

Women and Social Movements in the United States

Women and Social Movements in the United States brings together primary documents, books, images, essays, book reviews, Web site reviews, teaching tools, statistical history, and more. The database chronicles the multiplicity of women's activism in American public life from Colonial times to the present and is one of the most heavily visited resources for women's studies on the Web, appealing to students and researchers at all levels.

The project is edited by Kathryn Kish Sklar and Thomas Dublin of the State University of New York at Binghamton, together with an editorial board of leading scholars from around the country.

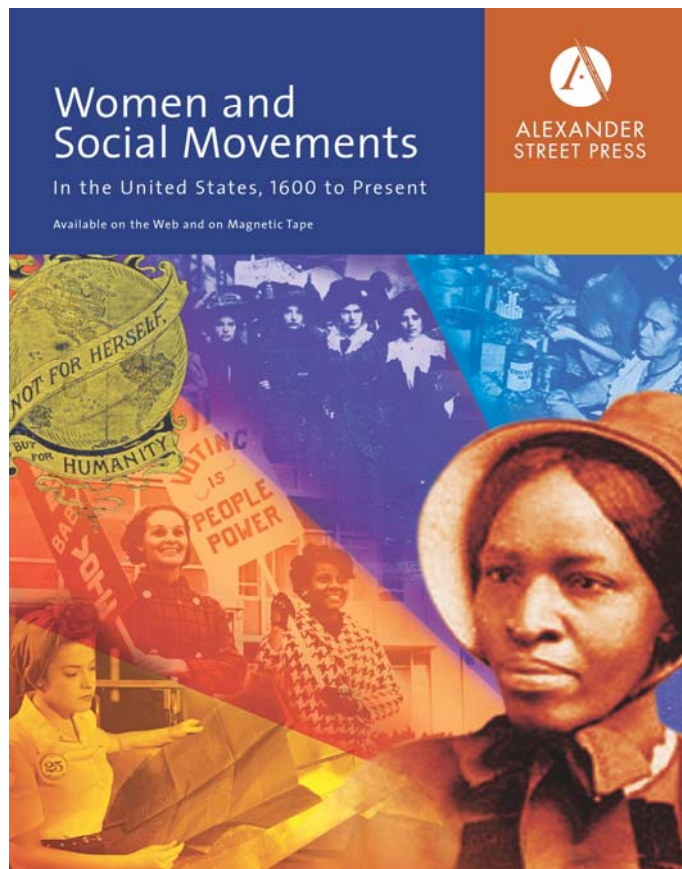
Serving scholars and students alike

Women and Social Movements is ideal for teaching and scholarship in U.S. history. It's organized around *document projects*, each posing an interpretative question and linking to dozens of primary documents that address the question, together with an interpretive introduction, a bibliography, and related links. For users who are new to primary documents, the document projects in *Women and Social Movements* will take a student step by step from discovery to contextual understanding. For advanced scholars, the projects—written by leading historians from around the U.S.—will illuminate key historical issues with rare and previously inaccessible materials.

- Why Were Illinois Women Attracted to Catholicism, 1665-1750?
- How Did Local Antislavery Women Form National Networks in the Antebellum United States?
- How Did White Women Aid Former Slaves During and After the Civil War, 1863-1891?
- Why Did Colorado Suffragists Fail to Win the Right to Vote in 1877, but Succeed in 1893?
- How Did Black and White Southern Women Campaign to End Lynching, 1890-1942?
- How and Why Was Feminist Legal Strategy Transformed, 1960-1973?
- How Did the National Women's Conference in Houston in 1977 Shape a Feminist Agenda for the Future?
- How Have Recent Social Movements Shaped Civil Rights Legislation for Women? The 1994 Violence Against Women Act.
- ...and dozens of new document projects added regularly.

Accolades and awards

- *ALA Choice* named *Women and Social Movements* as a 2004 "Outstanding Academic Title."
- *Library Journal* selected it as one of the "Best Reference Databases of the Year" in 2003, describing it as "marvelous...an exciting resource that all academic, most public, and some special libraries should have."
- The *Journal of American History* said, "Attending to differences in women's experiences across region, race, class, and national boundaries, these editorial projects are at the cutting edge of current scholarship in U.S. women's history."



Along with the document projects, the database contains tens of thousands of deeply indexed pages of books, pamphlets, and related materials. Examples include:

- *The History of Woman Suffrage* (six volumes, 1881-1922);
- *Notable American Women: A Biographical Dictionary* (5 volumes, 1971-2004);
- proceedings of the national conventions of women's anti-slavery societies in the 1830s;
- proceedings of woman's rights conventions, 1848-1869;
- proceedings of the annual conventions of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, 1874-1898;
- and publications of the League of Women Voters, 1920-2000.

The database brings tens of thousands of pages of full-text documents into the library from more than 1,700 primary authors, along with film and Web-site reviews, teaching tools, lesson plans, a *Dictionary of Social Movements*, and a *Chronology of U.S. Women's History*, all available only in *Women and Social Movements*.

Alexander Street has semantically indexed the materials to allow for a kind of searching never before possible. Searches such as these take seconds: *Find all the writings and speeches of Frances Willard. Find social movements involving Jewish women. Find all 20th century organizations related to education. Find abortion statistics for North Carolina in the 1960's.*

Scholar's Edition—an expanded resource

Women and Social Movements Scholar's Edition serves advanced levels of scholarship. Key, in-copyright reference texts are included through arrangement with a range of publishers, such as *Notable American Women: A Biographical Dictionary* (5 volumes, 1971-2004) from Harvard University Press.

Also included in *Scholar's Edition* are previously inaccessible publications created by all the local and state commissions on women since their inception in 1963. State by state and year by year, these astonishing publications illustrate and track the full range of issues and changes affecting the lives of American women after 1960. There are pamphlets, posters, personal narratives, advice literature, self-help guides, laws and legal challenges, popular histories and biographies, interviews, and other ephemera. Researchers and students can follow women's progress toward equality over time and across regions through these ephemeral items. For example:

- A portable vocation-exploration module, including a Leader's Guide and a 12-minute slide presentation, entitled, *Hey, What Are Your Plans for the Next 60 Years?* (1978, District of Columbia);
- *Real Women, Real Lives: Marriage, Divorce, Widowhood* (Wisconsin, 1978);
- *Opportunities for Learning for Women*, with chapter headings such as, "Learning to Earn Money" and "Learning to Enjoy Your Leisure Time" (Pennsylvania, 1969).

Scholar's Edition is especially rich in statistical data (e.g., the number of females testing HIV positive from 1990 to present by race; the frequency of reported rape by year; the estimated breast cancer figures by state and by year), and patrons can even create their own charts using a customizable graph tool.

Publication details

Women and Social Movements, both the *Basic* and *Scholar's Editions*, are available on the Web either by annual subscription or through a one-time purchase of perpetual rights.

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