

Abstract 2639 proposed by WINE members for WW08 in Madrid

Title: Developing Digital Resources: Experiences from the Women's Information Network in Europe

The Women's Information Network in Europe (WINE) was established in 1996 and currently represents over 50 women's libraries, archives and information centres across Europe. Over the last decade a number of partners have accumulated a significant and growing experience in developing and maintaining digital resources to widen access to their collections, to promote women's information and expertise and to support the work of women's organisations and Equal Opportunities policies across the region. In this panel we want to show some of the women's information portals and digital libraries across Europe, critically addressing the relevant issues we have to face in our work: the reasons why we have created digital resources, the benefits that they bring and the challenges they raise; the choice between working collaboratively or independently on digital projects and the pro's and con's of both approaches; the methodological tools we choose as far as dissemination and communication strategies; finally, the issue of long-term sustainability of electronic resources and how we can take action to address this challenge.

In her presentation *Amazone: Intermediary to Information on Equal Opportunities Policies Between Women and Men*, **Inge Van der Stighelen** focuses on the communication and dissemination methods her organization (<http://www.amazone.be>) uses to inform and instruct policy makers, the women's movement and individuals about Equal Opportunities Policies. She discusses these issues by presenting Amazone's online products and tools: "Elektra", "Digma", the "Manual on Internet Resources for Equal Opportunities Legislation", the "Equal Opportunities Machineries in Belgium and European Member States".

Stine Bøe of KILDEN tells about the online information portal "Gender in Norway" (<http://www.gender.no>), whose goal is to gather and spread knowledge about gender in Norway regarding statistics, research, legislation and official equality work. In her paper *Online cooperation for equality work*, she retraces the history of the site, explains which are the tools offered and how they work, and attempts a first analysis of its first year and a half of activity.

In her paper *Minna.fi – National web portal for Women's Studies and Gender Equality in Finland*, **Annuka Jamisto** presents the Finnish women's studies and gender equality web portal "Minna", which consists of an expert database and a portal with information on women's studies and gender equality in Finland (<http://www.minna.fi>), both addressing scholars, students, NGOs, public administration and the general public in the country.

Showing the case of the digital historical collections at Women's History Collections (Göteborg University Library), **Berith Backlund** focuses on the important role of women's libraries and archives, i.e. the preservation and the wide dissemination of ancient, unique and often fragile material. In her presentation *Swedish Women's Struggle for Suffrage – an example of preserving and disseminating historical documents*, she tells about the project whose principal goal has been to collect, from the start in the late fifties, manuscripts and other material concerning the women's movement in Sweden (<http://www.ub.gu.se/kvinn/portaler/rostratt/>).

Within the field of digital libraries, **Nada Dzaja Vrban** of Zenska Infoteka presents the project '*Give me a cake - crumbs are not enough*' [*Ask a librarian - a pilot project in public libraries in Croatia*], which highlights the need to create portals of women's networks, integrated women's databases and e-catalogues in order to become reliable sources for new and up to date services. The project's focus is on the service *Ask a librarian*, which has the potentiality of bridging the gap between public and private spaces, of increasing the access to resources beyond those owned, of reaching more users more effectively although maintaining traditional values and principles of librarianship.

Another example of digitalisation project is given by **Marta Garro**, who presents the "Italian Digital Library". The project, carried out by the Italian Women's Library for three years, started up the digitisation of its patrimony, which includes printed and visual material of different kinds related to the historical, cultural and political heritage of Italian Women and their emancipationist movements, from the XIXth century and early XXth, to the new wave of contemporary feminism.