
College Women

A Collaborative Cross-Institutional
Archives Portal



<http://www.collegewomen.org/>

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Goals and Challenges

Documenting the History of Women in *Higher Education*

Search the collection...

Q Advanced Search



[View all themes »](#)

[FEEDBACK?](#)

ABOUT THE COLLECTION

College Women is a searchable collection of diaries, letters, scrapbooks, and photographs from the archives of a select group of the earliest women's colleges in the United States, [the Seven Sisters](#). These



INSTITUTIONS

- Barnard College
- Bryn Mawr College
- Mount Holyoke College
- Smith College
- Vassar College
- Wellesley College
- Radcliffe College – now
Schlesinger Library, Harvard
University

GOALS

- Bring together letters, diaries and scrapbooks of first generations of women to attend college.
- Create a collaborative, subject-specific digital site to encourage research and teaching in the field.

Background

- Discussions in 2012 & 2013
- NEH Planning Grant,
2014-2015

Created pilot site with 300
digital objects

- NEH Implementation Grant,
Spring 2016

Challenges 1

Technology

- Technology
 - Adapting existing technology
 - Working with different systems and expertise at multiple institutions

Challenges 2

Usability

- How do people find what they want?
 - Hottest topics rare
 - Important topics difficult to index without overwhelming
 - Blog posts as guides

Challenges 3

Building interest

- Will anyone use it?
 - Publicity
 - Scholars advisory board
 - Blog posts about teaching & research uses

Challenges 4

Sustainability

- How will we maintain the site when the grant funding ends?
 - Making the case to our institutions
 - Constituencies: Faculty, Alumnae

Challenges 5

Governance

- How is a collaborative site managed?
 - Coordinating Committee
 - Task committees
 - Communications!

Challenges 6

Expansion

- Is this just for the 7 Sisters?
 - Many other women's colleges
 - Group committed to expansion once the site is in shape.

Technology Aspects

Portals

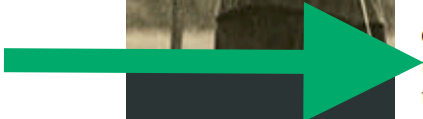
1. The items are stored in a local repository.
2. On a “regular” basis...
 - a. Records get pushed to the portal - OR -
 - b. The portal goes to the repository to get the records.

Students Take a Drive, ca. 1940s, Mount Holyoke Archives and Special Collections





Title	Archery Team
Description	Group photograph of the Bryn Mawr archery team. Five archers pose with their bows and arrows.
Subject -- Names	Bryn Mawr College
Subject -- Topics	Bryn Mawr College History College campuses
Subjects -- TGM 1	Universities & colleges; Sports; Women; Archery; Bows (Archery); Arrows;
Geographic Location	Bryn Mawr; Pennsylvania;
Medium	Black-and-white photograph
Physical Dimensions	20.40 cm x 25.30 cm
Institution	Bryn Mawr College
Department	Bryn Mawr College Special Collections
Collection	Bryn Mawr College Photo Archives
Copyright	Please cite Bryn Mawr College Special Collections when using this image file. High-quality scans of materials in the collection are offered for research, publication, and commercial use at the discretion of Bryn Mawr College. Please see: http://www.brynmawr.edu/library/speccoll/repros/ for more information.
DCMI Type	Image
Digital Date	2012
Capture Specifications	Display: 72 ppl jpeg; Archive: 400 ppl tiff
File Name	PAE_Sports_Archery_005_BMC_f.jpg



TITLE

Archery Team

INSTITUTION

Bryn Mawr College

DESCRIPTION

Group photograph of the Bryn Mawr archery team. Five archers pose with their bows and arrows.

SUBJECT

Bryn Mawr College
Bryn Mawr College History
Archery

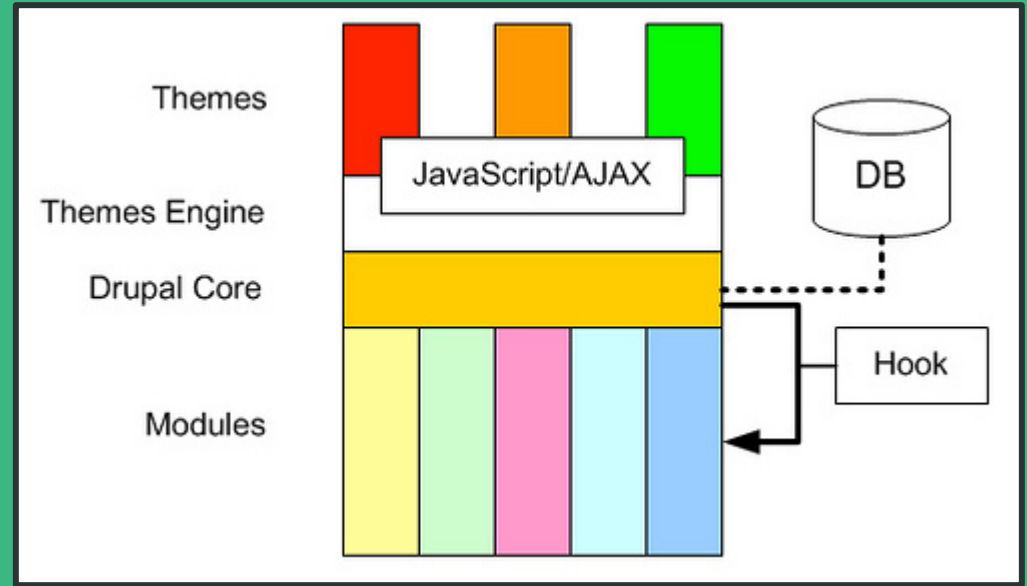
THEMES

Sports

Drupal overview

Using:

- Fields + CCK
- Drupal Views
- Feeds



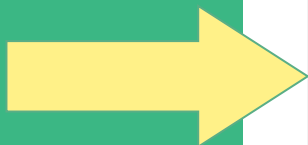
From <http://www.webgeometrics.com/drupal-basic-architecture/>

CSV file →

Feeds →


Theme
selection →

Browsing



COLLEGE WOMEN BETA
Documenting the History of Women in Higher Education

About Lin



Browsing **316** items

All themes	Academics	Arts, Theater, and Music	Buildings & Grounds
Class Reunions	Commencement	Dormitories	Dress
Events	Faculty	Firsts	Friendship
Political and social activism	Race	Recreation	Religion
Societies	Sports	Student activities	Student life
Student movements	Traditions		

Rochester with her. We would
leave here Tuesday morning, May 17,
& get to Rochester early May 18. I could

Letter from Amelia A. Hall to her mother, 1880, Wellesley College Archives

Challenges

What items go to the portal?

What context do we gain / lose?

What metadata do we gain / lose?

Technology Aspects: Meeting Challenges

What items go to the portal?
What context do we gain / lose?
What metadata do we gain / lose?



Aggregating metadata

Themes - provide broad aggregation

How do they get there?

Subjects - variety of terms

How can local practice be honored?

Limiting records (number, datastream)

Transcriptions and metadata quantities

Our roadmap

Improve OAI-PMH harvesting module for Drupal to accept QDC.

Better harvesting mechanisms (REPOX?)

Work carefully on metadata improvements.

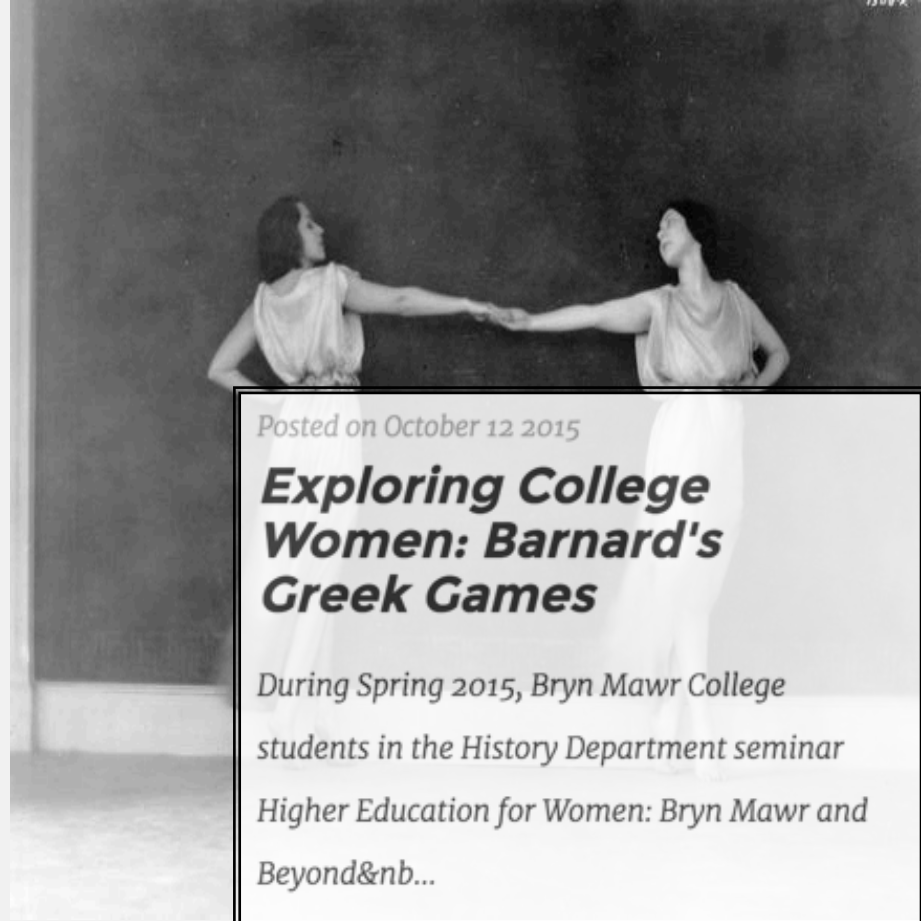
Robust records (transcriptions, descriptions).

Better search experience.

Correspondence from Mary Byrd Wells (class of 1897) to Lola Maverick (class of 1897), July 20, 1900, Smith College

Blog

- Focus on analysis, writing (rather than metadata)
- Create content for contextualizing items
- Allow a variety of voices to contribute



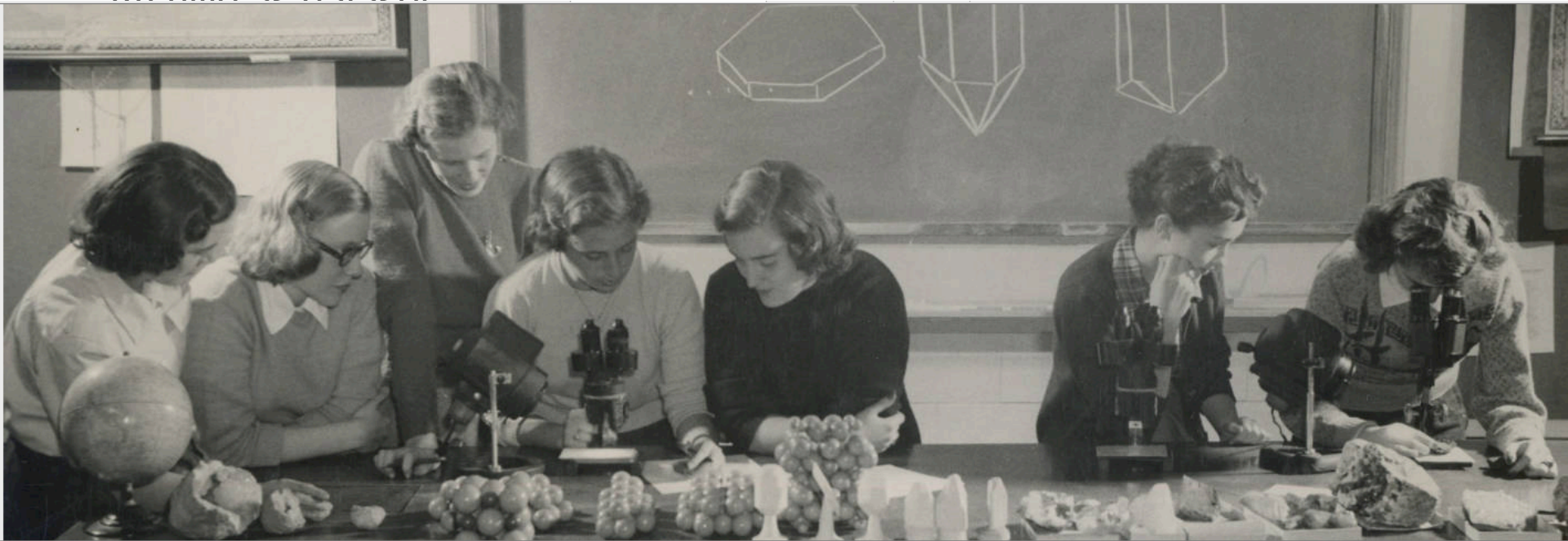
Greek Games, 1929, Barnard College Archives and Special Collections

Classroom, Research, and Beyond

Potential Educational Uses for *College Women*

Archive as subject

Archive as dataset



Sterilizing the Fittest

BY HENRY R. CAREY

Are the girls' colleges promoting race suicide among America's most intelligent women by influencing their graduates against marriage and maternity?

"It remains to show how an elaborate intellectual training may be given women without affecting injuriously any of their bodily powers and functions."

--Charles Eliot, Inaugural Address for President Caroline Hazard, Wellesley College, October 1899.



Harvard University, Radcliffe Archives, W300538_1

"...the physical exam we had to do everything from catching baseballs thrown from a machine in different directions, to jumping hurdles, throwing baseball, a basketball, and climbing monkey fashion to test the strength of our arms. Which I passed."

--Letter from Virginia V. Westervelt, 1933-09-23, Wellesley, Ma., to Mother My Love (Wellesley)

The Contested Body of the College Woman

THE SEVEN SISTERS: SPACE AND STRUCTURE IN WOMEN'S COLLEGES TO 1900



"Visiting in order each of the... colleges for women, situated within comparatively close range of each other... one gains a distinct impression of the peculiar excellences of each..." (Lester Hemment, 1897).

The "Seven Sisters" colleges--Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Radcliffe, Smith, Vassar, and Wellesley--developed in reaction to each other, to male colleges, and to emerging theories of education.

This exhibit asks, is it possible to trace social perception of the differences and congruences between these schools in their archival material? How are women's colleges created by their physical spaces and their philosophies?

Using [Collegewomen.org](#), this exhibit interrogates the connections between space, reputation, and the "college woman" in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

THE SEVEN SISTERS

The Seven Sisters: Space and Structure in Women's Colleges to 1900

Mount Holyoke

Vassar

Wellesley

Smith

Radcliffe

Bryn Mawr

Barnard

Works Cited

MOUNT HOLYOKE



"List of forbidden actions at the Seminary," circa 1840-1849.



Seminary building student room, 1898.

- 1837: First admitted students
- 1888: College chartered

"From the Mt. Holyoke students one expects character of that high and beautiful type which Mary Lyon, the founder of this historic institution, so happily exemplified, together with thoroughness of achievement, unselfish devotion to duty, and love of the real and the true as distinguished from outward appearance alone." (Hemment 4).

"Constant supervision by teachers, rules governing the actions of every hour, and twice-daily periods of silent devotion characterized the disciplinary regime required of the first female collegians. Their seclusion and their enclosure within a single structure made such rigor possible." (Horowitz 4)

THE SEVEN SISTERS

The Seven Sisters: Space and Structure in Women's Colleges to 1900

Mount Holyoke

Vassar

Wellesley

Smith

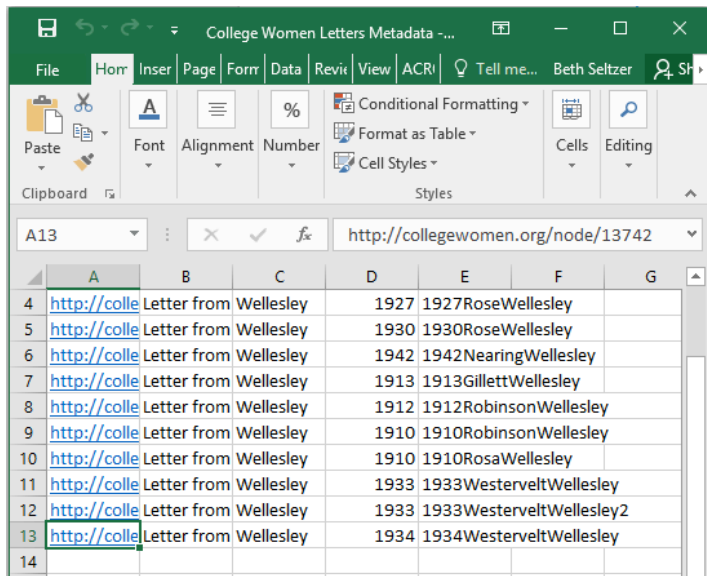
Radcliffe

Bryn Mawr

Barnard

Works Cited

Archive as Dataset for Digital Scholarship



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
4	http://colle	Letter from	Wellesley	1927	1927RoseWellesley		
5	http://colle	Letter from	Wellesley	1930	1930RoseWellesley		
6	http://colle	Letter from	Wellesley	1942	1942NearingWellesley		
7	http://colle	Letter from	Wellesley	1913	1913GillettWellesley		
8	http://colle	Letter from	Wellesley	1912	1912RobinsonWellesley		
9	http://colle	Letter from	Wellesley	1910	1910RobinsonWellesley		
10	http://colle	Letter from	Wellesley	1910	1910RosaWellesley		
11	http://colle	Letter from	Wellesley	1933	1933WesterveltWellesley		
12	http://colle	Letter from	Wellesley	1933	1933WesterveltWellesley2		
13	http://colle	Letter from	Wellesley	1934	1934WesterveltWellesley		
14							

LP 1: Data Management for Digital Scholarship

Make a Pivot Table

1. Click anywhere in dataset
2. Insert -> PivotTable -> [It highlights the whole table—keep that]
3. See Pivot Table Fields on the side. That's where you can compare stuff.

How many photos do we have for each school?

1. Your Row will be the school. Drag the "College" category to the "Row" box. [pic]
2. To count, you use the "Values" box. Drag the "College" category to the "Values" box
3. Boom!

[At some point, you'll need to talk about the Values box.]

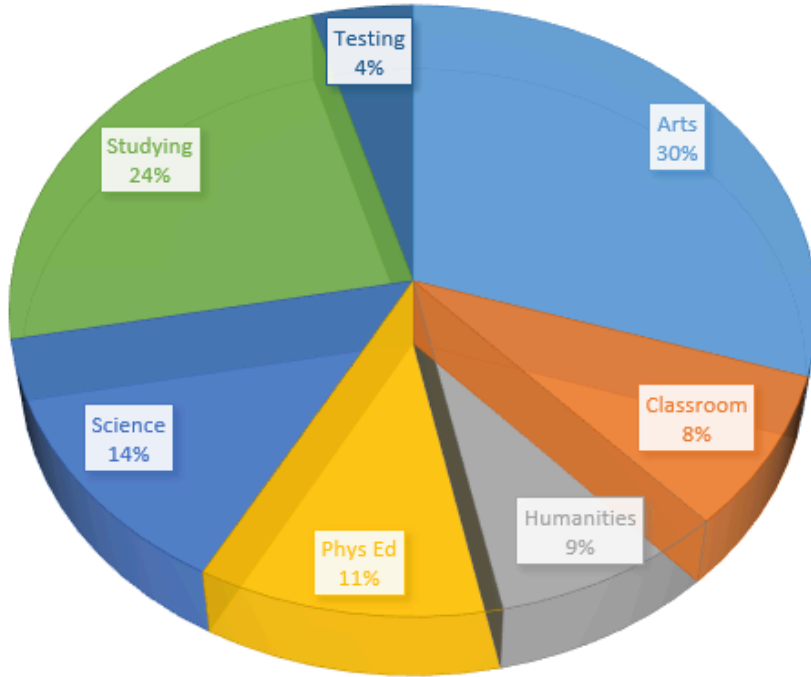
How many photos do we have for each school, in each decade?

1. Again, think about what you'd like this to look like—columns of each decade by "Year Category," with a count of how many photos you see in each one. For this, you'll need to put something in the "Column" Any idea how to do this?
2. Right! Drag it into the column.
3. Experiment with putting things in and taking them out of columns.

Now you try. Suppose you just want to see how many photos are available for each year—how would you do that?

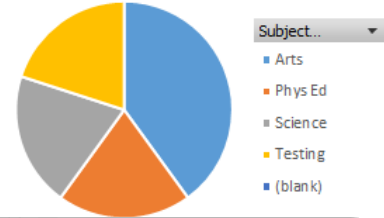
LP 2: Introduction to Pivot Tables

STUDENTS SMILING, BY ACADEMIC SUBJECT



LP 3: Data Analysis

1920s



College Women academic dataset2 - Excel

PivotTable Tools: Analyze, Design, Tell me... Beth Seltzer, Share

File Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View ACROBAT

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles Cells Editing

A3 Count of Posture

Row Labels	Athletic	Mixed	Sitting	Standing	Grand Total
Barnard		2		1	3
Bryn Mawr		2	2	2	6
Mt Holyoke	4	4	14	3	25
Radcliffe			3	1	4
Vassar		4	2		6
Wellesley		2	2	3	7
Grand Total	4	14	23	10	51

PivotTable Fields

Choose fields to add to report:

Search

☐ Link
☐ Title
☐ Year
☐ Cleaned Year (remove circa, middl...
☐ Date

Drag fields between areas below:

FILTERS
College

COLUMNS
Posture

ROWS
Count of Post...

☐ Defer Layout Update UPDATE

Ready

Thank you!

<http://www.collegewomen.org/>

<http://collegewomen.org/technical-docs>

<https://github.com/BarnardArchives/brynmawr-collegewomen-drupal>