



The Urbana Free Library

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Women's Information and Resource Exchange
(W.I.R.E.) Records

COLLECTION 87

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Cassia Smith

Creator/Corporate name: Women's Information and Resource Exchange (W.I.R.E)

Inclusive Dates: 1973-1986, bulk 1977-1985

Physical Description: 1 box, (1.0 linear feet).

Provenance:

The Women's Information and Resource Exchange (W.I.R.E.) Records were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in February 2009.

Access:

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

The Women's Information and Resource exchange, or W.I.R.E., was a telephone information and referral service run by the Ministry with Women at Wesley United Methodist Church in Urbana and McKinley Presbyterian Church in Champaign. The telephone service was dedicated to connecting women in the Champaign-Urbana community with professionals who could meet their needs, including lawyers, physicians, counselors, support groups, political organizations, and education services among other. W.I.R.E. was also involved in the publication and distribution of the Women's Community Newsletter, which served as a communications network between services, programs, and the concerns of women. They also promoted, participated in, and occasionally offered various events focused on the education, empowerment, and political activism of women.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection falls into three broad categories: administration files related to W.I.R.E; files related to local, regional, and national organizations and institutions; and subject files. The W.I.R.E. administrative files includes correspondence, internal memoranda, and material used to build their subject referral index. There is also material representing W.I.R.E.'s member activities in local and state-wide political organizations. The subject files make up the largest portion of the collection and contains promotional and education material produced by organizations within W.I.R.E's referral network. This includes educational pamphlets, service brochures, educational and event announcements, flyers, and newsletters from a broad range of local organizations. There are also a number of bibliographies focused on women's issues and activism, as well as resources focused on women's achievements and writing. Planned Parenthood material is prominently featured within the collection. Much of the material is undated, but the bulk of the dated material is concentrated between 1975 and 1985.



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Arrangement:

The collection is divided into 3 series: Administrative files, Organizations and Institutions, and Subject Files.

Separated Material:

The following newsletters were removed from the collection and placed in our Local Organizations Newsletter collection: Women's Community Newsletter and Newsletter (Prairie Alliance).

Subjects Terms:

Feminism
George McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church (Champaign, Ill.)
Medical Care – Champaign
Medical Care – Urbana
Planned Parenthood Association of Champaign County
Wesley United Methodist Church (Urbana, Ill.)
Women's Organizations Records
Women--Services for--Societies, etc.

Container List:

Box 1

Series 1: Administrative files

Folder 1: Song Sheets
Folder 2: W.I.R.E. Correspondence, 1981, 1984
Folder 3: W.I.R.E. Events, 1979, 1981, and undated
Folder 4: W.I.R.E. Publicity, 1991 and undated
Folder 5: W.I.R.E. Resource Person Subject Index, undated
Folder 6: W.I.R.E. Resource Person Surveys, 1977-1978, and undated
Folder 7: W.I.R.E. Volunteer Information, 1981 and undated

Series 2: Organizations and Institutions

Folder 8: American Field Service (AFS), undated
Folders 9-10: Illinois Women's Agenda, 1977-1985 (2 folders)
Folder 11: International Women's Year, 1975-1985
Folder 12: League of Women's Voters, 1978-1985
Folder 13: McKinley Presbyterian Church Foundation, undated
Folder 14: Midwest Women Groups and Centers, 1975-1984, and undated
Folder 15: Parkland College, 1981 and undated
Folder 16: Planned Parenthood, 1977-1985
Folder 17: University of Illinois: General Resources, Information, undated
Folder 18: University of Illinois: Resources for Women, 1974-1985
Folder 19: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 1973-1978
Folder 20: YWCA/YMCA, 1978, 1984, and undated



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Series 3: Subject Files

- Folder 21: Aging and the Elderly, undated
- Folder 22: Champaign-Urbana Resources, various, 1981 and undated
- Folder 23: Children, Youth, and Family Services, 1977-1978 and undated
- Folder 24: Divorce, Separation, Widowed, Grieving Resources, 1984 and undated
- Folder 25: Education Resources, 1977 and undated
- Folders 26-27: Feminist Presses, Bibliographies, and Publication, 1975-1981, and undated (2 folders)
- Folder 28: General Assistance Lists, 1980-1985
- Folder 29: Health Resources, 1977-1985
- Folder 30: International Families, 1980 and undated
- Folder 31: LGBT, 1977-1986
- Folder 32: Networking, 1976-1981
- Folder 33: Politics and Political Groups, 1976-1986
- Folder 34: Rape and Sexual Abuse, 1980 and undated
- Folder 35: Recycling, 1980-1981
- Folder 36: Regional Events, Conferences, and Workshops, 1977-1981
- Folder 37: Religion and Spirituality, 1972-1980 and undated
- Folder 38: Reproduction and Pregnancy, undated
- Folder 39: Self-Defense, 1981 and undated
- Folder 40: Sexuality, undated
- Folder 41: Unemployment and Disability, 1975-1981, and undated
- Folder 42: Women, undated
- Folder 43: Volunteerism, 1976-1980 [includes the groups: Voluntary Action Center of Champaign (VAC); Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA); Volunteer Illini Projects (VIP)]