begin with subject encyclopedias and dictionaries for background information and suggested sources, fill out their reading lists from more comprehensive bibliographies, and update their lists from periodical indexes, especially those that can be searched online.

They must keep in mind the reference sources for other disciplines, for geographic regions, and for time periods that may yield material relevant to their topics. Furthermore, they need to access the very latest information, since new conferences, books, and journal articles relevant to women and gender in the Middle Ages are constantly appearing. Students can use national bibliographic networks like RLIN and OCLC to find recently published monographs and translations. The Research-in-Progress Data Base (RIPD) on RLIN lists articles just published or accepted for publication as well as conference papers and work in progress. The citations are contributed by the Modern Language Association and the National Council for Research on Women. If you would like citations to your work included in RIPD, write for a Work-in-Progress Worksheet to: Debra Schultz
National Council for Research on Women
Sara Delano Roosevelt Memorial House
47-49 E. 65th St.
New York, NY 10021

All of these research techniques and reference sources need to be introduced and explained to students. If the librarian subject specialists at your institution offer library instruction in research, take your students for a presentation tailored specifically to their research topics. Examine the reference titles on the bibliography below, so that you know the kinds of sources available and the varying levels of scholarship. The amount and currency of material on medieval women's topics in reference sources varies enormously. Even recently published titles, like the Dictionary of the Middle Ages, give very little space to biographical or thematic articles relating to women and gender. Sources scheduled for publication in the next two or three years will incorporate much more of the new scholarship and will make researching medieval women an easier undertaking for students.

SELECTED REFERENCE SOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF MEDIEVAL WOMEN

This bibliography presents the basic reference sources needed for researching medieval women in history and related fields. Titles appear in order according to the most common research strategy, beginning with encyclopedias and dictionaries for background information, moving to bibliographies, and ending with annual and quarterly indexes. This approach generally produces the most effective and efficient literature search.

This list also includes a few bibliographies from recent monographs and collections of essays because they are very current and particularly thorough for their topics. The Simons bibliography on Renaissance women and the new bibliography on early modern social and economic history were added because they both include material dealing with the fifteenth century.
of reference sources and at which stage they are most useful. Students usually should
Several reference titles on medieval women will appear in the next two years. Watch for
an encyclopedia of medieval women edited by Katharina Wilson from Garland
Publishing and for the Annotated Index of Medieval Women edited by Anne Echols and
Marty Williams due out from Markus Wiener Publishing before the end of 1990.

Margaret Schaus, Haverford College

I. FINDING BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A. ENCYCLOPEDIAS ON THE MIDDLE AGES

Lexikon des Mittelalters. 5 vols. to date. München: Artemis Verlag, 1977 to date.
Strayer, Joseph R., ed. in chief. Dictionary of the Middle Ages. 13 vols. New
York: Scribner's, 1982-89.

B. ENCYCLOPEDIAS ON RELIGION

Dictionnaire de Spiritualité, Ascétique et Mystique, Doctrine et Histoire. 15 vols. to date.
Paris: Beauchesne, 1932 to date.
Dictionnaire d'Histoire et de Géographie Ecclésiastiques. 23 vols. to date. Paris:
Letouzey, 1912 to date.
Eliade, Mircea, ed.-in-chief. The Encyclopedia of Religion. 16 vols. New York:

C. ENCYCLOPEDIAS IN RELATED FIELDS


D. BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARIES

Dunbar, Agnes B. C. A Dictionary of Saintly Women. 2 vols. London: George Bell &
Sons, 1904.
Frederiksen, Elke, ed. Women Writers of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland: An
Ogilvie, Marilyn Bailey. Women in Science: Antiquity Through the Nineteenth Century:
A Biographical Dictionary with Annotated Bibliography. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT


II. FINDING WHAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN

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A. BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON MEDIEVAL WOMEN


B. BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON THE MIDDLE AGES


C. BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON WOMEN AND LITERATURE


D. BIBLIOGRAPHIES ON RELATED TOPICS


III. FINDING THE MOST RECENT MATERIAL

Many of the periodical indexes listed below include a notation about online file coverage. This means they can be searched online for more thorough and precise retrieval than is possible in the paper versions. Some indexes exist only online and are updated more frequently than print indexes, for example the Research-in-Progress Data Base contains the very newest citations from the Modern Language Association and the National Council for Research on Women to work in progress, conference papers, and articles accepted for publication but not printed.

A. INDEXES COVERING THE MIDDLE AGES
Cahiers de Civilisation Médiévale Xe - XIIe Siècles: Bibliographie. Poitiers: Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de Civilisation Médiévale, 1958 to date.
Revue d'Histoire Ecclesiastique: Bibliographie. Louvain: Université Catholique de Louvain, 1900 to date.

B. INDEXES COVERING LITERATURE
Bibliographie der Deutschen Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft. Frankfurt am Main: Vittorio Klostermann, 1957 to date.
Bibliographie der Französischen Literaturwissenschaft. Frankfurt am Main: Vittorio Klostermann, 1960 to date.

C. INDEXES COVERING WOMEN'S STUDIES
Studies on Women Abstracts. Abingdon: Carfax, 1983 to date.

D. INDEXES COVERING RELATED FIELDS
Arts & Humanities Citation Index. Philadelphia: Institute for Scientific Information, 1978 to date. Online file coverage, 1980 to date.

Dissertation Abstracts International. Ann Arbor: University Microfilms, 1938 to date. Online file coverage, 1861 to date.


The Philosopher's Index: An International Index to Philosophical Periodicals and Books. Bowling Green: Philosophy Documentation Center, Bowling Green State University, 1967 to date. Online file coverage, 1940 to date.


Social Sciences Citation Index. Philadelphia: Institute for Scientific Information, 1973 to date. Online file coverage, 1972 to date.

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RECENT BIBLIOGRAPHY IN HISTORY

Chris Africa

I HAVE kept a working bibliography of work on the history of women in medieval and early modern Europe, primarily France and England, and of work on feminist methodology in historiography since the 1970s. It was once a running list of the items, mostly articles, that I had read, and included material on both post-French Revolution Europe and the United States. Due to the proliferation of relevant publications, and to the pressures of work, my bibliography has become both more eclectic and more oriented toward my own research interests.

I no longer try to keep up with work outside medieval and early modern Europe unless the focus is historiographical. I do regularly run across a certain amount of non-European material in abstracting articles from Feminist Studies, Gender & History, Seventeenth Century, and Women's Studies Quarterly for ABC-CLIO. My bibliography now includes both what I have read and references to material that sounds either interesting or relevant to my own work in progress, or both, as well as new publications that I encounter in the course of my work as a bibliographer at the University of Iowa Libraries.

For this first contribution to the bibliographical section of the Medieval Feminist Newsletter, I have divided the entries into three sections.