

NEWSLETTER

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Highlights of the CHA Survey on the Status of Women, 1989

by Linda Kealey

In the spring of 1989, a survey was conducted of individuals and departments of history (in universities primarily) in order to update information from a previous survey and to examine both the actual career paths of women and men in the profession and their attitudes toward the status of women. One hundred and twenty-three men and 192 women were asked to answer the individual questionnaire and 66 departments chairs/heads were sent a departmental questionnaire. The return rates were: 52% (men); 63% (women); and 55% (departments). The following is a summary of the results. Individual responses are summarized first, followed by the information provided by department chairs/heads. Brief conclusions are indicated at the end.

I. Individual Survey Results

Men answering the questionnaire were older than the women; the median age for men was 49 and for women, 44. While men and women were nearly equally represented at the associate level, women were under-represented at the full professor level and over-represented at the lecturer and assistant

levels. The previous survey conducted in 1976-77 demonstrated an even higher proportion of women at the lower levels.

Ninety-four percent of male respondents were employed in tenured or tenure-stream positions, compared to 74% of the female respondents; 51% of the women were tenured as compared with 82% of the men.

Women had less experience in administrative positions as well: while 34% of the men had experience as department chair/head, only 14% of women had this experience, for example. Thirteen percent of men and 3% of women had served as deans or associate deans.

Further examination of the results

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Historians Use Computers to Hold Conferences and Move Mail

by José Igartua

Here is some news from the CHA Committee on Computing, (described in the Fall 1989 issue of the *Newsletter*). The Committee would like to receive comments and suggestions from members of the Association.

User Services

Part of the mandate of the Committee consists of suggesting to the CHA ways in which it could help its members in matters relating to computing. If you have suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with members of the Committee. The electronic mail conferencing system, described below, is an example of the type of service that has been set up in response to suggestions from computer users.

Electronic Mail Conferencing

The CHA Committee on Computing has set up an electronic communications system for the members of the CHA who would like to discuss issues relating to computing. The system may be used by any member who has access to the NETNORTH electronic mail network. It will function as an electronic conferencing system by using a piece of software

called a "list server". The list server receives messages from participants and dispatches them to all the members included in the list. A given message, therefore, is sent to all participants, who can then reply at will. The list server keeps a log of all messages it receives. This log can be retrieved at any time by any participant.

The first topic of discussion has been the question of coding data that is to be made machine-readable, that is, assigning codes to the original data. Participants have expressed their opinions on the subject and this will serve as input to the committee's deliberations.

To be allowed access to the list, one must send an electronic message to that effect to José E. Igartua through the NETNORTH network. The E-mail address is R12270@UQAM.BITNET.

Notice to Those Who are Preparing Grant Applications

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada intends to strengthen its rules governing the conservation of data gathered through

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Computer Mail and Conferences

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its grants and access to these data by other researchers. Applicants to SSHRCC who will make data 'machine-readable' should include in their proposal a description of the way in which they insure conservation of such data and access by others. SSHRCC encourages research institutions to meet these requirements.

"History and Computing" Colloquium

On January 26, 1990, the University of Ottawa was host to a colloquium organized by Chad Gaffield on "History and Computing". Janice Reiff, of Case Western Reserve University, described the work she is currently doing in preparing a pamphlet for the American Historical Association on the use of computers among American historians. She noted that quantitative historians are still the main users of computers among historians in the U.S. and that there is a great variety of hardware and software configurations in U.S. universities.

Marc Vallières, of Université Laval, related the experience he has had teaching quantitative methods and computing to graduate and undergraduate students since 1977. He stressed the need for historians who teach such courses to be well acquainted with statistical methods and to give close support to their students.

José E. Igartua, of UQAM, talked of the usefulness of relational data base systems for historical research. He focused on the power these systems have to handle such data as logical sets and to easily join such sets together at will. Relational data base management systems allow historians to manipulate complex data structures and to browse through data with ease.

Michael Gervers, of the University of Toronto, described the computing situation among European historians. He drew attention to the creation of the Association for History and Computing,

an international association which aims to promote and develop interest in the use of computers among historians both for research and for teaching. The Association publishes the periodical *History and Computing*, which appears three times a year. The association is made up of national associations or committees in various countries. The CHA Committee on Computing is seeking to establish the Association's Canadian committee. The current issue of the *Newsletter* contains an insert describing the Association, its activities, and its periodical.

CHA Offers New Doctoral Dissertation Prizes

At their November meeting, the CHA Council approved two new annual prizes: one for the best doctoral dissertation in Canadian history or a related field and one for the best doctoral dissertation in non-Canadian history (or related fields). Theses completed in history or related fields and officially accepted by a Canadian university between October 1st and September 30th will be eligible for the award to be made at the CHA Annual meeting following. The first annual Doctoral

prizes will be awarded at the CHA Annual Meeting in Kingston in 1991.

The prize in each category will be \$500.00 plus travel allowance to the Annual meeting where it will be awarded.

Candidates should submit one copy of the dissertation with permission to make copies for jury perusal, a two page summary of the dissertation, a letter from their Faculty of Graduate Studies attesting that the dissertation has been accepted as well as a letter of presentation from their Department. If more than one dissertation is submitted in any one year from a single department, the department will be asked to rank them. Deadline for submissions will be **October 31, 1990.**

There will be one jury of three members for each prize. The winning dissertation will be chosen on the basis of originality, methodology, scholarly competence and style. Juries have the options of not awarding any prize. If there are fewer than three submissions for the prize in any year, they will be considered in the following round.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies at the University of Alberta invites applications for its **Undergraduate Scholarships (\$2,500), Master's Fellowships (\$4,500), Doctoral Fellowships (\$8,000) and Doctoral Thesis Fellowships (\$10,000).** The Doctoral Thesis Fellowship is to allow students to complete a thesis on Ukrainian history. The other scholarships and fellowships are for students studying Ukrainian or Ukrainian Canadian topics in the fields of education, history, the humanities, library science and social sciences. Application deadline is May 1, 1990. Applications are available from the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 352 Athabasca Hall, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, T6G 2E8.

The British Columbia Historical Federation invites submissions of books for the eighth annual **Competition for Writers of B.C. History.** Books on any aspect of B.C. history published in 1990 may be submitted in three categories: book by an individual; book by a group; history for junior readers. Submissions are requested as soon as possible after publication and no later than January 31, 1991. Send books to B.C. Historical Writing Competition, P.O. Box 933, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5N2.

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