GLASGOW WOMEN'S LIBRARY

Glasgow Women's Library Project Report

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September 2008

Glasgow Women's Library Project

The Project - How feasible is it to "map" women's history in Scotland?

GWL works in partnership with many organisations and bodies including those in the heritage and statutory sectors. A new potential partnership has arisen through the shared aims of GWL and Women's History Scotland to begin to "map" the resources and in particular archives on women in Scotland. It is important to be able to 'map' where resources are situated nationally, and also have the potential to record the status of specific collections. The challenge is to assess the feasibility of such a mapping project and pilot it.

- A collection of evidence of the need for a 'map' of women's history in Scotland

- A report that explores the feasibility of this idea

- A model for gathering information from a wide variety of individuals, academics, groups, national and local museums, archives and libraries on where and what material and records exist on women in Scotland and what the status of this material might be

- A small pilot study that points to the possibilities of mapping women's history that could form an important element in bids for funding this in the longer term

- Collating and reflecting on existing information gathered by GWL and Women's History Scotland

- Devising a template for gathering information on materials about women in Scotland and setting the (geographic) parameters for a pilot study

- Analysing and collating the returns of the pilot data gathering exercise

- Making recommendations to GWL and WHS on the feasibility of the mapping project

Our Solution…

Challenges
- Assess the feasibility of a project to 'map' the archives and resources regarding women throughout Scotland
- Present a model for gathering information from a wide variety of sources
- Conduct a pilot study
- Collate, analyse and present the information gathered

Assessing the Project
- Spend time in the Library and volunteer on existing projects
- Learn more about the collections
- Meet with the marketing students from Glasgow University and GWL's IT "department"
- Establish relationships and raise awareness of GWL with a number of institutions including universities, libraries and archives across Scotland

The Report
- Distribute a questionnaire to gather information from academics, students and local people to assess how they would benefit from the 'mapping' project
- Get feedback from institutions throughout Scotland that are willing to collaborate

Locating Resources
- Build on relationships established with a wide number of institutions throughout Scotland and begin to collect information regarding resources and archives about women
- Conduct Glasgow-based pilot study

Pilot Studies
- Jewish women in the Glasgow area
- "Fallen" women in the Glasgow area

"Hidden" histories
- Build on existing events such as "stitch and bitch" and possibility of "antiques roadshow" to talk to different women from around the Glasgow area

Analysing Information
- Collate and analyse the information gathered, and present it to GWL along with suggestions as to how it can be displayed online

Exhibition
- Present findings from pilot studies in an exhibition with the possibility of borrowing items and displaying photographs

Benefits
- Collated evidence for future funding bids
- Beginnings of a 'map' that can be used by academics, students and anyone interested in women's history and women's lives
- Detailed knowledge of the available resources on Jewish women and "Fallen" women in Glasgow

- Strong relationships with a range of Scottish institutions
- Wider awareness of GWL and the 'mapping' project
- A model which can be then be implemented throughout Scotland

Problem definition: assess the feasibility of a map of resources and archives of women in Scotland

Research objectives:
- Collection of evidence of the need for a map:
    1. Questionnaire
    2. Feedback from various libraries, museums, academics and universities
- Model for gathering information:
    1. Build upon the existing relationships the library has with other institutions
    2. Look to create new relationships with other libraries, universities, archives and museums
    3. Raise awareness of the GWL and emphasize the beneficial mutual relationship through an email and letter campaign
- Small pilot studies:
    1. Glasgow and surrounding areas
    2. Work with institutions
    3. Build on GWL's existing personal history work
    4. Focus on Jewish women and "fallen women"

Planning research:
Friday 14 March: "Find a Solution" presentations
Monday 5 May – Monday 2 June: Preliminary work
- Survey
- Approach various individuals and institutions
- Plan pilot studies
- Look at GWL's existing projects and volunteer

Monday 9 June – Monday 30 June: Second Stage
- Analyse survey feedback
- Build relationships with individuals and institutions
- Carry out pilot studies including oral history possibilities
- Continue volunteering

Monday 30 June – Monday 4 August: Third Stage
- Use survey responses to demonstrate the need for a map, sending this to various individuals and institutions
- Continue correspondence with institutions and individuals
- Continue pilot studies
- Continue volunteering

Monday 4 August – Friday 22 August: Final Stage
- Begin to collate and analyse information gathered to present to GWL
- Prepare report
- Prepare "Find a Solution" final presentations

Friday 22 August –
Continue with volunteering and any follow up work that needs completing

Conduct Research: due to unavoidable personal circumstances, the research plan could not be followed entirely, however, all aspects of the proposed research have been carried out.

The Survey.

The survey was distributed with the dual purpose of assessing both the need for a 'map' of women's history in Scotland, and how far the GWL was recognized among students based at the three main universities in Glasgow; Caledonian University, Glasgow University and Strathclyde University.

The survey was circulated among these students using various tools, including academic contacts at Glasgow University and social networking sites. Respondents remained anonymous, and the survey could be completed quickly and easily online.

The following questions were asked:
1. What subject(s) are you currently studying / have studied?
2. Whilst studying at university, have you ever heard of the Glasgow Women's Library?
3. Do you know anything about the work the Glasgow Women's Library undertakes or the projects it is involved in?
4. Have you ever visited or used the GWL's resources?
5. Has any member of university staff ever informed you of or recommended the GWL to you?
6. The Library is currently undertaking research to begin cataloguing resources and archives on women throughout Scotland. The catalogue would include the location and status of material relevant to all aspects of women's history and women's lived in Scotland. Would such a catalogue be of interest to you?
7. Would such a catalogue help / have helped you with your studies?
8. If this information were easily accessible online, would you use it?

As free software was used to create the survey, the maximum allowed responses was 100, but this number was reached and forms a good base of evidence demonstrating the need amongst students for a map of women's history. Respondents ranged widely in their specialist subject areas, and while those studying subjects such as history, politics and sociology gave mostly positive feedback to the idea of a catalogue, many in other specialities also expressed an interest in a proposed map of women's history.

Responses:

- Whilst studying at University, have you ever heard of the Glasgow Women's Library?

Yes: 22
No: 77

Skipped question: 1

- Do you know anything about the work the Glasgow Women's Library undertakes or the projects it is involved in?

Yes: 7

No: 91

Skipped question: 2

- Have you ever visited or used the Glasgow Women's Library resources?

Yes: 0
No: 99

Skipped question: 1

- Has any member of University staff ever informed you of or recommended the Glasgow Women's Library to you?

Yes: 7
No: 90

Skipped question: 3

- The Library is currently undertaking research to begin cataloguing resources and archives on women throughout Scotland. The catalogue would include the location and status of material relevant to all aspects of women's history and women's lives in Scotland. Would such a catalogue be of interest to you?

Yes: 75
No: 22

Skipped question: 3

- Would such a catalogue help / have helped you with your studies?

Yes: 61
No: 37

Skipped question: 2

- If this information were easily accessible on-line, would you use it?

Yes: 82
No: 16

Skipped question: 2

The figures and sample responses demonstrate that many students in Glasgow would find a catalogue 'mapping' women's history both interesting and helpful for their studies, and that if such a catalogue were available they would use it. While this survey was conducted on a relatively small scale, it provides a good base of evidence, and could be used to commission further surveys covering wider areas and larger sections of the population.

The survey further illustrates that the GWL is not well publicised among students even in Glasgow, and the second part of our "solution", contacting various individuals and groups throughout Scotland, hopes to address this.

Contact Database

INSTITUTION	NAME	INTERESTS/FIELD	CONTACT
Strathclyde University			
	Eleanor Bryans	English: women's writing	eleanor.bryans@strath.ac.uk
	Eleanor Bell	English: feminist studies	eleanor.bell@strath.ac.uk
	David Kinloch	English: sexuality	d.p.kinloch@strath.ac.uk
	Juliette Pattinson	History: social and cultural	juliette.pattinson@strath.ac.uk
	Mary Heimann	History: cultural	mary.heimann@strath.ac.uk
	Alison Cathcart	History: Scottish	a.cathcart@strath.ac.uk
	Robert Johns	Politics: electoral behaviour inc gender & sexual orientation	robert.johns@strath.ac.uk
	Catherine Eschle	Politics: feminist theory and IR	catherine.eschle@strath.ac.uk
University of Glasgow			
	Lynn Abrams	History: gender	l.abrams@history.arts.gla.ac.uk
	Sam Cohn	History: women's participation in popular protest	s.cohn@hsitory.arts.gla.ac.uk
	Marilyn Dunn	History: gender	m.dunn@history.arts.gla.ac.uk
	Stephen Marritt	History	s.marritt@history.arts.gla.ac.uk
	Alex Shepard	History: gender relations and masculinity	a.Shepard@history.arts.gla.ac.uk
	Julia Smith	History: early medieval, gender relations	jmhs@arts.gla.ac.uk
	Anne Cameron	History: Scottish	a.camerin@arts.gla.ac.uk
	Rosemary Elliot	History: economic and social	r.elliot@arts.gla.ac.uk
	Eleanor Gordon	History: economic and social, focus on women	econeg@arts.gla.ac.uk
	Annmarie Hughes	History: economic and social	a.Hughes@arts.gla.ac.uk
	Michele Burman	Sociology: violence, rape, sexual assault	m.burman@lbss.gla.ac.uk
	Bridget Fowler	Social Sciences: some gender interest	b.fowler@socsci.gla.ac.uk
	Nicole Bourque	Soc Sci: religion and gender	l.n.bourque@socsci.gla.ac.uk
	David Evans	Sociology: sexuality, prostitution	d.t.evans@socsci.gla.ac.uk
	Justin Kenrick	Soc Sci: gender interest	j.kenrick@socsci.gla.ac.uk
	Francesca Scrinzi	Soc Sci: gender and migration, ethnicity	f.scrinzi@lbss.gla.ac.uk
	Matthew Waites	Soc Sci: sexuality, gender, human rights	m.waites@lbss.gla.ac.uk
	Mo Hume	Politics: gender, violence in post war societies	m.hume@lbss.gla.ac.uk

Caledonian University			
	Catriona MacDonald	Soc Sci: Scotland, inc interest in women	c.macdonald5@gcal.ac.uk
	Janet Greenlees	Soc Sci: gender, health and welfare	Janet.greenlees@gcal.ac.uk
	Gill Scott	Soc Sci: social justice and gender	j.m.scott@gcal.ac.uk
	Lesley McMillan	Sociology: gender	Lesley.mcmillan.gcal.ac.uk
	Liz Frondigoun	Soc Sci: gender, crime	Liz.frondigoun@gcal.ac.uk
	Kiril Sharapov	Soc Sci: gender, sexuality and equality	Kiril.sharapov@gcal.ac.uk
University of Edinburgh			
	Monica Azzolini	History: gender and sexuality	Monica.azzolini@ed.ac.uk
	Cordelia Beattie	History: medieval, gender, society and culture	Cordelia.beattie@ed.ac.uk
	Francesca Locatelli	History: gender relations	f.locatelli@ed.ac.uk
	Tina Picton Phillipps	History: gender studies	cpphilli@staffmail.ed.ac.uk
	Jeremy Crang	History: modern British, women during wartime	j.a.crang@ed.ac.uk
	Angus Bancroft	Sociology: health, gender, sex and sexuality	Angus.Bancroft@ed.ac.uk
	Lynn Jamieson	Sociology: relationships, identity	l.jamieson@ed.ac.uk
	Patricia Jeffery	Sociology: gender and development	p.Jeffery@ed.ac.uk
	John Macinnes	Sociology: gender, masculinity	John.macinnes@ed.ac.uk
	Irene Rafanell	Sociology: gender studies, feminist theory	Irene.rafanell@ed.ac.uk
	Liz Stanley	Sociology: feminist theory	Liz.Stanley@ed.ac.uk
	Janette Webb	Sociology: sociology of gender	Jan.webb@ed.ac.uk
St Andrews			
	W. W. Knox	History: Scottish inc women's history	wk@st-and.ac.uk
	Paloma Gay y Blasco	Social Anthropology: feminist theory, sex and gender	pgyb@st-andrews.ac.uk
University of Aberdeen			
	Andrew Blaikie	Sociology: Scottish family life	a.blaikie@abdn.ac.uk
	Louise Carter	History/Gender Studies	l.carter@abdn.ac.uk
	Marie-Luise	History: women and	m.ehrenschwendtner@abdn.ac.

	Ehrenschwendtner	religion in medieval Britain	uk
	Janet Todd	English: women's writing	j.todd@abdn.ac.uk
	Oonagh Walsh	History: women's history	o.walsh@abdn.ac.uk
	Jane Stevenson	History: women latin poets	j.b.Stevenson@abdn.ac.uk
	Madeleine Chaterjee	Gender studies: feminist theory	m.chatterjee@abdn.ac.uk
	Marysia Zalewski	Gender studies: feminist theory	m.zalewski@abdn.ac.uk
	Julia Biggane	Gender studies/Hispanic	j.biggane@abdn.ac.uk
	Louise Bourda	Gender studies/Hist of Art	l.bourda@abdn.ac.uk
	Brenda Brasher	Gender Studies	b.brasher@abdn.ac.uk
	Debra Gimlin	Sociology: gender and ID	d.gimlin@abdn.ac.uk
	Bernadette Hayes	Sociology: gender relations	b.hayed@abdn.ac.uk
University of Dundee			
	Perry Wilson	History: women & gender	p.r.Wilson@dundee.ac.uk
University of Stirling			
	Iain Hutchison	History: Scottish	i.g.c.Hutchison@stir.ac.uk
	Jim Smyth	History: Scottish social history	Jjs1@stir.ac.uk
	Margaret Mulloch	Soc Sci: women and the criminal justice system	m.s.malloch@stir.ac.uk
	Sarah Wilson	Soc Sci: women and HIV	Sarah.Wilson@stir.ac.uk
Glasgow University Library			
	Honor Hania	Sociology subject librarian	h.hania@lib.gla.ac.uk
	Donald Tait	History subject librarian	d.tait@lib.gla.ac.uk
	Special Collections	General	special@lib.gla.ac.uk
	Julie Gardham	Special Collections	j.gardham@lib.gla.ac.uk
	David Weston	Special Collections	d.Weston@lib.gla.ac.uk
	Moira Sinclair	Senior Librarian & Marketing	m.Sinclair@lib.gla.ac.uk
Strathclyde University Library			
	Jan Davidson	History and sociology faculty librarian	*Online Enquiry Service*
Caledonian University Library			
		Social Science Library enquiries	lsslsliaison@gcal.ac.uk

Edinburgh University Library			
	Special Collections	General	Special.collections.library@ed.ac.uk
	Andrew Grout	Special Collections	Andrew.grout@ed.ac.uk
	Norman Rodger	Special Collections	Norman.rodger@ed.ac.uk
	Arnott Wilson	Special Collections	Arnott.Wilson@ed.ac.uk
	Margaret Forrest	History subject librarian	Margaret.forrest@ed.ac.uk
	Denny Colledge	Sociology/Politics subject librarian	Denny.colledge@ed.ac.uk
St Andrews University Library			
	Special Collections	General	speccoll@st-andrews.ac.uk
	Jon Purcell	Library Services	j.Purcell@st-andrews.ac.uk
	Maureen Kidd	Scottish History	msk@st-andrews.ac.uk
	Norman Reid	Special Collections	Nhr1@st-andrews.ac.uk
Aberdeen University Library			
	Gillian Dawson	Arts Librarian	g.d.dawson@abdn.ac.uk
	A. Knox	Historic Collections	a.g.knox@abdn.ac.uk
Dundee Library			
	Chris Backler	History subject librarian	c.backler@dundee.ac.uk
Stirling University Library			
	Helen Beardsley	Arts and Special Collections	h.r.beardsley@stir.ac.uk
	Valerie Wells	Social Science subject librarian	v.m.wells@stir.ac.uk
	Maya Jeffery	Soc Sci subject librarian	m.Jeffrey@stir.ac.uk
	Sarah Kevill	Soc Sci subject librarian	s.j.kevill@stir.ac.uk
OAISIS: open archives & access initiatives in Scotland	Gordon Dunsire		g.dunsire@strath.ac.uk
Aberdeen City Archives			archives@aberdeencity.gov.uk
Aberdeen Special			speclib@abdn.ac.uk

Libraries and Archives			
	Ms S Convery	University archivist	s.convery@abdn.ac.uk
Alyth Museum, Perth			museum@pkc.gov.uk
Ayrshire Archives			archives@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Dumfries and Galloway Archives			libarchive@dumgal.gov.uk
Dundee City Archive and Record Centre			archives@dundeecity.gov.uk
Caledonian University Archives	Carole McCallum	Archivist	c.mccallum@gcal.ac.uk
Caledonian Special Collections			specialcollections@gcal.ac.uk
	John Powles		j.powles@gcal.ac.uk
Glasgow Photo Library			photolibrary@cls.glasgow.gov.uk
Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum			museums@csglasgow.org
	Alison Brown	Curator	Alison.brown@csglasgow.org
	Fiona Hayes	Curator, social history	
	Alex Robertson	Curator, social history	Fiona.hayes@csgalsgow.org
			Alex.Robertson@csglasgow.org
St Mungo's Museum	Tony Lewis	Curator, Scottish social history	Tony.lewis@csglasgow
Scottish Street School Museum	Isobel McDonald	Curator, social history	Isobel.mcdonald@csglasgow.org
National Archives of Scotland			enquiries@nas.gov.uk
National Library of Scotland	Manuscript Collections		manuscripts@nls.uk
	Iain Brown	Principal Manuscripts	i.brown@nls.uk

		Curator	
	Robert Betterridge	Rare books curator	r.l.betteridge@nls.uk
Shetland Family History Society			secretary@shetland-fhs.org.uk
Shetland Museum and Archives			info@shetlandmuseumandarchives.org.uk
	Brian Smith	Archivist	brian@shetland-archives.org.uk
	Tommy Watt	Curator	tommy@shetland-museum.org.uk

Standardised Email:

Dear…..

We are contacting you on behalf of the Glasgow Women's Library to tell you about a project we are currently undertaking. We also would like to let you know a little more about the work the library does in the hope you will be able to contribute and help with our research.

The library provides a space for use by both individuals and groups from all areas of the community and aims to supply an information resource relevant to all areas of women's lives. We further seek to meet the needs of anyone looking for information on a range of gender equality and other women's issues. The library provides a number of services run by staff and volunteers including life long learning courses, literacy and numeracy provision and the lesbian archive. It also has a large archive collection and lending service.

We are currently undertaking research to begin cataloguing resources and archives relevant to women throughout Scotland. The catalogue will include information on the location and status of both resources and archival material and will hopefully become a key source of information on women and women's history. We believe such a resource would be invaluable to anyone with an interest in women's lives or history.

We are contacting you with the conviction that such a catalogue would be of interest to you and your students. When the catalogue is completed we hope to have an easily accessible online directory that will be available to the broadest range of users. We believe that your knowledge and experience as …….. at ………. would be beneficial to the project and as such we would be grateful if you could contribute any information from your studies that could be contained in such a catalogue.

An information pack including a project brief is available at your request and we would be delighted to discuss the project further with you.

If you would like any further information on this project, or the other work undertaken by the library, please visit the website at www.womenslibrary.org.uk

Thanking you in anticipation,

Kindest Regards,

Lori McGeoch & Laura Harrison

laura.mcgeoch@googlemail.com 07590585652
laura.harrisongwl@googlemail.com 07843912416

The following information pack was sent both by email and in hard copy to those who expressed further interest in the project.

Glasgow Women's Library (GWL) is a key provider of information by and about women. It operates a range of services including an Adult Literacy and Numeracy project, a Lifelong Learning Programme, a large lending library, archive collections, a research consultancy and a widely distributed newsletter.

Our Aims

- To provide an information resource relevant to all areas of women's lives, history, culture and achievements for use by women and groups from all areas of the community.
  - To meet both the needs of women looking for information, and those of others seeking information on a range of women's issues.
  - To collect and archive such information and materials so that they are accessible to the broadest range of users.
  - To encourage the involvement of as many women as possible in developing the Library and its related resources and services and in contributing to the documentation, collection, creation and use of the materials.
  - To provide and promote lifelong learning, training, education, skill – sharing, volunteering and employment opportunities for women.
  - To provide a high quality service for users, enquiries and members.

Women in Scotland

GWL has been managing and developing the Women in Scotland Database on behalf of the Scottish Government for the past few years. The database is a record of the contact details, interests, activities, resources and issues of concern **all organisations** providing services to women in Scotland, irrespective of whether they regard themselves as a women's organisation. Groups can opt to receive relevant consultation documents and other information from the Scottish Government and similar bodies, enabling the voices and opinions of women in Scotland to be heard.

Contact the Library

For more information about the Library and its services, including upcoming events and courses, visit our website at www.womenslibrary.org.uk, or email info@womenslibrary.org.uk

Glasgow Women's Library 'Mapping' Project

Project Aim

The "Mapping Project" is being jointly carried out by the Glasgow Women's Library, history students from the University of Glasgow and Women's History Scotland.

The project aims to locate and 'map' the resources and in particular archives relevant to women in Scotland, in order to make the information publicly available on a searchable Internet database. It is the hope of the primary researchers to collate the broadest range of material from a variety of sources including academics, students, national and local museums, archives and libraries. It is also hoped that the "hidden history" of Scotland will be uncovered with the use of oral histories. The finished database will be geographically and thematically searchable and user friendly.

The "Mapping Project" is a first step towards the Glasgow Women's Library's aim to become a key national resource for information on women and women's history.
Two areas of research are being focused on at present as a starting point for the database. Jewish Women's History and the history of prostitution and 'wayward' girls in the Glasgow area will be studied in depth, alongside a more general collection of information from throughout Scotland.

An exhibition will be launched to display the findings from the pilot studies including personal artefacts, oral history testimonies and borrowed items which relate to these aspects of women's lives.

Background

The Open Archives and Access Initiatives in Scotland have an online catalogue of records describing resources, however this is not specific to women's history, and the Glasgow Women's Library's database will be unique. Further a number of other services exist which detail resource centres throughout Scotland, however they once again lack specific information on artefacts and collections relevant to women's lives.

It is the belief of the Glasgow Women's Library that the proposed database would be invaluable to not only women in Scotland, but also anyone with an interest in women's lives and history. Initial research has been undertaken to highlight the need and demand for such a resource. The findings of this research have demonstrated that both students and academics would have found such a resource beneficial to their studies and would use the catalogue if it were available. Please refer to the attached survey results for detailed figures of the findings.

Outcomes

The project will:

- Provide the beginnings of a 'map' cataloguing relevant resources that can be used by academics, students and anyone interested in women's history and lives.
- Provided detailed knowledge of the available resources on Jewish Women and the history of prostitution in the Glasgow area.
- Build stronger relationships between the Glasgow Women's Library and academic institutions that will benefit students and historians nationwide.
- The basis of a model that can be implemented throughout Scotland.

Laura Harrison & Lori McGeoch
On behalf of Glasgow Women's Library
July 2008

GLASGOW
WOMEN'S
LIBRARY

Glasgow Women's Library
2nd Floor, 81 Parnie Street
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G1 5RH

Glasgow Women's Library

Survey Responses

The following results were collected from a survey distributed to 100 students and academics from a wide range of different disciplines in the greater Glasgow area.

- The Library is currently undertaking research to begin cataloguing resources and archives on women throughout Scotland. The catalogue would include the location and status of material relevant to all aspects of women's history and women's lives in Scotland. Would such a catalogue be of interest to you?
  Response Percent: Yes – 76.3%.
                           No- 23.7%
  Response Count: Yes – 75
                          No – 22

  Answered question: 97
  Skipped question: 3

- Would such a catalogue help / have helped you with your studies?
  Response Percent: Yes – 62.2%
                           No – 37.8%
  Response Count: Yes - 61
                          No – 37

  Answered question: 98
  Skipped question: 2

- If this information were easily accessible on-line, would you use it?
  Response Percent: Yes – 83.7%
                           No – 16.3%
  Response Count: Yes – 82
                          No – 16

  Answered question: 98
  Skipped question: 2

This survey was conducted using survey monkey (www.surveymonkey.com) software.

Glasgow Women's Library
2nd Floor, 81 Parnie Street
Glasgow
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Feedback

The following are some of the responses received from various individuals from a number of different institutions.

"Thank you very much for your email outlining the plan for the Glasgow Women's Library. I think this will be a fantastic resource for Glasgow and for researchers internationally.

As one of the many curators at Glasgow Museums I hope to be as supportive as I can to the project; however you should in the first instance contact Fiona Hayes, Curator of Social History at The People's Palace who has particular remit for women's history at Glasgow Museums.

Best wishes for a successful project."

 – Alison Brown, curator, Glasgow Museums, Culture and Sport

"Our library holdings reflect our broad approach to women's studies. It would be impossible to quantify our holdings of journals and books but I would consider them to be quite significant.
Our Special Libraries & Archives contain materials gathered over the past centuries from the north east of Scotland as we were until recently the only archive repository in the north of Scotland. SL&A are making considerable advances in the detailed description level cataloguing of their manuscript collections:

http://calms.abdn.ac.uk/DServe/DServe.exe?dsqServer=Calms&dsqApp=Archive&dsqDb=Catalog&dsqCmd=Search.tcl

Good luck with your project."

- Gillian Dawson, special libraries and archives, Aberdeen University

"Thank you for your message. This sounds like a fascinating and very useful project. I would be happy to meet you to see how we can contribute from Glasgow Museums (Culture and Sport Glasgow - Museums)."

- Fiona Hayes, social history curator, Glasgow Museums, Culture and Sport Glasgow

"Thanks for getting in touch and asking us to be involved in your project. It sounds like a good opportunity for Glasgow Museums to share information about our collections."

– Isobel McDonald, curator, Glasgow Museums, Culture and Sport Glasgow

"The cataloguing project and move sound very exciting. We would be pleased to help in whatever way is most appropriate. My main responsibility is for our online manuscripts catalogue and the archive collections held within our department."
- Sarah Hepworth, special collections, Glasgow University Library

"Thanks for this. I know my colleague, Sarah Hepworth, has also been in contact with you. We are going to get together regarding our resources that may be of interest, so we'll be in touch again shortly."
- Julie Gardham, special collections, Glasgow University Library

"I was really delighted when I saw the announcement about this. I am not entirely convinced that I can contribute much myself to be honest but would be pleased to have a copy of the information pack and to publicise this great initiative to my academic colleagues."
- Denny Colledge, Edinburgh University Library

"This looks an interesting and worthwhile venture, if you could let me have the information pack you mention, I could start to have a think about it in a bit more detail, and hopefully get back to you with some suggestions."
 - Donald Tait, history subject librarian, Glasgow University Library

Pilot Studies

Two pilot studies were carried out for the duration of the project, focusing on two specific subject areas: Jewish women and "fallen" women. The purpose of the pilot studies was to point to the possibilities of mapping women's history, and to form an important element, alongside survey responses and other feedback, in possible funding bids for the longer term.

The pilot studies were focused primarily on information relevant to Glasgow and the surrounding areas, and demonstrate how on a small scale information and archives about women can be gathered and their status recorded.

The pilot studies presented an opportunity to get out and look at some of the archives and resources that are available on women, and the information gathered over a period of two months confirmed that much of the data is scattered, even under such limited geographic and subject parameters.

The studies on Jewish women and "fallen" women also illustrated that while it is relatively easy, (although very time consuming) to gain details on what resources are held in libraries, archives and museums, it is much more difficult to get information on other locations and those collections which might be under threat.

In order to try and uncover other locations, advertisements were placed in local papers asking for people to come forward with any items they thought might be relevant. While GWL does not currently have the resources to gather new information, including oral histories that we had hoped to carry out, this is something that could be considered for the future.

'Fallen Women'

The *Glasgow System:* the term covers the Contagious Diseases Act (whereby a woman could be forced by policemen to be tested for venereal diseases; if she refused, she could be brought in front of court having to prove that she did not sleep with men), the Lock Hospital (where women were treated for venereal diseases and were presumed to be 'prostitutes') and the Magdalene Institute.

As was the case in many other large port and garrison towns and cities throughout Britain in the 19th century, Glasgow saw an increasing concern over prostitution, venereal disease and the moral health of the country. Glasgow in particular has a fascinating history in regards to responses to this growing concern. The original Glasgow Magdalene Asylum was set up in 1812 in the then rural Parliamentary Road, and its final incarnation, Lochburn Home, closed in 1958 following an inquiry into the alleged ill-treatment of inmates. The women in the asylum were often termed as prostitutes; however, this term was used in a very loose manner encompassing not only women who sold sex for money but also single mothers, mill girls and girls dressed 'immorally'. Glasgow's Lock Hospital opened in 1806, for the treatment of women with venereal disease. London had had a similar hospital since 1747.

Annual reports from institutions such as the Glasgow Lock Hospital, the Glasgow Society for Encouragement of Penitents, the Glasgow Home for Deserted Mothers and the Glasgow Magdalene Asylum can be found across various locations both in and outside of Glasgow. The National Archives in Edinburgh, for example, hold a number of personal correspondences that also include copies of the annual Glasgow Lock Hospital Reports. Similarly, Glasgow Parish Council Minutes from 1911 include comments on a conference on "Immoral Houses and Venereal Disease".

As well as public documents, other items found include personal accounts of prostitution within Glasgow from the 19th century and comments on the moral health of Glasgow and Scotland. Further, newspaper articles and court reports include information on a range of subjects, from the Glasgow Herald's sensationalist article "Mass Escape from Glasgow Home" in 1958 to sympathetic coverings of breach of promise cases in The Scotsman.

A number of the archival material and resources sourced regarding "fallen" women in Glasgow are listed below. The list demonstrates that while it is relatively easy to discover prominent information and public records held in libraries and archives, it is much more difficult to find resources in other locations.

Glasgow University Library Collections:

Annual Report on Glasgow Lock Hospital, 1814.

Anon. (A Sabbath School Teacher), *The Moral Statistics of Glasgow in 1863, Practically Applied.* 1864.

Bryce, J. D., *The Glasgow Magdalene Asylum, its Past and Present: With Relative Facts and Suggestions.* 1859.

Cleland, James, *Dissolute Characters in Former and Present Times in the City of Glasgow.* 1840.

Free Church of Scotland, Committee on the State-Regulation of Vice: *Report by the Committee on the State Regulation of Vice.* May 1893.

Logan, W., *An Exposure from Personal Observation of Female Prostitution in London, Leeds, Rochdale and Especially Glasgow, with Remarks on Causes, Extent, Results and Remedy of Evil.* 1843.

Logan, W., *The Great Social Evil: It's Causes, Extent, Results and Remedies.* 1871.

Logan, W., *The Moral Statistics of Glasgow.* 1849.

Patterson, A., 'Statistics of the Glasgow Lock Hospital since its Foundations in 1805: With Remarks on the CD Acts, and on Syphilis', *Glasgow Medical Journal,* vol. 6. 1882.

Report by a Committee of the Prison Board of Aberdeenshire on the Repression of Prostitution. 1859.

Subscription reminder for the Glasgow Lock Hospital, 1829.

Tait, William, *Magdalenism, an Inquiry into the Extent, Causes and Consequences of Prostitution in Edinburgh.* 1840.

Wardlaw, R., *Lectures on Female Prostitution: Its Nature, Extent, Effects, Guilt, Causes and Remedy.* 1842.

Mitchell Library Collections:

Glasgow Parish Council, Minutes of Joint Conference on Immoral Houses and Venereal Disease, 3 Feb 1911.

Glasgow Houses of Refuge and Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Girls' Reformatory, *The Glasgow Girls' Reformatory or juvenile department of the Females' House of Refuge, from 1840 to 1860.*

Glasgow Magdalene Institution, *Minute book:* General Board, 1859-1865, 1936-1963; Homes Committee, 1864-1862, 1864-1879, 1908-1935.

'Women in a Women's Home', c.1920. Photograph.

Mitchell Library: The Glasgow Herald Index
Glasgow Herald, 5 August 1860, *Magdalen's Friend,* p.130.
Glasgow Herald, 12 December 1898, p. 11.
Glasgow Herald, 17 Septemer, 1958, 'Mass Escape from Glasgow Home', p.9.

Glasgow Caledonian University, Research Collections, Heatherbank Museum of Social Work

Lochburn Home, Maryhill, run by the Glasgow Magdalene Institution for the Repression of Vice and for the Reformation of Penitent Females, illustrated c 1890.

Strathclyde University Library

Acton, W., *Prostitution Considered in its Moral, Social and Sanitary Aspects in London and Other Large Cities and Garrison Towns, with Proposals for the Control and Prevention of its Attendant Evils*. 1870.

Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution, *Report of the Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution*, presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Secretary of State for Scotland by Command of Her Majesty, September 1957.

Royal College of Nursing Archive

Wilson, Laura, 'The Nursing of Venereal Diseases in the Glasgow Lock Hospital by the Matron of the Glasgow Lock Hospital', *The British Journal of Nursing,* Feb 21, 1914.

Strathclyde Regional Archives

The Glasgow Magdalene Institute Records, 1859 – 1935.

National Archives of Scotland

Papers from the Teymouth Estate Office, 1428 – 1921. Personal Correspondence: 19-20. 1819 September -. Glasgow. James Buchanan, tertius, treasurer, Glasgow Lock Hospital, to Breadalbane. Encloses printed 13th annual report for year 1818.

Papers of George Innes. 1828 Printed report of the Glasgow Lock Hospital. Received 23 january 1829.

Glasgow City Library

Allan, David, 'Views of Glasgow and Neighbourhood': Glasgow Magdalene Asylum, 1835.
Fifth Annual Report by the Directors of the Glasgow Magdalene Institution
- held in Special Collections, Glasgow University

'Hidden Histories' and Exhibition

The Library does not currently have the resources to gather or preserve new information, however, during the course of the project, letters were written to local newspapers regarding participation in oral history interviews. These letters have had a number of responses, and a small number of interviews have been conducted, although these had to be limited due to restricted resources at the library. The success of the letter campaign on a small scale demonstrates that this should be something to consider for the future.

The Database

Based on the research carried out and the currently available databases such as SCRAN, CAIRNS and OAISIS, it is proposed that the GWL database has the following requirements:
- Available to all with the exclusion of subscription fees and ATHENS accounts. This will prevent the exclusion of non-academics.
- Geographically searchable by area and aided by a visual map of Scotland.
- Chronologically searchable with a timeline for reference, also visually aided.
- Thematically searchable with under topics such as politics, employment, family life, immigration, etc…
- Keyword search facility with an 'advanced search' option which should include facility to cross reference all of the above
- the 'advanced search' should give the option to search by institution and specific type of collections desired, such as newspaper articles, photographs, oral histories, books etc…

Information on collections should be displayed with the following data:
- Detailed information on each collection, artefact or photograph
- Location and details of access such as address and opening hours for viewings
- Any additional information necessary to facilitate viewings.

Other features to consider…
- To keep the database up to date and as interactive as possible, an 'upload' feature should be available to allow new information and collections to be contributed by users, although this would require screening before going live.
- An events page displaying details of current events and exhibitions relevant to topics being searched for - managed and edited by an administrator but contributed to by the public.
- 'Contributor's Database': house information on private collections held by people throughout Scotland who would act as 'gatekeepers'. Their contact details would be given out upon request.
- 'Collection of the month' page - advertise particular collections that could perhaps be linked to current events.

Concluding Remarks

The focus of the Glasgow Women's Library "find a solution" project was to assess the feasibility of a 'map' of women's history, and to propose how such a map could be developed.

The project concentrated on establishing and building relationships with a number of different institutions across Scotland; raising awareness of the GWL and promoting the proposed 'mapping' project. Further a survey was distributed and feedback requested from individuals based at universities, libraries, archives and museums across Scotland. The survey responses and feedback form an important base for possible future funding bids, providing evidence of support, and the need for such a map from a number of individuals. The promotion of the project and the contact with various institutions across Scotland will facilitate later communication if the project were to continue, and allow for easier collection of information regarding resources and archives about women.

A large number of academics, library staff, museum curators and archivists with a particular interest in women's history were contacted, and many expressed a positive response to the mapping project. However, while many of these individuals would like to be involved in the project, many found they could not give information on their collections, or assist in any other way, within the time-scale of the project.

The second focus of the project was two pilot studies, which looked at where collections on women are, what they consist of and if they are at risk, limited to the Glasgow area and concentrating on two specific subjects: Jewish women and "fallen" women. The pilot studies attempted to show how resources on women can be located, and the findings show that while collections held in large archives, libraries and museums can be found relatively easily, are accessible and are often searchable in their own right, locating smaller collections or those which might be at risk is more difficult.

The project has demonstrated that there is wide support for a 'map' of women's history in Scotland, and that many people are willing to help and give information on their collections, or collections they are aware of from their studies. Remaining in contact with these individuals and institutions, and sharing information about collections relevant to women will help further develop the 'map'. While GWL does not currently have the resources to gather new information, perhaps this could be considered for the future when attempting to source collections that are at risk, or more difficult to find.