

**TODD WEHR MEMORIAL LIBRARY**  
**Viterbo University**  
**Collection Statement - Women's Studies**

**GENERAL PURPOSE**

The Todd Wehr Memorial Library aims to support the curriculum of the Women's Studies minor, an interdisciplinary program integrating new developments in history, literature, religious studies, the arts, the health sciences, and the social sciences. Where possible, the Library supports faculty research and course development through acquisitions, interlibrary loan services, and electronic accessibility. The Library encourages use of the collection and electronic services through course-related instruction, orientations, reference services, workshops, and one-on-one interviews.

*Degree Programs*

The interdisciplinary Women's Studies minor teaches students how to integrate their knowledge by making connections among various fields of learning.

**SUBJECT AND LANGUAGE MODIFIERS**

*Languages* - English is the major language of the collection. Titles in Spanish or other languages may be acquired selectively, especially when related to the Latin American Studies minor.

*Geographical Areas* - Although there is an emphasis on resources from and about North America and Europe, materials are not excluded on the basis of place of publication or population studied. Some Latin American and African material has been collected.

*Subjects* – As an academic field, Women's Studies examines the often unacknowledged contributions of women scientists, artists, writers, and thinkers, and explores the social, cultural, biological, and psychological aspects of relations between men and women. Feminist perspectives are considered across various disciplines, including history, literature, religious studies, the arts, the health sciences, and the social sciences. Course topics include women writers, sociology of gender, racial and ethnic groups, marriage and family, women in American history, women as leaders, and women's health issues.

*Chronological Periods* - The main emphasis is on current resources, primarily within the last 25 years. However, significant works by and about women prior to the 21<sup>st</sup> century are also crucial to the collection. Primary sources by women writers both before and after 1700 are collected.

**COLLECTION LEVELS**

Description of collection levels, using the CONSPECTUS model.

A Basic Information level currently exists (Level 2), with some topics potentially at a Level 3 (Instructional Support). Moving towards an overall Level 3 is desirable to support the undergraduate minor in Women's Studies, as well as the related majors/minors it supports.

Level 0	Out of Scope	The library does not collect in this area.
Level 1	Minimal Level	A subject area in which few selections are made beyond very basic works.
Level 2	Basic Information Level	A collection of up-to-date general materials that serve to introduce and define a subject and to indicate the varieties of information available elsewhere. It may include dictionaries, encyclopedias, access to appropriate bibliographic databases, selected editions of important works, historical surveys, bibliographies, handbooks, a few major periodicals, in the minimum number that will serve the purpose. A basic information collection is not sufficiently intensive to support any advanced undergraduate or graduate courses or independent study in the subject area involved
Level 3	Instructional Support Level	A collection that is adequate to support undergraduate and MOST graduate instruction, or sustained independent study; that is, adequate to maintain knowledge of a subject required for limited or generalized purposes, of less than research intensity. It includes a wide range of basic monographs, complete collections of the works of more important writers, selections from the works of secondary writers, a selection of representative journals, access to appropriate non-bibliographic data bases, and the reference tools and fundamental bibliographical apparatus pertaining to the subject.
Level 4	Research Level	A collection that includes the major published source materials required for dissertations and independent research, including materials containing research reporting, new findings, scientific experimental results, and other information useful to researchers. It is intended to include all important reference works and a wide selection of specialized monographs, as well as a very extensive collection of journals and major indexing and abstracting services in the field. Pertinent foreign language materials are included. Older material is retained for historical research.
Level 5	Comprehensive Level	A collection in which a library endeavors, so far as it is reasonably possible, to include all significant works of recorded knowledge (publications, manuscripts, other forms), in all applicable languages, for a necessarily defined and limited field. This level of collecting intensity is on that maintains a "special collection"; the aim, if not the achievement, is exhaustiveness. Older material is retained for historical research.

## **DESCRIPTIONS OF MATERIALS COLLECTED**

*Types of Materials Collected* – Monographs, videos, and serials are acquired to support all levels of the program within various disciplines.

Introductory undergraduate works on women's studies, feminism, and gender theory are collected, as well as biographies of notable women in various fields.

Films for the annual Women's Studies Film Festival are acquired on an as-needed basis.

*Electronic Databases and Resources* – Various databases apply, including PsycInfo, Issues & Controversies, Feminae: Medieval Women and Gender Index, Literature Resource Center, MLA International Bibliography, and Academic Search Complete.

*Types of Materials Excluded* – None specifically, though as a general rule the Library does not collect college textbooks unless requested by faculty.

*Interdisciplinary Factors* – Many of the titles purchased for Women's Studies also support programs in Art, Business, Criminal Justice, English, History, Music, Nursing, Psychology, Religious Studies, Theatre, Sociology, Latin American Studies, and Environmental Studies.

## **COLLECTION REVIEW AND RETENTION**

The collection will be reviewed periodically by library staff and faculty to ensure appropriate materials are weeded or maintained. Materials of topical or historical significance may be retained indefinitely or replaced when condition warrants.