Women's Studies Databases: A Critical Comparison of Three Databases for Core Journals in Women and Gender Studies

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ABSTRACT

In the last decade, online databases in the field of women and gender studies have matured. There are now a variety of bibliographic and full text databases available, both free on the Internet and through fee-based subscriptions. This article provides an in-depth analysis of three major fee-based databases: Women's Studies International, Contemporary Women's Issues, and GenderWatch. The author compares the databases by searching a core list of scholarly journals and feminist magazines to determine the coverage in each system including dates, number of citations for each periodical title, and whether full text is available for each title. The author also analyzes article coverage from those periodical titles common to all three systems for a specific year to determine which database provides the most comprehensive coverage. This analysis will provide libraries with a means to determine which of these databases will be most beneficial to their clientele, and it will encourage librarians with responsibility for selecting women's studies online resources to advocate for more comprehensive inclusion of women's studies journals in key databases.

INTRODUCTION

The field of women's studies is now a mature discipline. Hundreds of colleges and universities in the United States offer undergraduate minors and majors, and several offer graduate degrees. Along with the maturation of the discipline has come the evolution of the bibliographic literature, including online resources. In the last ten to fifteen years, online databases for women and gender studies have multiplied. There are now a variety of digitized full text resources; indexing and abstracting sources;

and databases providing the full text of journals, newsletters, reports, and grey literature. For an excellent up-to-date listing of the multiple women's studies electronic resources available, see the Web site Electronic Resources Information and Assessment (http://www.libr.org/wss/projects/electronic.html) compiled by the Electronic Resources and Access Committee of the Women's Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries.

This article provides an in-depth analysis of the coverage of core women's studies journals in three fee-based databases: Contemporary Women's Issues (CWI), GenderWatch (GW), and Women's Studies International (WSI). The author compares these databases by searching a core list of women and gender studies journals to determine the coverage in each system, including the dates of coverage and number of citations for each periodical title. For Contemporary Women's Issues and GenderWatch, which both provide full text, the author examines a sample of journals common to both databases to determine the level of full text availability for these journals.

This type of in-depth analysis of online databases is important for several reasons. First, public libraries and smaller college or university libraries cannot subscribe to a wide variety of databases. For those libraries wishing to subscribe to a database for gender studies, comparisons such as this assist smaller libraries in making informed decisions about which database is best for their clientele. Second, for libraries fortunate enough to subscribe to more than one gender-related database, it is important to know the coverage for each database in order to provide the best service to users. Third, many libraries faced with budget cuts make journal cancellation decisions based on coverage of a journal in an online database. In order to make truly informed decisions, subject specialists and fund managers need to know the real extent of the full text coverage in online databases.

Literature Review
In 1984, Sarah Pritchard, then Reference Specialist in Women's Studies at the Library of Congress, wrote an article titled "Developing Criteria for Database Evaluation: The Example of Women's Studies." This paper reviewed the current literature of the time on evaluation of database content to determine specific criteria to guide the development of women's studies databases. *Women Online: Research in Women's Studies Using Online Databases* (Atkinson & Hudson, 1990) presents one of the earliest analyses of the coverage of women's studies content in online databases. Each chapter discusses a different topic relating to the availability of women's studies resources in online systems, such as the coverage of women in biomedical databases; women's issues found in business databases; the coverage of lesbians and women of color in online databases; or the availability

of online information about women in developing countries. Two articles from the mid-1990s discuss the coverage of women's studies titles in the table of contents or current awareness services. Koch and Preece (1995) compared the coverage of women's studies titles found in the print-only publication *Feminist Periodicals* in three current awareness services: Current Contents, UnCover, and Contents First. Faries (1998) undertook a similar study that compared the print tables of contents to the online tables of contents for a core set of women's studies journals in three online table-of-contents resources. When women's studies databases first began to appear as CD-ROMS, several reviews and descriptive articles were written about them (Dickstein, Evans, German, Grim, & River, 1998; Duval, 1998; Kinder, 1998; Kushigian, 1997). A recent article in *Library Journal* (Golderman & Connolly, 2004) reviewed several databases related to women and gender studies, while Fang (2002) provides an overview of *Ethnic News Watch* and *GenderWatch.* Finally, Dickstein and Hovendick (2004) provide an excellent article in the *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science* on the history and development of women's studies electronic resources.

Other articles, too numerous to mention, have looked at the coverage of journals in a variety of online resources. However, there has not been an in-depth study of the coverage of women's studies journals in the women's studies aggregator databases.

Methodology

The author compared forty core women's studies periodical titles in three online women's studies databases, Contemporary Women's Issues, GenderWatch, and Women's Studies International (WSI). The forty titles were determined by the Collection Development Committee of the Women's Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries. These titles were chosen after much discussion and debate within the committee.

The list of the forty core titles is presented in Table 1, which includes the full name of the journal; the year when the first publication appeared; and the ISBN number. The key research questions that the author wished to answer were as follows:

- Which core titles are included in each database?
- What are the dates of coverage for each title?
- How many citations/records appear in each database from each title?
- In Contemporary Women's Issues and GenderWatch, which of the journals covered are available full text and what is the extent of the full text coverage in both systems?

The three databases have now been around for several years and are available from different vendors. Contemporary Women's Issues began as an online resource and a compact disc from Responsive Database Services

Table 1. List of Forty Core Women and Gender Studies Journals

Core Journal Full Title	Year of First Publication	ISSN
Affilia: Journal of Women in Social Work	1986	0886-1099
AWIS Magazine	1971	1057-5839
Calyx	1976	0147-1627
Camera Obscura	1976	0270-5346
Differences: A Journal of Cultural Studies	1989	1040-7391
Feminist Collections	1980	0742-7441
Feminist Economics	1995	1354-5701
Feminist Periodicals	1981	0742-7433
Feminist Review	1979	0141-7789
Feminist Studies	1972	0046-3663
Feminist Teacher	1984	0882-4843
Feminist Theory	2000	1464-7001
Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies	1975	0160-9009
Gender & Society	1987	0891-2432
Gender Issues, *Formerly:* Feminist Issues	1980	1098-092X
Gender, Place and Culture	1994	0966-369X
Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy	1986	0887-5367
Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion	1985	8755-4178
Journal of Lesbian Studies	1996	1089-4160
Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering	1982	1072-8325
Journal of Women, Politics & Policy, *Formerly* Women & Politics	1980	1554-477X
Journal of Women's History	1989	1042-7961
Kalliope	1979	0735-7885
MS Magazine	1972–1989; 1990	0047-8318
National NOW Times	1968	0149-4740
New Books on Women and Feminism	1979	0742-7123
NWSA Journal	1988	1040-0656
off our backs	1970	0030-0071
Psychology of Women Quarterly	1976	0361-6843
Sex Roles: A Journal of Research	1975	0360-0025
Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society	1975	0097-9740
Social Politics: International Studies in Gender State and Society	1994	1072-4745
Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature	1982	0732-7730
Woman's Art Journal	1980	0270-7993
Women & Health	1976	0363-0242
Women & Therapy	1982	0270-3149
Women's Review of Books	1983-2004; 2006	0738-1433
Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal	1972	0049-7878
Women's Studies International Forum	1978	0277-5395
Women's Studies Quarterly	1972	0732-1562

(RDS) in 1996. Contemporary Women's Issues "brings together relevant content from mainstream periodicals, 'grey' literature, and the alternative press—with a focus on the critical issues and events that influence women's lives in more than 190 countries" (Thomson Gale, n.d.). Contemporary Women's Issues contains more than two thousand unique sources, including periodicals, newsletters, NGO reports and other ephemeral literature.

The database is updated weekly, includes coverage of titles back to 1992, and provides 98 percent full text availability of articles. CWI is available from Gale, OCLC FirstSearch, and Lexis Nexis. GenderWatch began as an online resource and CD-ROM from Softline in 1997. It provides "researchers with more than 100,000 articles on wide-ranging topics like sexuality, religion, societal roles, feminism, masculinity, eating disorders, day care, and the workplace" (ProQuest, n.d.). Some articles in GenderWatch date back to 1970, although the majority of titles date from 1992. Information from the ProQuest Web site says that GenderWatch includes articles from journals, magazines, newsletters, newspapers, books, conference proceedings, and special reports. GW is updated quarterly. The Web site does not say what percentage of titles is available full text. Women's Studies International "supports curriculum development in the areas of sociology, history, political science & economy, public policy, international relations, arts & humanities, business and education" (NISC, n.d.). This resource provides access to over eight hundred sources including journals, newspapers, newsletters, bulletins, books, books chapters, proceedings, reports, theses and dissertations, and grey literature. The database currently includes material from ten different resources, including *Women Studies Abstracts*; a *MEDLINE* subset on women; and four files from the Women's Studies Librarian Office at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, most importantly the title *New Books on Women and Feminism*. The database includes articles from over two thousand periodicals, dates back to 1972, and is updated quarterly. WSI does not include full text. Women's Studies International is available from NISC and EBSCO.

Results

Coverage of Titles in Each Database
The first question to be answered by this study was "Which core women's studies titles are covered in each database?" To determine which titles were covered in each of the databases, the author began by looking at the list of titles for each database provided by the vendor. The vendors for each database at the UIUC Library are Gale for Contemporary Women's Issues; ProQuest for GenderWatch; and NISC for Women's Studies International. The author relied on a list from Gale dated August 15, 2006 for CWI, and for GenderWatch, the ProQuest list was dated August 1, 2006. NISC did not provide a list of titles for WSI. For CWI and GW, the author began with the vendor-supplied lists, but previous experience indicated that such lists are woefully inadequate, because they often exclude titles that the database actually includes and they provide inexact information on dates of coverage. Thus, each of the forty core titles was searched in all three databases. In Contemporary Women's Issues, the author searched for each title by going to the field labeled "In a specific source" and click-

ing on the search button labeled "Lookup." This provided a list of titles supposedly covered in the database, or a source index. If a periodical title was listed, it was checked, and a search was run against this title. Contemporary Women's Issues had discrepancies between what was listed on the vendor supplied list, and what was listed in the source index in the database. Seven titles appeared on the vendor list but were not listed in the database source index. The seven titles were *Camera Obscura; Feminist Economics; Feminist Studies; Feminist Teacher; Gender, Place and Culture; Journal of Lesbian Studies;* and *Journal of Women, Politics and Policy.* For these titles, the only way to determine if they were in the database was to search each title in the field labeled "Search Full Text & Citation," an extremely inefficient way to search, because there is no way to limit a search for a journal title to search the citation only. For these titles, the author was searching the full text of all articles plus the citations. Additionally, there is no way to do an exact phrase search; using quotation marks around each title produced an error. Therefore, a search on the journal title *Feminist Studies* in the field labeled "Search Full Text & Citation" searched for the words "feminist" and "studies" anywhere in the full text of articles and in the citations. One can imagine how many times the words feminist and studies would appear in a women's studies database. While this article is not examining the searching capabilities of the three databases, these searching limitations for *CWI* certainly make it less than desirable. For GenderWatch, a ProQuest database at the UIUC Library, the author used the search tab marked "Publications," available in both basic and advanced search modes, which takes a user to an alphabetical index of sources supposedly covered in each database. Users can check a source from this index, and then run a search on that source to find all the specific issues for that title. In GenderWatch no discrepancies were found between what was listed on the vendor list and what was listed in the source index in the database. As mentioned previously, NISC did not provide a list of sources for Women's Studies International. For WSI, the author searched in the advanced search mode and used the index called "Periodical Names [Only]." Like the other two systems, this index will take the user to a source index of titles available in the database. Each of the forty core titles was searched in this index.

Table 2 indicates which titles were covered in each database. Contemporary Women's Issues included nineteen of forty titles or 47.5 percent; GenderWatch included seventeen of forty or 42.5 percent; and Women's Studies International included thirty-six of forty titles or 90 percent. These results were not surprising to the author who has frequently used all three databases over the past ten years. Women's Studies International is by far the superior database in terms of covering women and gender studies periodicals, but what exactly does coverage mean?

Table 2. Women's Studies Core Journals Covered in Each Database

Core Journal	Contemporary Women's Issues	GenderWatch	Women's Studies International
Affilia	Not Covered	Not Covered	Covered
AWIS Magazine	Not Covered	Not Covered	Not Covered
Calyx	Not Covered	Not Covered	Not Covered
Camera Obscura	Covered	Covered	Covered
Differences: A Journal of Cultural Studies	Covered	Covered	Covered
Feminist Collections	Covered	Covered	Covered
Feminist Economics	Covered	Not Covered	Covered
Feminist Periodicals	Not Covered	Not Covered	Not Covered
Feminist Review	Covered	Not Covered	Covered
Feminist Studies	Covered	Covered	Covered
Feminist Teacher	Covered	Covered	Covered
Feminist Theory	Not Covered	Not Covered	Covered
Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies	Not Covered	Covered	Covered
Gender and Society	Not Covered	Not Covered	Covered
Gender Issues	Not Covered	Not covered	Covered
Gender, Place and Culture	Covered	Not on title list	Covered
Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy	Covered	Covered	Covered
Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion	Not Covered	Not Covered	Covered
Journal of Lesbian Studies	Covered	Covered	Covered
Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering	Covered	Covered	Covered
Journal of Women's History	Covered	Covered	Covered
Kalliope	Not Covered	Not Covered	Not Covered
MS Magazine	Covered	Not Covered	Covered
National NOW Times	Not Covered	Not Covered	Covered
New Books on Women and Feminism	Not Covered	Not Covered	Not Covered
NWSA Journal	Covered	Covered	Covered
off our backs	Covered	Covered	Covered
Psychology of Women Quarterly	Not Covered	Not Covered	Covered
Sex Roles: A Journal of Research	Not Covered	Not Covered	Covered
Signs	Not Covered	Not Covered	Covered
Social Politics	Not Covered	Not Covered	Covered
Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature	Not Covered	Not Covered	Covered
Woman's Art Journal	Not Covered	Not Covered	Covered
Women and Health	Covered	Covered	Covered
Women and Politics	Covered	Covered	Covered
Women and Therapy	Covered	Covered	Covered
Women's Review of Books	Covered	Covered	Covered
Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal	Not Covered	Not Covered	
Women's Studies International Forum	Not Covered	Not Covered	Covered
Women's Studies Quarterly	Not Covered	Covered	Covered
	19/40=47.5%	17/40=42.5%	35/40=87.5%

Dates of Coverage

A second important question for this study was: "What are the dates of coverage for these forty core women's studies titles?" Again, the vendor-supplied lists provided some initial data, but each title needed to be searched in all three databases to determine the exact coverage dates. The author conducted these searches in all three databases over a period of three days in the early fall, to assure a consistent count in terms of dates of coverage and number of citations. In Contemporary Women's Issues, each of the forty titles was searched using the search strategies described in the section on coverage of titles in each database. The author then went through the list of citations screen by screen to determine the most recent date and the earliest date available for each title. This was a cumbersome process because Contemporary Women's Issues does not allow users to jump to the last citation, and only twenty citations can be viewed on the screen at one time. However, this was the only way to determine the exact dates of coverage. In GenderWatch, determining the dates of coverage was much easier. In both the basic and advanced search modes, there is a tab labeled "Publications," which takes a user to an index of all the publications included in the database. From here, a user can check a title, hit search, and then be presented with a complete listing of all of the volumes and issues for each title on one screen. From this screen, it was a simple matter to determine the most recent and the earliest issue for each periodical title. In Women's Studies International, the author searched in the Advanced Search mode, typing each journal title into the search field labeled "Periodical Names [only]." This results in a set of citations. Women's Studies International does allow the user to jump to the last citation, so determining the earliest dates of coverage for each of the core titles was not difficult. However, in several cases, the very last citation on the last screen was not always the earliest citation for that journal.

Table 3 presents the dates of coverage for each core title from each database. This table also lists whether the specific journal is available full text for both Contemporary Women's Issues and GenderWatch. Full text coverage will be discussed in further detail later in this article. In terms of dates of coverage, Women's Studies International provides the most comprehensive coverage. For every title covered by one of the other databases, the dates of coverage in Women's Studies International were much more extensive. This makes sense since WSI goes back to 1972 and the other two databases only go back to the early 1990s. In many cases, Women's Studies International includes the first issue of a core title. See for example, *Affilia, Differences, Gender, Place and Culture, Journal of Lesbian Studies, MS, off our backs,* and *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal.* In terms of dates of coverage, Women's Studies International is by far the superior database for women and gender studies core journals.

Number of Citations for Each Core Title in Each Database
Dates of coverage for a journal can provide part of the picture in deter-
mining how well a journal is indexed; however, dates of coverage do not
provide the full picture since databases often do not include all issues of
all years for many titles. Another significant question to this study is: "How
many citations/records exist for each core periodical title from each da-
tabase?"

Table 4 indicates the number of citations for each title from each
database. For several titles, Women's Studies International had the largest
number of citations. This makes sense since the database does go back to
1972, and WSI provided the most comprehensive dates of coverage of all
three databases. However, GenderWatch also included a significant num-
ber of citations for several titles including *Feminist Studies, Feminist Teacher,
Journal of Lesbian Studies*, and *Journal of Women, Politics and Policy*. In some
cases, including *Feminist Collections, NWSA Journal,* and *off our backs* the
number of citations in GenderWatch exceeded the number of citations in
Women's Studies International. In GenderWatch, the number of citations
found for a twelve-year period of *Feminist Collections* was 845 as compared
to 42 citations found in Women's Studies International for an eleven-year
period of the title. Further examination of Women's Studies International
found that only one or two citations per issue were included for *Feminist
Collections* in this database. GenderWatch included significantly more cita-
tions per issue for *Feminist Collections*, and also covered a longer time pe-
riod. GenderWatch also included nearly twice as many citations from *NWSA
Journal*, 1,032; whereas WSI included 553 citations. Again, the coverage
for the journal in GenderWatch was ten years as opposed to five years for
coverage of the journal in WSI. However, further examination in Wom-
en's Studies International revealed that the citations in this database from
NWSA Journal were only for book reviews. Another example is the feminist
publication *off our backs*. In GenderWatch there were 9,153 citations, while
Women's Studies International included 3,999 citations. The dates of cov-
erage for the journal in each database appear to be identical. The only
conclusion that one can draw from this example is that GenderWatch
indexed many more of the articles from *off our backs* than did Women's
Studies International. These examples reveal that while WSI may include
longer dates of coverage for many core gender studies journals, the data-
base is not including significant portions of some journal titles. Contem-
porary Women's Issues was the most disappointing in terms of number of
citations included for each journal. For some journal titles, the coverage
in CWI was adequate, based solely on the number of citations appearing
in the database for each journal. See for example: *Differences, Feminist Col-
lections, Hypatia, Journal of Women's History, NWSA Journal*, and the *Women's
Review of Books*. However, with all of these titles, either GenderWatch or
Women's Studies International had better coverage for the journal.

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Table 3. Journal Dates of Coverage in Each Database and Full Text Availability

CORE JOURNAL	CWI	GENDER WATCH	WSI
Affilia	Not covered	Not covered	1986–Spring 2006
AWIS Magazine	Not covered	Not covered	Not covered
Calyx	Not covered	Not covered	Not covered
Camera Obscura	Sept. 1993–Dec. 2002 Full text	May 1996–2006 (no. 61) No full text	Fall 1976–2005 (v. 20, 3)
Differences: A Journal of Cultural Studies	Spring 1996–March 2006 Some full text	Summer 1991– Spring 2006 No full text	Winter 1989–Spring 2006
Feminist Collections	Fall 1994–Jan. 2006 Full text	Oct. 31, 1994– Winter 2006 Full text	Spring 1982–Fall 2003
Feminist Economics	Spring 1997–March 2002 Full text	Not covered	Fall 1995–Jan. to Apr. 2006
Feminist Periodicals	Not covered	Not covered	Not covered
Feminist Review	Summer 1997–Mar. 2006 Some full text	Not covered	1979 (no.1)–2006 (no. 82)
Feminist Studies	Full text	Spring 1989–Spring 2006 Full text: Spring 1990 to date	1971–Spring 2006
Feminist Teacher	1994 (8:2)–1999 (12:3) Full text	Summer 1991–2006 (16:2) Full text: Spring 1993 to 1999 (12:3)	Fall 1984–2006 (16:2)
Feminist Theory	Not covered	Not covered	April 2000–April 2006
Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies	Not covered	1992 (13:1)–2006 (27:1) Full text: 1994 (14:2) to date	Fall 1975–2006 (27:1) Earliest citation said May 1930 June 1987–April 2006
Gender and Society	Not covered	Not covered	Winter/Spring 1998–Spring 2005
Gender Issues	Not covered	Not covered	1994 (1:1)–Feb. 2006
Gender, Place and Culture	March 1996–Sept. 1996 Some full text	Not covered	
Hypatia	March 1996–June 2006 Full text	Spring 1989–Fall 2006 Full text: Winter 1994 to date	Spring 1986–Spring 2006
Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion	Not covered	Not covered	Spring 1985–Spring 2006
Journal of Lesbian Studies	1997 (no. 3)–2002 (no.1) Some full text	March 1997–2006 (10: 1/2) No full text	1997 (1:1)–2005 (9:3)
Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering	Not covered	Not covered	1994 (1:1)–2002 (8:3/4)
Journal of Women's History	March 1996–Sept. 2005 Full text	Spring 1992–Summer 2006 Full text: Winter 1995 to date	Spring 1989–Spring 2006

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Table 3. Journal Dates of Coverage in Each Database and Full Text Availability (*continued*)

CORE JOURNAL	CWI	GENDER WATCH	WSI
A Journal of Women, Politics and Policy Formerly: Women and Politics New title as of 2005 (v. 27, no. 1/2):	1997 (no.1)–Dec. 2003 Most full text	March 1980–2005 (27:1/2) No full text GenderWatch lists all issues under the current title	Spring 1980–2004 (26:3/4) New Title: 2005 (27:1/2)–2005 (27:3/4)
Kalliope	Not covered	Not covered	Not covered
MS Magazine	Jan. 2003–Mar. 2006 No full text	Not covered	Dec. 1971–Winter 2006
National NOW Times	Not covered	Not covered	January 1995–Spring 2006
New Books on Women and Feminism	Not covered	Not covered	Not covered
NWSA Journal	March 1996–June 2006 Full text	Spring 1995–Fall 2006 Full text: Spring 1996 to present	Autumn 1988–March 2003
off our backs	Jan. 1993–Feb. 2006 Full text	Feb. 27, 1970–2006 (36:1) Full text	October 1970–2006 (36:1)
Psychology of Women Quarterly	Not covered	Not covered	1975–March 2006
Sex Roles: A Journal of Research	Not covered	Not covered	1974/1975–Feb 2006 *only one citation from 1974 1974–Winter 2006
Signs	Not covered	Not covered	Spring 1994–Summer 2006
Social Politics	Not covered	Not covered	Spring 1982–Spring 2006
Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature	Not covered	Not covered	Fall/Win. 1984–Spring/Sum. 2006
Woman's Art Journal	Not covered	Not covered	Jan/Feb 1976–2005 (41:1)
Women and Health	1997–Sept. 2003 No full text	Aug., 31, 1997 (2:1)–2005 (41:1) No full text	
Women and Therapy	1996–March 2005 No full text	Mar. 31, 1982–2005 (28:1) Full text: 1995 (16:1)–1998 (21:4)	Spring 1982–2005 (28:2)
Women's Review of Books	Jan. 1994–Sept. 2006 Full text	Not covered	1973–Mar/April 2006
Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal	Not covered	Not covered	1972 (1:1)–Jan/Feb 2006
Women's Studies International Forum	Not covered	Not covered	1978 (29:3)–May 2006
Women's Studies Quarterly	Not covered	Spring 1989–Spring 2006 Full text: Spring 2002 to date (w/ 6 month delay)	Summer 1980–Spring/Summer 2006

Table 4. Number of Citations in Each Database

CORE JOURNAL	CWI	GENDER WATCH	WSI
Affilia	Not covered	Not covered	2,232
AWIS Magazine	Not covered	Not covered	Not covered
Calyx	Not covered	Not covered	Not covered
Camera Obscura	Is on vendor list. Not in source index 275; 257 from Camera Obscura	163	481
Differences: A Journal of Cultural Studies	361	301	428 under Differences 3 under Differences: A Journal of Cultural Studies
Feminist Collections	790	845	42
Feminist Economics	Is on vendor list Not listed in source index Found 317; 111 NOT from Feminist Economics	Not covered	747
Feminist Periodicals	Not covered	Not covered	Not covered
Feminist Review	193	Not covered	1,696
Feminist Studies	Is on vendor list Not in source index	1,123	1,466
Feminist Teacher	Is on vendor list Not in source index 225; 100 from Feminist Teacher	403	417
Feminist Theory	Not covered	Not covered	330
Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies	Not covered	808	1,416 under Frontiers 2 under full title
Gender and Society	Not covered	Not covered	2,352 under Gender and Society 1 under Gender & Society
Gender Issues	Not covered	Not covered	179
Gender, Place and Culture	Is on vendor list Not in source index 53; all but 18 from GPC.	Not covered	962 under Gender, Place and Culture 1 under Gender, Place & Culture 1 under Gender, Place, Culture
Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy	950	1,235 Cannot view last 200 records	2,230
Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion	Not covered	Not covered	472
Journal of Lesbian Studies	Is on vendor list Not in source index 228; 219 from Lesbian Studies	433	466
Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering	Not covered	Not covered	15

Table 4. Number of Citations in Each Database (*continued*)

CORE JOURNAL	CWI	GENDER WATCH	WSI
Journal of Women, Politics and Policy / Formerly: Women and Politics	Is on vendor list. Not in source index Women & Politics in search full text and citation, retrieves 278; 144 are from this journal	1,237 under Women & Politics Cannot view last 237	8 under Women & Politics 1,605 under Women & Politics [Binghamton] 24 under Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy
Journal of Women's History	1,137	1,795	2,243 139 under Journal of Women's History (Johns Hopkins) but duplicate citations
Kalliope	Not covered	Not covered	Not covered
MS Magazine	257	Not covered	5,997
National NOW Times	Not covered	Not covered	650 under National N O W times 1 under National Now Times
New Books on Women and Feminism	Not covered	Not covered	Not covered
NWSA Journal	909	1032	553
off our backs	2,365	9,153 (could only view up to 1000 records)	All citations are for book reviews 3,999 under Off Our Backs 1 under off our backs c.l.i.t.
Psychology of Women Quarterly	Not covered	Not covered	2,502
Sex Roles: A Journal of Research	Not covered	Not covered	3,184 under Sex Roles 4 under full title
Signs	Not covered	Not covered	6,416
Social Politics	Not covered	Not covered	247
Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature	Not covered	Not covered	1,849
Woman's Art Journal	Not covered	Not covered	922
Women and Health	Women and Health is in source index, but when I run this search I retrieve 1900 but most of these appear to be from Women's Health Journal, Women's Health Letter.	1,963 under Women & Health	1,717 under Women & Health
Women and Therapy	269	1,402 under Women & Therapy Cannot view last 402	1,375 under Women & Therapy
Women's Review of Books	2,319	Not covered	7,853
Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal	Not covered	Not covered	2,158 under Women's Studies
Women's Studies International Forum	Not covered	Not covered	3,647 ISSN: 0277-5395 26 under Women's Studies International ISSN 10419527
Women's Studies Quarterly	Not covered	915	1,454

As mentioned previously, Contemporary Women's Issues also had discrepancies between what was listed on the vendor-supplied list, and what was listed in the source index in the database. Seven titles appeared on the vendor list but were not listed in the database source index. Determining the dates of coverage as well as the number of citations for these titles was difficult. As mentioned in the discussion, to determine which core titles were in each database, each of these seven titles was searched in CWI in the field labeled "Search Full Text & Citation," an extremely inefficient way to search, because there is no way to limit journal title search to search the citation only. Thus when the author searched for these seven titles in Contemporary Women's Issues, all words in every title were being searched both in the full text of articles and the citations. Surprisingly, the author was able to determine, if not exactly at least close enough, the dates of coverage and the number of citations for all seven titles except *Feminist Studies.* Searching for the words "feminist studies" in the full text and citation field in a women's studies database yielded over 11,000 results, too many to go through screen by screen. Each of the seven titles did appear in the source field when individual records were examined; but for some reason, these titles did not get included in the source index. This appears to be an error in indexing for this database,

Full Text Availability
A final question that the author was interested in was: "Which core women's studies journals are available full text in the two databases which provide full text coverage?"

Table 5 lists the core women's studies journals available full text in at least one of the databases that provide full text, Contemporary Women's Issues and GenderWatch. To determine the full text coverage, the author again began with the vendor-supplied lists. The list from Gale for Contemporary Women's Issues simply said "yes" or "no" next to each title. It did not indicate dates of full text coverage. Therefore, as the author scanned Contemporary Women's Issues for the number of citations and dates of coverage for each core title, full text availability was also noted. Of the nineteen titles covered in Contemporary Women's Issues, fifteen included some full text. For GenderWatch, the vendor-supplied list from ProQuest did provide dates of coverage for titles that were supposed to be available full text in the database. However, to assure that these dates were accurate, the author checked full text availability of all titles within the database itself. In both the Basic and Advanced Search Modes, there is a tab labeled "Publications" that takes a user to a list of all the publications included in the database. The full text availability for each title is indicated. Of the fifteen titles available in GW, ten included full text.

Determining full text availability in databases is much trickier than just ascertaining which journals are supposed to be full text. Even when

Table 5. Core Women's Studies Titles Available in Contemporary Women's Issues and GenderWatch

CORE JOURAL	CWI	GENDER WATCH
Camera Obscura	Full text Sept. 1993–Dec. 2002	No full text
Differences: A Journal of Cultural Studies	Some full text Spring 1996–March 2006	No full text
Feminist Collections	Full text Fall 1994– Jan. 2006	Full text Oct. 31, 1994–Winter 2006
Feminist Economics	Full text Spring 1997–March 2002	Not covered
Feminist Review	Some full text Summer 1997–March 2006	Not covered
Feminist Studies	Full text	Full text Spring 1990 to date
Feminist Teacher	Full text 1994 (8:2)–1999 (12:3)	Full text Spring 1993–1999 (12:3)
Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies	Not covered	Full text 1994 (14:2) to date
Gender, Place and Culture	Some full text March 1996–Sept. 1996	Not covered
Hypatia	Full text March 1996–June 2006	Full text Winter 1994 to date
Journal of Lesbian Studies	Some full text 1997 (no. 3)–2002 (no.1)	No full text
Journal of Women's History	Full text March 1996–Sept. 2005	Full text Winter 1995 to date

Journal of Women, Politics
    and Policy, Formerly: Women
    and Politics
	Most full text
	1997 (no.1)–Dec. 2003
		No full text
		GenderWatch lists all
		    issues under the
		    current title

NWSA Journal	Full text March 1996–June/2006	Full text Spring 1996 to present
off our backs	Full text Jan. 1993–Feb. 2006	Full text Feb. 27, 1970–2006 (36:1)
Women and Therapy	No full text	Full text 1995 (16:1)–1998 (21:4)
Women's Review of Books	Full text Jan. 1994–Sept. 2006	Not covered
Women's Studies Quarterly	Not covered	Full text Spring 2002 to date (w/ 6 month delay)
Number of full text titles	15/40=37.5 %	10/40= 25%

a journal is available full text in a database, a key question to ask is how much of each issue is available in the database? Are all articles covered? Are book reviews included? Are illustrations, diagrams, and photographs available? Is poetry included? To determine the quality of the full text coverage in both Contemporary Women's Issues and GenderWatch, the author compared two print issues from seven common titles available in

both databases to the full text coverage in each resource. Theses titles were *Feminist Collections, Feminist Studies, Feminist Teacher, Hypatia, Journal of Women's History, NWSA Journal,* and *off our backs.* For each of the seven titles, the author chose the earliest issue and the most recent issue available full text in both databases. The dates of the issues searched for each title were:

Feminist Collections	Fall 1994	Spring 2006
Feminist Studies	Spring 1994	Fall 2003
Feminist Teacher	v.8, n.1 1994	v.12, n.2 1998
Hypatia	Winter 1996	Summer 2006
Journal of Women's History	March 1996	Fall 2005
NWSA Journal	Spring 1996	Summer 2006
off our backs	January 1993	February 2006

In most cases, GenderWatch provided better full text coverage than Contemporary Women's Issues. For the fall 1994 issue of *Feminist Collections*, both databases included all of the book reviews. CWI included the section called "Computer Talk," which GenderWatch did not cover, but GenderWatch included "From the Editors" and "Items of Note," which Contemporary Women's Issues did not cover. Neither database listed "Books Recently Received." For the most recent issue examined, spring 2006, both databases included almost everything. Contemporary Women's Issues did list "Books and Audiovisuals Recently Received," which Gender-Watch did not. Neither database divided each issue into specific sections the way the print issues of *Feminist Collections* do; however, this is not a huge inconvenience, especially if all articles are included full text. *Feminist Studies* revealed the greatest number of gaps from Contemporary Women's Issues. The spring 1994 issue included several poems, works of fiction, an art essay, and a review essay. Contemporary Women's Issues omitted all of these, while GenderWatch included every piece. GenderWatch even included items at the end of the issue such as "Notes on Contributors," a "Notes and Letters" section, "Publications Received," and "Awards." By the fall 2003 issue, Contemporary Women's Issues did include poetry, an art essay, and the pieces at the end of the issue such as "News and Views." GenderWatch also included all of these pieces. Looking at the vol. 8, no. 1, 1994 issue of *Feminist Teacher*, Contemporary Women's Issues left out one article and an introductory letter that GenderWatch included. For the latest issue of *Feminist Teacher* available in both databases, vol. 12, issue 2, 1998, all articles and book reviews were included in both resources. Examining the winter 1996 issue of *Hypatia*, Contemporary Women's Issues included all of the articles but left out the preface; GenderWatch included all of the articles as well as the preface. For the summer 2006 issue of *Hypatia*, both Contemporary Women's Issues and GenderWatch included all of the articles for that issue. However, *GenderWatch* also in-

cluded the illustrations and photographs for an article about feminist art epistemology, figures that were essential for understanding the article. The March 1996 and the fall 2005 issues of the *Journal of Women's History* were checked. Here, both databases proved equal in providing full text coverage of all the articles. For the *NWSA Journal*, the spring 1996 and the summer 2006 issues were looked at. In the earliest issue, Contemporary Women's Issues left out three articles and a report on the Beijing '95 conference, which GenderWatch included. By the summer 2006 issue, Contemporary Women's Issues coverage had improved: all articles and book reviews from the print issue were available full text in the database. GenderWatch also included everything from this issue.

Other key issues to note about the coverage of full text articles in the two databases include the following:

- Most of the time, Contemporary Women's Issues breaks up one article into several parts, so that a user often has to print out from two to five separate sections to get the full article. In GenderWatch the full text article is available in one citation.
- Most of the time, articles in CWI do not appear in actual order; they do in the print table of contents. GenderWatch allows users to sort titles from a specific issue alphabetically by title or by page number. This can be important to a user scanning an entire issue of a journal. Articles are often grouped together by theme, or rebuttals or commentary about a specific article often follow immediately after the article.
- GenderWatch provides the number of pages for each article in the citation; Contemporary Women's Issues only lists the word count.
- GenderWatch also provides the PDF version for most articles; Contemporary Women's Issues does not.

So what does this analysis of the full text coverage for the two databases demonstrate? First, Contemporary Women's Issues is not as thorough in its coverage of the full text of all pieces of periodical issues. Second, Contemporary Women's Issues does not present the full text of articles in a manner easy to manipulate. Long articles are often broken up into more than one section, and there is no way to sort articles by page number. Third, Contemporary Women's Issues does not provide the PDF version of articles, even for 2006 issues. These days, most users will want the PDF versions of articles. Fourth and most important, GenderWatch does a better job of including all pieces of an issue, including poetry and illustrations. This was especially true of the earliest issues examined in the two databases. Thus, while GenderWatch does not include the full text of as many core women's studies journals as Contemporary Women's Issues, the full text coverage of the journals covered in GW does appear to be more complete and is presented in a format easier for users to manipulate.

Discussion

From this detailed analysis of the coverage of forty core women and gender studies journals in three women's studies databases, Contemporary Women's Issues, GenderWatch, and Women's Studies International, one can draw many conclusions. First, WSI is the best database for indexing of women's studies journals in terms of number of titles covered, dates of coverage, and number of citations available for each title. Even though the database does not provide full text coverage, Women's Studies International is a superior database that indexes a large percentage of women's studies core journals. With linking technologies available such as SFX, providing access to the full text of journals in Women's Studies International is now much easier for libraries. Of the two databases that do provide full text, GenderWatch includes fewer full text titles than Contemporary Women's Issues; however, GenderWatch provides more complete full text coverage than CWI. If libraries had to choose between these two databases, GenderWatch would be the better option.

Librarians should be concerned about those titles not covered in any of the three databases or covered so slightly as not to matter. The following four titles were not found in any of the three resources: *AWIS Magazine, Calyx, Feminist Periodicals,* and *Kalliope.* Additionally, while the *Journal of Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering* is available in Women's Studies International, the database included only fifteen citations from that journal. It is troubling that neither of the two core journals dealing with women in the sciences is indexed in any of the women's studies databases. Women in science and technology is an important subfield of women's studies and many women's studies programs and departments teach classes on this topic. Additionally, two core periodicals on women in literature and art are not included in any of the three resources: *Calyx: A Journal of Art and Literature by Women* and *Kalliope: A Journal of Women's Literature and Art.* Finally, one key resource for librarians, *Feminist Periodicals,* is also not included in any of the databases. Granted, *Feminist Periodicals* provides a directory and table of contents for feminist journals and magazines and would be difficult to index in any database. However, *Feminist Periodicals* is an important resource for librarians, and not all libraries may be able to subscribe to the print publications. Women's Studies International includes *New Books on Women and Feminism* as one of its ten resource files. Including *Feminist Periodicals* in WSI would be a welcome recommendation and would make the database that much more valuable to libraries.

Recommendations and Future Research

There are several recommendations libraries may want to consider to assure that access to these important women's studies journals is not lost.

First, women's studies subject specialists should work together to make sure that the full run of at least one print copy of core women's studies periodical titles is available at given libraries. Such an arrangement could be done through state, regional, or national consortia. Indeed, this kind of agreement is already taking place as various libraries are working together to maintain print core collections of journals. This type of arrangement is being created for core journals in the sciences and social sciences, mostly because of the high price of titles in these fields: many libraries cannot afford to keep a print version of a title and are often opting for e-only access. However, fund managers of women's studies collections at many libraries are finding it necessary to cut serials, even though women's studies titles are not that expensive. It is just that women's studies collection funds are usually quite small. Making sure that some libraries keep full print runs of women's studies periodicals is important not only for current research needs but also to preserve the record of this important discipline for future scholars. Second, women's studies subject specialists should encourage database vendors to include the full text of all core women's studies titles. They should also encourage projects such as Portico to include women's studies journals as well as periodicals titles from other interdisciplinary fields. Third, librarians should also encourage vendors to provide the full text coverage of journals from cover to cover, including poetry, art, cartoons, etc. Finally, women's studies subject specialists should work with vendors on how full text articles are presented in the databases. Women's studies subject specialists have done many of these things in the past, persuading publishers of print indexes such as *Women's Studies Index* to index specific journals. Groups such as the Women's Studies Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries can provide added leverage when working with vendors on specific recommendations.

This article provided a first look at the coverage of women's studies periodicals in women's studies specific databases; however, there are future areas to research. Another study could be done exploring the coverage of women's studies core titles in non-women's studies specific databases such as JSTOR, Project MUSE, or even SocINDEX. It would be enlightening to see which core women's studies titles are covered in other databases. Another study could examine the three women's studies databases for their coverage of second-tier women's studies titles or other types of titles such as newsletters. One might find that the value of Contemporary Women's Issues and GenderWatch is enhanced by such a study. Libraries will continue to face flat or very minimal increases in their budgets within the next several years, thus creating difficult decisions regarding electronic resources. This article provides a critical analysis of three women's studies databases to help librarians decide which resource would be the best for their users.

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