

# Digital resources for women's history: user perspectives

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# What users want : women specific resources



## THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

- Access to women specific resources online
- Assess women's contributions within the specialist field
- Connect women across subjects
- Trace the progress of ideas, campaigns, feminist thinking
- Identify trends - marketing to women
- Circulation and readership information

# What users want: general resources



## THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

- ◆ Access to wide range of general resources online
- ◆ Assess women's contributions within the general field
- ◆ Comparative research
- ◆ Connect women across subjects and resources
- ◆ Place feminist thinking/activism within wider context
- ◆ Consider treatment of women by the mainstream

# User needs



## THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

- ◆ Free access
- ◆ Availability 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- ◆ Intuitive systems
- ◆ Range of searching options
- ◆ Ability to refine and expand searches
- ◆ Full text
- ◆ Results highlighted
- ◆ Ranked results
- ◆ Searchable illustrations and adverts
- ◆ High quality spec
- ◆ Easy printing, downloading, emailing facilities

# What is available



## THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

- ◆ Few women specific resources online
- ◆ Often based on existing microform collections
- ◆ One-offs rather than developing sources
- ◆ Historic rather than contemporary
- ◆ Subscription based
- ◆ Not widely held
- ◆ Some remote access arrangements

# What works well



## THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

- ◆ Specific searching features
- ◆ Truncation
- ◆ Date ranging
- ◆ Material type specification
- ◆ Refining by gender
- ◆ Ability to create bibliographies
- ◆ Additional material eg interpretive essays, biographical sketches

## THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

- ◆ Collaboration with other databases
- ◆ Upgrades and ongoing dialogue with users
- ◆ Highlighting search terms in the text
- ◆ Flexible combinations for title searching
- ◆ Contributor searching