

## The Politics of 'Women's Work': The Gendering of Librarianship in Popular Culture

Christina Neigel, Associate Professor, University of the Fraser Valley.

Studying the gendering of librarian representations in popular culture as part of the social relations that organize meaning, my doctoral work reveals how little scholarship in librarianship has moved towards more feminist perspectives. Library education programs also suggest little movement in incorporating critical theory to expose the ways the field is gendered. This works at making the history of librarianship as a "women's profession" invisible and, more troubling, fails to prepare new librarians with an honest discussion of how they may be treated as professionals. Service work remains a key component to library work and yet it is not highlighted in library education programs. While other aspects of librarianship, like collection development and information management are important, they function within the gendered realm of librarianship and its ties to service work.