, opportunities and working conditions of working women. Over its hundred-year history, the Bureau has identified and researched the issues facing working women, and has implemented innovative policies to combat them. Their findings have also formed the basis of new legislation. The aim of "Equal Employment Opportunity for Women: US Policies" was to identify the US initiatives, both past and present, that promoted equal employment opportunities, and also to examine their effectiveness.

You may want to read the entirety of the document before embarking on the questions below.

INTRODUCTION

The equality of individual rights and opportunity has long been a national commitment of the United States and continues to have the firm support of the President. In addition to the basic guarantees and protection embodied in the Constitution, the commitment is expressed in more than 100 Federal statutes which address such areas as employment, housing, voting, education, public accommodations, access to credit, and jury service. Those laws affecting the employment opportunities and economic interest of women remain basically as they were described in the United States report for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) High Level Conference on the Employment of Women, April 1980, Paris, France. They set the standard for equal opportunity in public and private employment, training programs, and federally assisted education programs. They also prohibit discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, or sex in pay, opportunities for promotion, and all terms, conditions, and privileges of employment.

Much of the progress made in realizing the national commitment has been the result of both Government enforcement and the voluntary efforts of individuals, private businesses, and institutions. At present more emphasis is being placed on voluntary compliance, a reduction in regulatory requirements and paperwork, and technical assistance. Business leaders are becoming more involved in identifying skill shortages in the labor market and in planning training programs geared to jobs in the private sector. The private sector initiatives are encouraged with a view toward strengthening the economy and providing employment and training opportunities to all segments of the population.

Specific initiatives which the U.S. Government is undertaking to improve equal opportunity programs include:

- greater involvement of State and local governments in assuring equality of opportunity, ^{1/}
- incentives for voluntary compliance,
- increased technical assistance,
- new leadership and improved management.

^{1/} Special Analysis J, "Civil Rights Activities," The Budget of the United States Government, 1983, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, February 1982.

External, U.S. Department of Labor, Equal Employment Opportunity for Women: U.S. Policies 1982. 1982. MS The National Network of Hispanic Women Archives: Series II: Publications Box 15, Folder 23. University of California, Santa Barbara. Women's Studies Archive, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/MEYLYD398758431/WMNS?u=webdemo&sid=WMNS&xid=1b33487a>. Accessed 10 Dec. 2020.

Critical thinking questions to consider:

- Who are the EEOC and why are they important?
- Describe what we can learn about equality legislation from this source.
- Identify the issues affecting women in the workplace.
- Assess the value of this pamphlet as a source. How does the date, context, authorship and purpose of the document affect our understanding of it? What can we learn by taking into account the collection in which it originated?
- Examine the ways in which equality legislation interacts with intersectionality.
- How did the sentiments of women change as policies were created around them?
- What were the differences in themes regarding policies and women from a global perspective? How were they different from one another? (you may need to explore additional materials to answer this question.)

More on this topic...

If you want to investigate equality legislation further, a good place to start is by browsing some of the collections that form *Women's Studies Archive: Voice and Vision*:

[Records of the Equal Opportunities Commission](#)

[Records created or inherited by the Women's National Commission](#)

CITATION

CITATION GOES HERE