THE STATUS OF WOMEN IN STEM IN HIGHER EDUCATION

A literature review 2007–2017

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WHERE ARE THE WOMEN?

Use a search engine to find a study on women in college or universities studying (or teaching) science, technology, engineering, or math.
NATIONAL ATTENTION

- STEM education is a national priority (Obama, 2016)
- Recruiting and retaining women to STEM careers is at an all-time high in K-16 schools
- Where is this information?
WHY IS IT SO HARD TO FIND?

- STEM was coined in 2001 but just recently picked up in usage
- "stem" also brings up "stem cell" and "plant stem" resources
- Very popular in news, blogs, press releases, and commentaries
Review of the literature shows there are hundreds of existing studies from 2007 to the present to help recruiters, administrators, public servants and educators recruit, retain, and support women in STEM.

IF I CAN'T FIND IT...

I have to do something!
THE PLAN

- Carnegie-Whitney Grant for $
- Hire a library science student
- Make a website
- Get the word out!
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION (ALA) CARNEGIE-WHITNEY GRANT

...for the preparation and publication of popular or scholarly reading lists, indexes and other guides to library resources that will be useful to users of all types of libraries.

http://www.ala.org/awardsgrants/carnegie-whitney-grant
IMAGINED VS REAL LIFE

- Library student who needs experience/presentations
- Check arrives right on time
- We start in May
- 16 weeks of part-time work for self-sufficient assistant
- Presentations to get the word out to constituents

- Small pool of applicants at the end of the school year
- Delayed start waiting for check
- Assistant left for graduate assistantship in August
- Timeline cut in half and workload doubled
- Software limitations
- Presentations
TIMELINE

- August 2017 – Literature Review published
- December 2017 – Grant application turned in
- March 2018 – Grant awarded
- April 2018 – Waiting on check to arrive...
- May 2018 – Research assistant job posted and student hired
- May 2018 – Waiting on check to arrive...
- June 2018 – Research assistant starts
- July 2018 – Research Guide citations entered
- August 2018 – Research assistant finishes work
- October 2018 – Women Advance IT conference
- January 2019 – Project final report due
RESEARCH TEAM

Dr. Heidi Blackburn
Springshare LibGuides
Tarun Chaturvedi
WHAT DID WE INCLUDE?

- Focus on higher education (including community colleges and two-year programs)
- Peer-reviewed journal articles
- Dissertations and theses
- Government and association reports
- Books and book chapters
- Published between 2007–present but slowly adding back files
- Starting to include K–12
- As much Open Access material as possible!
THEMES WE FOUND:

- Recruitment and the Pipeline
- Retention, persistence, and attrition
- Barriers, biases, stereotypes
- Campus culture
- Classroom and lived experiences
- Identity and self-concept
- Careers and entering the workplace
- Work-life balance for faculty
- Tenure, promotion, mentoring, and administrative issues for faculty

*More studies needed with intersectionality!
libguides.unomaha.edu/womeninSTEM
libguides.unomaha.edu/womeninSTEM

Number of citations entered: ~1,100
Number of views: 362
Linking from: Google, LibGuide
Most popular pages: Home page, Barriers
What did you learn?
I am glad that I was part of it, I got a chance to learn about different softwares, APA formatting and this project improved my research skills.

What did you like best about the project?
The best thing about this project was research, even I gained so much knowledge about women in STEM and I think this project is going to make life of people easier who wants to know about this topic.

What was most frustrating?
Most frustrating I would say was the browser taking time to load the Refworks [citation software] (I tried different browsers too) and sometimes I had to refresh multiple times to get a particular page.

What skills or lessons learned will you take away for your future career?
It has improved my time management skills, research skills and I got some good experience in working as a team.
FUTURE PROJECTS

- Continue adding citations
- Share with STEM departments
- Presentation to UNO WiSTEM
- Present at library conferences
THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

Please take some time to explore and share our site!
libguides.unomaha.edu/womeninSTEM

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