WOMEN IN THE WORLD:

Online Guide to University Libraries’ Maps, Atlases, and Other Cartographic Resources for Women’s Studies Programs
Mapping is a powerful tool in showing not only what is happening but where. Patterns are revealed on maps that would never be evident in statistical tables or even in narratives. On a map, the similarities and differences, the continuities and contrasts among women around the world become immediately apparent.

--Joni Seager
According to the National Women’s Studies Association, to date there are 652 women’s and gender studies programs at community colleges, colleges, and universities in the United States. This online guide for instructors and students of women’s and gender studies will provide maps, atlases, and other cartographic resources to enrich learning and research.
The maps featured in this resource guide are a sample of the resources available from the Ball State University Libraries GIS Research & Map Collection and Atlas Collection.

Other women’s studies resources are also available in the University Libraries Archives and Special Collections, Reference Collection, Educational Resources Collections, Microforms Collection, Government Publications, and General Collection.
The Ball State University Libraries Digital Media Repository contains collections of historic photographs, letters, newspapers, magazines, posters, and other materials for women’s and gender studies programs at http://libx.bsu.edu/. 
The GIS Research & Map Collection (GRMC) on the second floor of Bracken Library houses over 145,000 maps, atlases, and other resources. Maps from the GRMC may be circulated for two weeks or longer. Arrangements can be made for maps to be used for semester-long projects.
The Atlas Collection on the second floor of Bracken Library just outside the GRMC has more than 2,000 atlases from around the world. There are atlases about countries, cities, states, counties, and atlases about specific topics—including women’s issues.
Women in the World: The State of Gender Equality
“Most of the world’s governments are committed, on paper, to full equality for women.” The countries shown in deep purple are states that have both signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as of 1996.

The Gender-Related Development Index (1998) compares women’s standard of living to their counterpart men. Western Europe fares well, while Eastern Europe lags in the index.

Women in the World: Sex, Marriage, and Family
This map shows the fertility rate of women around the world (2002). Women around the world have unequal access to a broad range of medical services, including contraception. The total fertility rate “has important consequences for maternal health.” Pregnancy-related deaths are more common in high-fertility countries.

“A cultural preference for sons over daughters is almost universal,” typically due to economic and inheritance factors. This map identifies countries with “strong demographic evidence of son preference” and the use of prenatal sex selection techniques and selective abortions in order to have male babies. These practices distort the normal gender balance in populations. The blue circles also indicate countries where the infant mortality rates are higher for girls than for boys.

This map covers a portion of the world where the number of teen births is substantial. “Poorer, non-industrialized nations have the highest birth rates, and the highest number of births to teenage mothers.” Large families provide economic security in many parts of the world, and it is common for women’s social status to be related to the number of children she produces. These factors, coupled with the lack of education and healthcare for young girls and higher infant mortality rates, produce younger mothers.

The nature of marriage varies widely from place to place and between men and women. The idea that females are the property of their fathers and then husbands still dominates gender relations around the world, and this ideology is often supported by laws of the countries—many limiting the rights of women in marriage.

According to *The Penguin Atlas of Human Sexual Behavior*, 80% of the marriages in China are arranged either by a matchmaker or the couple’s parents. In India, only 50% of 22- to 50-year-olds had met their partners privately before marriage. In Gambia in western Africa, one in three women were neither asked for their consent nor knew they were married until the ceremony had already taken place.

(Still photograph from the *Man Haters Film Collection*, Digital Media Repository, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries).
A map detailing the legal age of marriage for women in parts of Asia and Africa also shows where polygamy is practiced, represented by [image].

[Symbol] symbolizes where marriage may occur without a woman’s consent.

This map identifies the number of divorced women per 100 married women. The total United States ratio is 21.8 divorced women for every 100 married women.

Most one-parent households in the United States are headed by women. The percentage for the total of female one-parent families in the United States is 21.9 percent, while for males the percentage is 6.3 percent (inset map).

*(Census Atlas of the United States, Government Publications, Ball State University Libraries).*
The percentages of one-parent families for Blacks in the United States are even larger. The total percent for the United States is 58.1 percent, and the majority of those families are headed by women.

The nature of households around the world is undergoing drastic changes—most are shrinking. Legal recognition for gay unions is expanding the idea of average households. This map of the top ten cities in the U.S. with lesbian and gay households was created based on new data from the 2000 Census. According to The Penguin Atlas of Women in the World, most countries have no laws banning lesbian or gay behavior. However, in other places, hatred and discrimination is “institutionalized and encouraged.”

According to *The Penguin Atlas of Human Sexual Behavior*, most countries of the world have decriminalized all or certain activities relating to prostitution. In other countries the practice is technically illegal but widely practiced. Women are the most prevalent victims of this practice, which is “fueled by wars, poverty, migration, dreams, hopes, and despair.”

Women in the World: Women at Work
Women around the world face unequal opportunities to men in the workplace. According to *The Penguin Atlas of Women in the World*, “the nature of women’s participation in the...labor force is shaped by many factors, including marriage, reproductive rights, and the widely prevailing expectation that women have primary responsibility for family care.” These factors force some women to opt to work part-time in order to balance work and family, and this sometimes skews statistics for equal pay. These factors also draw into question what is officially counted as “work”—paid and unpaid.

(“Interior of Factory” from the *Otto Sellers Photograph Collection*, Digital Media Repository, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries).
Working women in the United States have made some advances over the last century. According to The Routledge Historical Atlas of Women in America, “women accounted for about one sixth of the American labor force in 1900 (compared with nearly one half in the 1990’s).” Most of the women working in the early part of the twentieth century were single, divorced, or widowed. During this period “nearly 40 percent of America’s five million working women held service jobs, either in private households or in facilities such as hotels, restaurants, laundries, and hospitals.” Manufacturing work “was the second-largest female occupational group” during this time.

(“Glass Workers” (1915) from the Other Side of Middletown Photograph Collection Digital Media Repository, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries).
Historically millions of American women worked in the manufacturing industry and faced many hardships, including long hours. The top map shows that in 1850 legal working hours had only been established in Maine and Pennsylvania. By 1920, more states governed the amount of hours that could be worked daily, but many states still had no restrictions. “This era did see the gradual establishment of laws, ...but enforcement was weak, and large segments of the female workforce remained unprotected.”

Early American factory workers faced many hardships, but women workers experienced even more difficulties because of their gender. According to The Routledge Historical Atlas of Women in America, “no amount of talent or industriousness could qualify a woman to be trained for a ‘man’s job,’ and even women who had somehow acquired the skills were not allowed to practice them.”

Wage scales in the American workplace reflected this “gender-based hierarchy of skills.” The table shows that men working in textile manufacturing earned about 40 percent more annually than their female counterparts.

Factories usually maintained two sets of workers based on “skill:” The skilled jobs were allocated to the men, and the women were assigned the lower skilled jobs, which in turn had the lower pay scales. “Even when their tasks were similar, women usually earned less than men, since many factories had separate pay scales by gender.”

Early women workers in America had no sustained and effective labor organization. The Knights of Labor was the first group to organize women on a major scale, but it fell into decline shortly after 1886. Some women workers in New York attempted to achieve recognition for better working conditions and successfully organized a strike, but 146 young workers were killed in the factories just one year after the end of the strike.

The “report card on selected male-dominated occupations” is based on a composite ranking of female participation rates in ten occupations. This map is based on data from 1980.

More women in the United States are participating in the workforce. The percentage of women in the labor force for the entire United States in 1950 was 28.9 percent. The percentage of women in the labor force for the entire United States in 2000 was 57.5 percent.

As more women in the United States join the workforce, more children are being cared for outside the family by childcare centers or preschools. In 1965, just over 5 percent of preschool children received primary care from a childcare center. By 1993, that number had grown to 30 percent.

*(Growing Up in America: An Atlas of Youth in the USA, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries)*
“The percentage of the labor force that is composed of women is an intriguing measure of economic development. In general, countries with higher levels of economic development have larger percentages of women in the “formal” labor force (which excludes household and subsistence agricultural workers, among others).”

(Student Atlas of Anthropology, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).
“Labor force participation rates are highest in the poorest and most wealthy countries, though for quite different reasons. In the poorest countries, people work because they have to in order to survive. In the richer countries, they work because it is linked to lifestyle issues. Participation rates, particularly for women, are lowest in the lower middle and upper middle income countries.”

This world map shows the countries where women face the most inequality in the related fields of the workforce and in secondary education. Again, women in the Middle East, southern Asia, and Africa face the most challenges.

(Student Atlas of World Politics, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).
The global workforce is composed of large numbers of “diligent, unskilled or semi-skilled, low-paid workers. An increasing proportion of them is female.” This map of the eastern hemisphere compares women’s to men’s earnings. In the majority of the countries, women earn 60-79 percent of what their male counterparts earn. Throughout the Middle East and South Asia, women are earning 20-39 percent of male wages.

This map of the United States shows the ratio of women’s earnings to men’s as of 1999. In areas of dark green, women earn less than .45 of what men earned. The pink and red colors indicate areas where women earn equal to or more than men.

The United States median earnings for men is $37,057. The United States median earnings for women is $27,194.

As of 1998, in only one country—Italy—are women finding an equal share of management positions. Women in Australia and the U.S. compose 43 percent of the positions in management.

“In a few countries, the amount of paid maternity leave that is available for new mothers approaches the amount of leave they need.” The differences, however, are glaring: In Sweden, women are paid for almost two years after the birth of their baby, while women in the U.S. and many other unlisted countries receive no paid maternity leave. Women also risk losing their position if they elect to take an extended maternity leave, even if it is unpaid.

Labor statistics often neglect the unpaid work involved with a household. Recent surveys focus on the assessment of time use. “A ‘time-budgets’ approach to measuring men’s and women’s contributions to household and national productivity reveals work that is done in the informal and unpaid sector, work that is rendered invisible in official work statistics.”

Around the world women and girls carry a greater responsibility for performing household work than do their counterpart men or boys. “It is women who tend the goats, till the family garden, collect water, shop for food, prepare meals, wash clothes, look after aging parents, and keep the home clean.”

“One survey found that women slept an average two hours less than men and spent ten times longer on household work than men; men had over two hours a day for leisure, while women had only five minutes, and men spent less than one hour per week on cooking, while women spent fifteen hours per week.”

Women in the World: Education
More and more women around the world are participating in tertiary education, including college, universities, and technical schools. This trend seemed impossible even in the late nineteenth century, when women were banned from many schools. According to *The State of Women in the World Atlas*, “at most of the world’s most prestigious universities there were large gaps between when they were founded and when women were admitted: 711 years at Oxford, 589 years at Cambridge, 258 years at Harvard.” Gender differences continue in the subjects studied and degrees taken.

(“1964 Summer Commencement” from the *Ball State Campus Photograph Collection*, Digital Media Repository, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries).
“Education can be the difference between a life of grinding poverty and the potential for a full and secure one; between a child dying from preventable disease, and families raised in healthy environments; ... between countries ripped apart by poverty and conflict, and access to secure and sustainable development.”

--Nelson Mandela and Grace Machel

The education of girls has an enormous impact on families around the world. “Women with no education are half as likely as women with a secondary education to immunize their children.”

Educational reforms for women in the United States began in the early part of the nineteenth century, with women opening special schools for girls.

Catherine Brown, daughter of a chief, opened a Christian school for Indian girls in Guntersville, Alabama, in 1820. In the same year, Ann Marie Becroft organized the first seminary for Black girls.

Emma Willard started the first endowed women’s school, Troy Female Seminary, with a pioneering curriculum in Troy, New York, in 1821.

Catherine Beecher established Western Female Institute, stressing teacher training, in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1832.

In the late nineteenth century, many colleges and universities in the United States began admitting women. “By 1910, women represented nearly 40 percent of the nation’s college enrollment.” However, “attending college...did not provide the same career opportunities that it did for men.”

Training for female doctors expanded new professional careers for women in the late nineteenth century, and the field of nursing was also expanding during this time. “But by the turn of the century, the drive by leading physicians to strengthen their profession by upgrading medical education had forced the closure of many small schools, including a number founded specifically to train women; most of the new university-based schools accepted only men.”

In 1950 the percentage of women completing college in the United States was 5.2 percent. In 2000 the percentage of women completing college in the United States was 22.8 percent.

“Nearly a billion people in the world are illiterate, about two-thirds of whom are women. Generalized illiteracy is mostly a function of poverty and limited educational opportunity. Higher rates of illiteracy for women, however, also suggest entrenched gender discrimination.”

“Global figures on illiteracy generally do not incorporate information on ‘functional illiteracy,’ which is actually growing in many of the world’s richest countries.” Functional illiteracy refers to an individual’s inability to read or write in anything more than normal everyday activities.

“The ratio of girls to boys in school has increased considerably over the past two decades, especially in Latin America and East Asia. But it remains low in much of South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.”

More women are attending universities worldwide, especially in industrialized countries. “There continue to be significant gender differences in the subjects studied and degrees taken. Women remain dramatically under-represented among students and faculty in the sciences, and in technology and engineering.”

Women in the World: Power and Government
Nowhere in the world are women represented in government in proportion to their population. “In only 22 countries do women represent 25 percent or more of elected legislators....The ranks of heads of national government...remain resolutely male dominated. Only 35 countries have ever had a woman head of government, and some of those were short-term caretaker positions.” Women who hold ceremonial positions, like Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom, are not included in these statistics.

This map shows the proportion of women in government as of 2002. The United States falls in the 15 to 24 percent category of representation. The red arrows show losses of women in government from the late 1980’s. This was “the result of sweeping political changes in Eastern Europe and the former USSR, which resulted in a sharp drop in women’s representation in government in those states.”

Female representation in government is important not only to defend the rights of women but also to enhance the nature of government with a true perspective of the governed. However, according to *The State of Women in the World Atlas*, “with notable exceptions, ...women heads of government have tended to be the ‘lone woman at the top,’ neither coming from political involvement with women’s movements nor feeling any responsibility to a women’s constituency.”

*(The Penguin Atlas of Women in the World, Reference Collection, Ball State University Libraries).*
The challenge of women gaining equal representation in government is making the most strides at the local level. “Around the world, increasing numbers of women are active in local governance, in city councils and in mayoralities.” Some nations practice quota systems in order to ensure women’s representation in government. In India one-third of all representatives on local village and city councils must be women.

This map reveals the date when universal suffrage for women citizens was granted on equal terms with men in national elections. The yellow-green countries are the newest countries to allow women the vote. Women are still denied the vote in Kuwait, and no one has the vote in Saudi Arabia, Brunei, and the United Arab Emirates.

Women in the United States received full suffrage with the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. Most southern states never ratified the amendment, while some women in the West received the right to vote by 1875.

*(Atlas of American Women, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).*
“The setting for the First Women’s Rights Convention and the homes of some participants are preserved today as the Women’s Rights National Historic Park, established by Congressional Act in 1980.” The park is located in Seneca Falls, New York, the home in the 1830’s to a significant reform community composed of abolitionists and, later, suffragists.

(Women’s Rights National Historic Park, New York map, GRMC, Ball State University Libraries).
Many of the southern states that were conservative in allowing women the right to vote also did not ratify the Equal Rights Amendment for women in 1972, aimed at ending any remaining discrimination based on gender. The Amendment was given a seven year deadline for passage, and by 1979 many states had not ratified the Amendment while others rescinded their ratification (marked with an asterisk). The proposal has been reintroduced unsuccessfully in every Congress since 1982.

“...By 1980, women were voting more consistently than men. This fact, combined with the larger number of females in the voting-age population, meant that women were now in a position to decide a national election if enough of them voted the same way.”

Women have largely voted Democratic since 1972, and this trend made history in 1996. “Female voters turned out in such numbers for Democrat William Clinton that they carried the election, offsetting men’s Republican and third-party votes...and provided the margin of victory in 14 Senate races and three gubernatorial campaigns.”

The challenge of women gaining power by serving on equal terms as men in the military is still difficult around the world. In most countries, women are not allowed to serve in some combat positions and are confined to support roles. In most countries, the terms of women’s service are unclear or women are not allowed to serve at all.

“Of the 26.4 million veterans in the United States in 2000, ... 1.6 million were women. Women made up 6 percent of the total veteran population in 2000 and their percentages have steadily increased in recent decades....In the most recent period of service, August 1990 or later, 15.7 percent were women.”

Women in the World: Women in History
In 1981 Congress passed a resolution making Women’s History Week a national holiday. The Congress expanded the celebration to a month in 1987. Women’s History Month is celebrated in March every year. Soon schools were encouraged to participate in the commemoration of women’s history to promote equality in the classroom. Before this time, women were rarely mentioned in history textbooks. As more scholars began changing the focus of their research, more people became aware of the impact women have had on the history of the world.

(“Eleanor Roosevelt” from the Spurgeon-Greene Photograph Collection, Digital Media Repository, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries).
This map features biographies of notable Native American women and their impact on the history of the United States. For example, “Elizabeth Peratrovich helped pass Alaska’s anti-racial-discrimination law in 1945, the first of its kind in the United States.”

(In Indian Country: North American Indian Cultures, a Legacy of Language and Inspired Ideas, GRMC, Ball State University Libraries).
This map highlights women’s participation in the American Revolution. The blue boxes denote the boycotting of British goods; pink boxes denote the use of physical force against the enemy; yellow boxes represent incidents where money, food, supplies, and nursing care were provided; green boxes show when clandestine information or assistance was provided by women.

On several occasions—many never reported because they were never discovered—Revolutionary women fought the British disguised as men.

"For northern women of the leisure classes, the Civil War represented ... an opportunity to participate in the most compelling national effort since the abolition movement." Women began organizing to provide medical relief for the Union Army, which resulted in the U.S. Sanitary Commission, "which ultimately became the largest voluntary association in the country, with 7,000 branches throughout the North." Pioneering women like Elizabeth Blackwell, the nation’s first female doctor, and Clara Barton, made advances for women in medicine that continued in the decades following the war.

"At least 22,000 women worked in Europe during World War I, associated with more than 50 American agencies and 45 foreign ones." Women worked for the Army, Army and Navy nurses, Red Cross relief, the YMCA, the YWCA, the Salvation Army, American Women’s Hospitals, and Quakers.

(The Routledge Historical Atlas of Women in America, Atlas Collection; “Aux Allies Morts Pour La Victoire Du Droit” from the Elisabeth Ball Collection of World War I Posters, Digital Media Repository, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries).
One woman who impacted U.S. history as an advocate for social change was Eleanor Roosevelt. “Eleanor invented a new way to be First Lady. During her White House years she spoke out regularly on public issues, often articulating positions that were considerably more liberal than her husband’s....She based her comments...especially from her extensive travels around the country. Besides accompanying her husband on his occasional campaign trips, Eleanor traveled constantly on her own, often covering more than 40,000 miles a year.”

Nearly 400,000 women actively worked for the U.S. in World War II, serving overseas and performing many varied tasks. The Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps (later the Women’s Army Corps or WAC) was founded in 1942. The WAC “sent women to every theater of war.” Army nurses comprised another large group of women serving in the war. Nurses “served in hospitals in every war zone, and more than 1,600 were decorated for ‘meritorious service and bravery under fire.’” However, gender discrimination in the military was pervasive. Many women were “ineligible for military benefits or even meals in the officers’ mess.”

(The Routledge Historical Atlas of Women in America, Atlas Collection; untitled poster from the Elisabeth Ball Collection of World War I Posters, Digital Media Repository, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries).
Women participated in the Civil Rights Movement in the United States from the very beginning to the very end.

Rosa Parks was arrested in 1955 for refusing to give up her seat on a Montgomery city bus, and this sparked the Montgomery bus boycott. This event drew national attention to the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1965 in Lowndesboro, Alabama, “Viola Liuzzo, a white housewife from Detroit, is shot and killed by Klansmen while she is driving participants back from the Selma to Montgomery March.”

Women joined the first major marches against the Vietnam War in 1967 and were even clubbed by police during the riots at the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago. “Yet there were women on all sides of this question; even as some women were putting roses in soldier’s gun barrels…others were mourning the death of their husbands in the war, and more than 10,000 were themselves doing military service in Vietnam.”

Women in the World: Healthcare
“In highly developed economies, with advanced medical technologies, sufficient diets, and adequate public sanitation, infant mortality rates tend to be quite low. ...Many regions of the world still experience infant mortality rates above the 10 percent level. Such ...rates not only represent human tragedy at its most basic level, but also are powerful inhibiting factors for the future of human development.”

(Student Atlas of World Politics, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).
Child deaths have actually decreased in the last three decades, but infant and child mortality rates in parts of Asia and especially Sub-Saharan Africa remain high. The international community is striving to battle this tragedy, but increased government spending on health services is needed. “Greater access to safe water, better sanitation and health facilities, and improvements in education, especially for girls and mothers, are closely linked to reduced child mortality.”

(Student Atlas of World Politics, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).
The map on the left identifies states with poverty rates for children significantly higher than the national rate. The maps on the right identify the states that provide supplemental health care for children and supplemental funds for Head Start in the schools. Unfortunately, of the states with higher poverty rates, only New York and West Virginia receive only supplemental health care for children. Many of the poorest states are left without supplemental aid for children.

(Growing Up in America: An Atlas of Youth in the USA, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).
“Perhaps the greatest problem in the women’s health field in the 1990’s was the question of inequality, particularly in terms of access to care. By 1996, more than 15 percent of American women had no health insurance. Others had access problems because the services they needed were located too far away, scheduled at inconvenient times, or were not covered by their health insurance.”

“The highest rates of breast cancer are in western Europe and North America; the lowest are in Asia. Breast cancer is one of two main causes of cancer deaths among women in developed countries (along with lung cancer), and the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women in the developing world.”

This map reveals the countries where over 25 percent of the total deaths are deaths related to tobacco use. These countries are identified in deep red. Cigarette smoking kills 178,000 women in the United States each year, and lung cancer is the fastest growing cancer-causing death in women.

With an increasing market for tobacco products in China and India, these countries’ tobacco-related deaths will also quickly increase. The rate of tobacco-associated deaths in India is increasing at about 3 percent per year, with a million deaths predicted for the year 2010.

(The Tobacco Atlas, General Collection, Ball State University Libraries).
AIDS is decimating the workforce in several African countries. It is also reducing life expectancy and leaving many orphans. Women in Africa are overwhelmingly affected by this disease. “The most common measure of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is the percentage of adults living with HIV. Once generalized, the disease has far-reaching consequences to all social sectors and to development itself.”

This map identifies areas of the world where more women than men have AIDS. The map also provides bleak information about other sexually-transmitted diseases that affect women around the world. “Initially incurable sexually-transmitted infections continually emerge, such as syphilis, gonorrhea, herpes and, most recently, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). New infections will emerge in the 21st century.”

Life expectancies are increasing worldwide just as birthrates are declining. These statistics, in turn, increase the proportion of older people in a population. Thus the working population must support an increasing proportion of “dependent” people. Even in richer countries “a welfare crisis is looming for older people. In poorer countries with lower average life expectancy, people tend to remain economically active for more of their lifetimes. In many countries, older people do work that does not appear in economic statistics.”

This map reveals the proportion of women aged 60 and over who are economically active in society. Many of the countries of Africa and the Middle East do not have data showing the proportion of working elderly women in the population, but trends in neighboring countries provide clues that the numbers may be high. The two highest numbers for women are in Burundi and Central African Republic.

Women in the World: Women in Literature
Women gained equal opportunities to men in education in many parts of the world in the nineteenth century, but women still lag in educational opportunity throughout the world. Thus the field of literature was once also largely male dominated, and women often had the role of inspiration rather than creation. However, women have historically been gifted storytellers, and more women from around the world are gaining prominence in the field of literature.

(“Two Women Discussing a Book” from the Marie Frasier Collection of the Ball State Campus Photograph Collection, Digital Media Repository, Archives and Special Collections, Ball State University Libraries).
Theodore Dreiser’s novel *Sister Carrie* tells the story of a young woman leaving Wisconsin to work in Chicago. This story paralleled America’s economic expansion during the late nineteenth century that was creating thousands of new jobs in the cities that were filled by women from the countryside. “The majority would find work in factories, stores, offices, restaurants, and people’s homes. This labor force represented something new on the urban scene: a large population of young single women earning their own wages and moving with considerable independence through the city.”

*(The Routledge Historical Atlas of Women in America, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).*
Between 1900 and 1925, a set of women pioneers—known as Bohemians—chose to live in Greenwich Village in New York. These women began speaking out on public issues, and the Village attracted more and more cultural rebels. “Many noteworthy careers began in the Village during these years. ...Within a few blocks of each other, Willa Cather wrote several major novels...” and “Edna St. Vincent Millay established herself as a poet.”

The Harlem Renaissance began in the 1920’s and was centered in the neighborhood of Harlem in New York City. This movement influenced the American culture in literature, drama, music, art, theater, and dance.

The map, Harlem Renaissance: One Hundred Years of History, Art, and Culture, from the GIS Research & Map Collection shows some of the artists of this period in history.

Some of the women featured on the map are Jessie Fauset, the literary editor of The Crisis, and author Zora Neale, who co-wrote Fire! In 1926.

(Harlem Renaissance: One Hundred Years of History, Art, and Culture, GRMC, Ball State University Libraries).
The map, *A Literary Map of Indiana*, from the GIS Research & Map Collection details some of the women writers from the state who gained national and international prominence in literature.

Marguerite Young spent years in the Utopian community of New Harmony, Indiana, and detailed her experience in the award-winning novel *Angel in the Forest*.

Jessamyn West, of Vernon, Indiana, wrote about Indiana Quakers in *The Friendly Persuasion*, which was adapted into a movie.

*A Literary Map of North Carolina* is also available in the GIS Research & Map Collection.

*(A Literary Map of Indiana, GRMC, Ball State University Libraries).*
Gene Stratton Porter was an author and naturalist from Wabash County, Indiana. Stratton Porter documented the vanishing wetlands of northeastern Indiana in her novels *Freckles* and *A Girl of the Limberlost*. This map of the Limberlost swamp and *Limberlost and Loblolly: A Self-Guided Auto Tour* are available in the GIS Research & Map Collection.

(Map of the Limberlost, GRMC, Ball State University Libraries).
Women in the World: Society and Leisure
During the late nineteenth century, women’s responsibilities still largely centered around maintaining a proper home. While men pursued professional lives, women created strong networks with other women who shared their lifestyles. During this time, shopping districts like the famous “Ladies Mile” in New York were booming in order to serve the prosperous urban and new suburban women. Women, particularly those who could afford household help, “spent hours in the handsome department stores and tearooms...in downtown districts.”

(“Interior, Display of Women’s Hats” from the W.A. Swift Photograph Collection, Digital Media Repository, Archives and Special Collections; The Routledge Historical Atlas of Women in America, GRMC, Ball State University Libraries).
A rise in religious fundamentalism in many countries is resulting in heightened legal and social restrictions on women. This map of the eastern hemisphere identifies the countries where there is a climate of widespread oppression against women.

Countries where women need permission from a male to travel are identified. Countries with compulsory dress codes are shown. The red symbols reveal where attacks on women for dressing “immodestly” have been reported.

The practice of purdah refers to preventing men from seeing women. Purdah exists in various forms for women in the Islamic world and among Hindu women in parts of India. The typical purdah garments include long robes and sometimes veils to conceal the face. “In many of these countries (shown on the map), seclusion is practiced only among some ethnic or religious groups.”

The top map shown identifies the countries that compete in the Miss Universe or Miss World beauty pageants. Crowns identify past winners. “Globalization is accelerating the adoption of ...a white, Western standard of beauty....There are now few places in the world untouched by the commerce of beauty.” The bottom left map shows the countries where Avon beauty products are sold.

Title IX legislation passed in the United States in 1971 required equal opportunities for girls’ participation in sports. “The Title IX legislation...shocked the small world of women’s basketball. It forced universities and high schools to provide a semblance of equal opportunity for women. States with no basketball at all soon had 300 to 500 high schools playing the game. Girls’ high-school basketball more than quadrupled...between 1971 and 1980.”

The most popular girls’ high-school sport by state are identified on this map. The map is based on the number of participants in each sport, with basketball and track and field being the two most popular.

Women were barred from the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. By 1900, women were invited to compete in tennis, croquet, golf, and yachting. This map shows the percentage of women competing in national teams during the 1996 Summer Olympics. The dark blue countries are represented by 10 percent or fewer women or an all male team, usually due to cultural and religious restrictions. However, women make up more than 50 percent of the television audience viewing the Olympics.

*(The State of Women in the World Atlas, Atlas Collection, Ball State University Libraries).*
For more information about any of the maps shown or Women in the World: Online Guide to University Libraries’ Maps, Atlases, and Other Cartographic Resources for Women’s Studies Programs, please contact the GIS Research & Map Collection, Ball State University Libraries, at (765) 285-1097.

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