



## *Perspectives on Women's Archives*

### Study Guide Questions

1. How have your views on women's collections changed as a result of reading these essays?
2. How can archivists amplify, through description and related tools, the discovery of women's voices in their collections?
3. How important is a knowledge of history for archivists in the acquisition, appraisal, collection development, context, and engagement of users of women's collections?
4. What do women's archives provide that mainstream archives do not?
5. What's in a name? Do gender archives accomplish the same things that women's archives do? How does it change things to use *gender* rather than *women* in the name? What are some ways to document women's experience of gender, especially in its most fluid states?
6. How did women's archives change collecting through the last several decades in regards to women of color? How can we widen the cultural narrative to be more inclusive through our collecting?
7. What is the role of community archives in documenting the lives of women, especially those who remain silenced in the historical record?
8. As an example of community-based archives, how can women religious communities be used for research in women's history? What are some possible obstacles in doing this research?
9. How can archivists better document the progressive movement and feminist communities, and also collect materials of those outside the mainstream or on the right? Do the formats we collect make a difference?
10. How would you foster awareness and interest in women's archives and history? How should archival educators and archivists teach students about women's archives?
11. How might the various historical intersections of gender and recordkeeping inform contemporary policymaking with regard to privacy and confidentiality?
12. *Perspectives on Women's Archives* was the first concerted effort to compile writings about women's archives. This volume is a beginning point, and although a variety of perspectives are included, the book does not address all aspects of women's collections and women's archives. If you were creating a follow-up volume, what topics or themes would you want to see covered?