

## WOMENS LIBRARY - OBJECTIVES.

The Womens library, Quay co-op, was set up over a year ago with the aim of making womens literature and information of relevance to Women more accessable.. A year later we have 150 members and 450 books. We see the Library not only as a base from which to disseminate facts and as a forum for Womens Art and Culture but also as a resource and a stimulant for Women to begin to question society and to get together to try to change it or discover new ways of dealing with it.

We find that it is an easy way for Women to begin to use the Womens Centre and also a good way for Women to keep in contact with new thoughts and issues in the Womens movement.

The Library is organised in the following way:

- Books {
1. Fiction.
  2. Non-fiction.
  3. Booklets and Pamphlets.
  4. Articles.
  5. Magazines.

Each section will be dealt with <sup>separately</sup> in terms of what it contains at present and what the future plans and objectives for that section are.

1. This section , fiction, contains six shelves of novels, short stories autobiographies, and poetry.

We would hope to have a continuous supply of new Womens fiction coming into the library through recieving review copies and donations of books that Women have finished reading.

We hope to improve our poetry and local community group writing sections as there is an increasing interest in womens writing groups in Ireland at present.

We feel that a fiction section is important for the library because of the prohibitive costs of buying novels for many Women and because we feel that having a fiction section such as ours can make Womens

writing more accessible in general and can disseminate new ideas and images of women in a non-academic way.

2. The library has a big non-fiction section which has books on various topics including Women in history, Women in politics, Feminism and the Womens movement and books to do with Womens physical and mental health, sexuality, Women and work and Women and the Law. We hope to build up certain sections within this non-fiction part of the Library, especially Women and work, Women and the Law, and Women and history.

We see this section as being a valuable resource for Women looking for factual information to do with ourselves and society.

It is presently being used for reference and research by Women studying various topics related to Women and it is used in general by Women wishing to inform themselves about Feminism, Health, sexuality, etc..

### 3. Booklets and pamphlets.

The Library also contains a variety of booklets and pamphlets which cover a wide variety of topics including sex education for children, single parent families, Council for the status of Women commissioned studies on women in Ireland Governmental reports. There are, besides informational booklets, booklets on issues within the Womens movement and in the left such as, "Feminism and Anarchism", "Wages for housework: capital and the left", "The Abortion referendum: The case against." etc.

We hope to continue to expand this section as it is very useful for concise information and brief summaries of topics.

This section will also be used and of use to the information worker and women who use the information centre.

### 4. Articles.

We have a selection of articles from a variety of sources on a variety

of topics.

These include articles like submissions to the joint committee on Womens rights involved in Law reform and controversial writings from the Womens movement. These articles are mostly informational and academic.

Again we would see expansion in this section with the aim of catering more for research and Womens studies.

An appeal to Women who have relevant articles they are not using anymore and to Women studying at present would probably be the cheapest and most effective way of obtaining new articles.

#### 5. Magazines.

We have a selection of different magazines which have come out over the past few years in Ireland and elsewhere which we have catalogued under seven headings for easier accessibility. These are; Irish Womens (feminist) magazines, such as Round-up, banshee, Munster Womens newsletter, etc., English Womens magazines, such as Womens reproductives rights information newsletter, Everywomen, etc., European Womens publications such as Women of Europe, Courage. etc., and also American womens magazines and newsletters. The other sections include Lesbian and Gay publications, peace and Development and Socialism and the left.

We also have had in more prosperous times and hopefully will renew subscriptions to some magazines including; "outwrite", "Off our backs", and "CREW reports".

We also hope to formalize an arrangement with the co-op bookshop to get unsold issues of "Spare rib", "Everywomen", and "Womens review" We intend to set up a system for displaying recent issues for reading and consultation.