About ACRL
The Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) is the foremost organization of academic and research librarians and other interested individuals. ACRL is dedicated to leading academic and research librarians and libraries in advancing learning and scholarship.

ACRL has 17 interest-specific sections that provide professional development through newsletters, discussion lists, specialized programming, preconferences, and awards.

ACRL Sections
- African-American Studies Librarians
- Anthropology and Sociology
- Arts
- Asian, African, and Middle Eastern
- College Libraries
- Community & Junior College Libraries
- Distance Learning
- Education and Behavioral Sciences
- Instruction
- Law and Political Science
- Literatures in English
- Rare Books and Manuscripts
- Science and Technology
- Slavic and East European
- University Libraries
- Western European Studies
- Women's Studies

How to Join ACRL and the Western European Studies Section
ACRL dues include two section memberships at no additional cost. If you have questions about ACRL membership or would like more information on becoming an ACRL member, please contact us by phone or e-mail. To join ACRL, complete a paper application, call one of our courteous membership specialists at (800) 545-2433 (press 5), or visit www.ala.org/acrl and click “Join ACRL.”

How to Get More Involved
Visit the Western European Studies Section website at http://www.dartmouth.edu/~wessweb/. You will find all the information you need to get involved in WESS on our “Introduction to WESS” page.

WESS has given me my professional friends and my personal friends, mentors and mentees, and a meaningful mission outside my own library.”

Jeffrey Garrett
Assistant University Librarian for Collection Management
Northwestern University

“The Western European Studies Section (WESS) enhances the work of professionals who select, acquire, organize, and use information sources and collections related to Western European studies in academic and research libraries.

Visit the Western European Studies Section online at http://www.dartmouth.edu/~wessweb/.
What do members of the Western European Studies Section do?

Participate nationally and internationally in discussions of librarianship, scholarship, and publishing in Western Europe.

Plan programs, publications, conferences, and forums for the study of Western Europe.

Share ideas and information about current trends in publishing, research, and teaching about Western Europe.

Produce resources including reference and instruction guides, websites, and original scholarship relating to the study of Western Europe.

Network with librarians and other colleagues.

Enhance knowledge and promote awareness of Western European studies and librarianship.

What are the benefits of joining the Western European Studies Section?

Advancement
With members from many different libraries and backgrounds, WESS provides opportunities for participation in conferences with librarians, publishers, and European-studies faculty; publication in a variety of WESS-sponsored journals, newsletters, and projects; and for taking a leadership role in committees and programs at ALA, the Frankfurt Book Fair, and other venues.

Professionalism
WESS is a recognized leader in the field, promoting the improvement of library services that support study and research of Western Europe from ancient times to the present day. WESS is dedicated to helping its members become leaders in their institutions and professional communities.

Recognition
WESS provides recognition to members through awards such as the Coutts Nijhoff International West European Study Grant to support research pertaining to Western European studies, librarianship, or the book trade.

Unique Community
WESS members are active nationally and internationally, both in North America and Europe. WESS provides opportunities to speak at conferences, attend meetings in the United States and Europe, and to discuss a wide variety of issues -- from Classical Greek to Modern Nordic studies.

“WESS has provided me with many wonderful opportunities for professional involvement in German and West European studies librarianship--everything from becoming a contributor and editor of the WESS Newsletter column “New Publications of Note,” to taking part in a WESS/Goethe Institut study tour of German libraries, to availing myself of the truly helpful and informative electronic discussion lists “German-e” and “WESS.” I can fairly say that without WESS, my professional growth and involvement would be immeasurably poorer.”

Robert Kusmer
Cataloger, German/Humanities/Theology; Liaison for German Language and Literature
University of Notre Dame

“WESS has been a primary source of continuing education throughout my career, a friendly place to meet colleagues and learn about collection development and other library issues as they pertain to Western European history, literature, and culture.”

Ceres Birkhead
Bibliographer for Asian Studies, Communication, French Language and Literature, and World History
University of Utah

Specialized Resources
WESS members stay in touch with current trends through a semi-annual newsletter as well as multiple e-mail discussion lists. WESS volunteers have also abstracted, reviewed, and edited the Reference Reviews Europe Annual since its inception in 1994, and published resources including Migration in Society, Culture and the Library (2005).