WGSS Journals Revisited: Scholars Share Their Core Titles
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About this Survey
Women's Studies has expanded to include Gender, Sexuality and Queer studies along with other subfields since the Core Journal List was last updated in 2008, making the list incomplete and unreflective of the discipline's breadth. To update the list, the WGSS Collections Committee distributed a Qualtrics hosted seven question survey to learn which journals are considered core for teaching and research. Three questions asked respondents to name titles of journals used and the remaining four asked about for demographic information. The 221 respondents shared the top five journals they consider core to courses they regularly teach and to their current research. Unclear listings of journal titles were checked against Ulrich's and Google.

Learning from Other Librarians
Pertinent literature on core journal identification in the social sciences and in interdisciplinary fields includes thorough overviews of the concept of 'core', and its problems, methods, and usefulness in academic libraries and studies on efforts to conceptualize and create core lists for various social sciences. The complexities related to establishing core lists for interdisciplinary topics and against-the-grain or nontraditional knowledge domains are also considered.

Respondents Primary Status
Graduate Student 20%
Full Professor 16%
Associate Professor 26%
Emeritus Professor 1%
Instructor 6%
Adjunct/ Clinical 3%
Post-Doc 3%
Other 9%

Do you primarily research in...?
Women's, Women/Women's Studies 27%
Feminist Studies 32%
Sexuality Studies 5%
Gender Studies 28%
 queued studies 8%

Top 25 Journals Used for Instruction
Signs 73
Journal of the Motherhood Initiative 69
Gender & Society 41
Feminist Studies 41
Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies 25
Feminist Formations 23
Hypatia 21
Journal of Women's History 22
Women's Studies Quarterly 22
Women's Studies Quarterly 18

Top 25 Journals Used for Research
Journal of the Motherhood Initiative 83
Signs 80
Gender & Society 44
Feminist Studies 41
Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies 29
Feminist Formations 23
Hypatia 29
Women's Studies Quarterly 23
GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian & Gay Studies 23
Women's Studies Quarterly 18

Respondents named 162 unique titles used for instruction and 199 for research.

Next Steps
Additional analysis to determine:

✔ which journals respondents regularly read
✔ which department or center respondents primarily work in
✔ the relationship between degrees offered and titles used

Results raise questions about the gap between what respondents consider core and what is considered core by tools like Journal Citation Reports®.

Findings will be combined with Journal Citation Reports® and other metrics to update the WGSS Core Journal List. Once compiled, librarians can assess and benchmark their libraries' holdings. It is hoped the list will support librarians wishing to expand their holdings.

Scan to learn more about this study: