



Women's Information and Resource Exchange (W.I.R.E.)  
Records, 1973-1986

Collection 87

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Cassia Smith

**Creator/Corporate Name:** Women's Information and Resource Exchange (W.I.R.E.)

**Inclusive Dates:** 1973-1986, bulk 1977-1985

**Physical Description:** 1 box (1.0 linear ft.)

**Language:** English

**Provenance:**

The Women's Information and Resource Exchange (W.I.R.E.) materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in February 2009.

**Access:**

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Historical Note:**

The Women's Information and Resource Exchange (W.I.R.E.) was a telephone information and referral service run by the Ministry with Women at Wesley United Methodist Church in Urbana and McKinley Presbyterian Church in Champaign. The telephone service was dedicated to connecting women in the Champaign-Urbana community with professionals who could meet their needs, including lawyers, physicians, counselors, support groups, political organizations, and education services among other. W.I.R.E. was also involved in the publication and distribution of the Women's Community Newsletter, which served as a communications network between services, programs, and the concerns of women. They also promoted, participated in, and occasionally offered various events focused on the education, empowerment, and political activism of women.

W.I.R.E. began accepting calls November 1976. It was funded by an endowment established by Bishop C. Baker to support ministry with women in memory of his wife and daughter. The service was discontinued November 15, 1985. The W.I.R.E. newsletter was continued.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection falls into three broad categories: administration files related to W.I.R.E.; files related to local, regional, and national organizations and institutions; and subject files. The W.I.R.E. administrative files includes correspondence, internal memoranda, and material used to build their subject referral index. There is also material representing W.I.R.E.'s member activities in local and state-wide political organizations. The subject files make up the largest portion of the collection and contains promotional and education material produced by organizations within W.I.R.E.'s referral network. This includes educational pamphlets, service brochures, educational and event announcements, flyers, and newsletters from a broad range of local organizations. There are also a number of bibliographies focused on women's issues and activism, as well as resources focused on women's achievements and writing. Planned Parenthood material is prominently featured within the



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collection. Much of the material is undated, but the bulk of the dated material is concentrated between 1975 and 1985.

**Arrangement:**

This collection is divided into three series: Administrative files, Organizations and Institutions, and Subject Files.

**Separated Material:**

The following newsletters were removed from the collection and placed in our Local Organizations Newsletter collection: Women's Community Newsletter and Newsletter (Prairie Alliance).

**Subjects Terms:**

Feminism  
George McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church (Champaign, Ill.)  
Medical Care – Champaign  
Medical Care – Urbana  
Planned Parenthood Association of Champaign County  
Wesley United Methodist Church (Urbana, Ill.)  
Women's Organizations Records  
Women--Services for--Societies, etc.

**Container List:**

**Box 1**

**Series 1: Administrative files**

Folder 1: Song Sheets  
Folder 2: W.I.R.E., 1981-1991 and undated  
Folder 3: W.I.R.E. Correspondence, 1981, 1984  
Folder 4: W.I.R.E. Events, 1979, 1981, and undated  
Folder 5: W.I.R.E. Resource Person Subject Index, undated  
Folder 6: W.I.R.E. Resource Person Surveys, 1977-1978, and undated  
Folder 7: W.I.R.E. Volunteer Information, 1981 and undated

**Series 2: Organizations and Institutions**

Folder 8: American Field Service (AFS), undated  
Folders 9-10: Illinois Women's Agenda, 1977-1985 (2 folders)  
Folder 11: International Women's Year, 1975-1985  
Folder 12: League of Women's Voters, 1978-1985  
Folder 13: McKinley Presbyterian Church Foundation, undated  
Folder 14: Midwest Women Groups and Centers, 1975-1984, and undated  
Folder 15: Parkland College, 1981 and undated  
Folder 16: Planned Parenthood, 1977-1985  
Folder 17: University of Illinois: General Resources, Information, undated  
Folder 18: University of Illinois: Resources for Women, 1974-1985  
Folder 19: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 1973-1978



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Folder 20: YWCA/YMCA, 1978, 1984, and undated

**Series 3: Subject Files**

Folder 21: Aging and the Elderly, undated

Folder 22: Champaign-Urbana Resources, various, 1981 and undated

Folder 23: Children, Youth, and Family Services, 1977-1978 and undated

Folder 24: Divorce, Separation, Widowed, Grieving Resources, 1984 and undated

Folder 25: Education Resources, 1977 and undated

Folders 26-27: Feminist Presses, Bibliographies, and Publication, 1975-1981, and undated (2 folders)

Folder 28: General Assistance Lists, 1980-1985

Folder 29: Health Resources, 1977-1985

Folder 30: International Families, 1980 and undated

Folder 31: LGBT, 1977-1986

Folder 32: Networking, 1976-1981

Folder 33: Politics and Political Groups, 1976-1986

Folder 34: Rape and Sexual Abuse, 1980 and undated

Folder 35: Recycling, 1980-1981

Folder 36: Regional Events, Conferences, and Workshops, 1977-1981

Folder 37: Religion and Spirituality, 1972-1980 and undated

Folder 38: Reproduction and Pregnancy, undated

Folder 39: Self-Defense, 1981 and undated

Folder 40: Sexuality, undated

Folder 41: Unemployment and Disability, 1975-1981, and undated

Folder 42: Women, undated

Folder 43: Volunteerism, 1976-1980 [includes the groups: Voluntary Action Center of Champaign (VAC);  
Directors of Volunteers in Agencies (DOVIA); Volunteer Illini Projects (VIP)]