

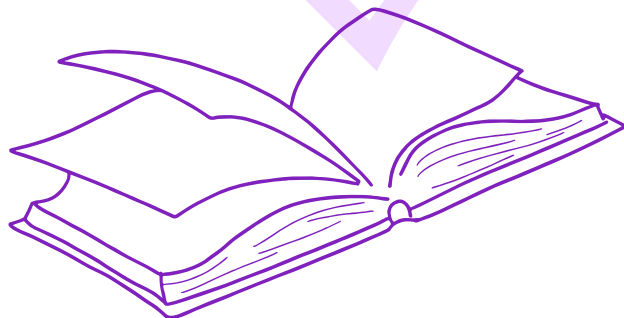
# Sinister Wisdom

A Multicultural Lesbian Literary & Art Journal

*Sinister Wisdom's*  
*Feminist Bookstore News Project:*

**Understanding the Scope and Impact  
of the Women in Print Movement through Bibliography**

Phase 1 Report

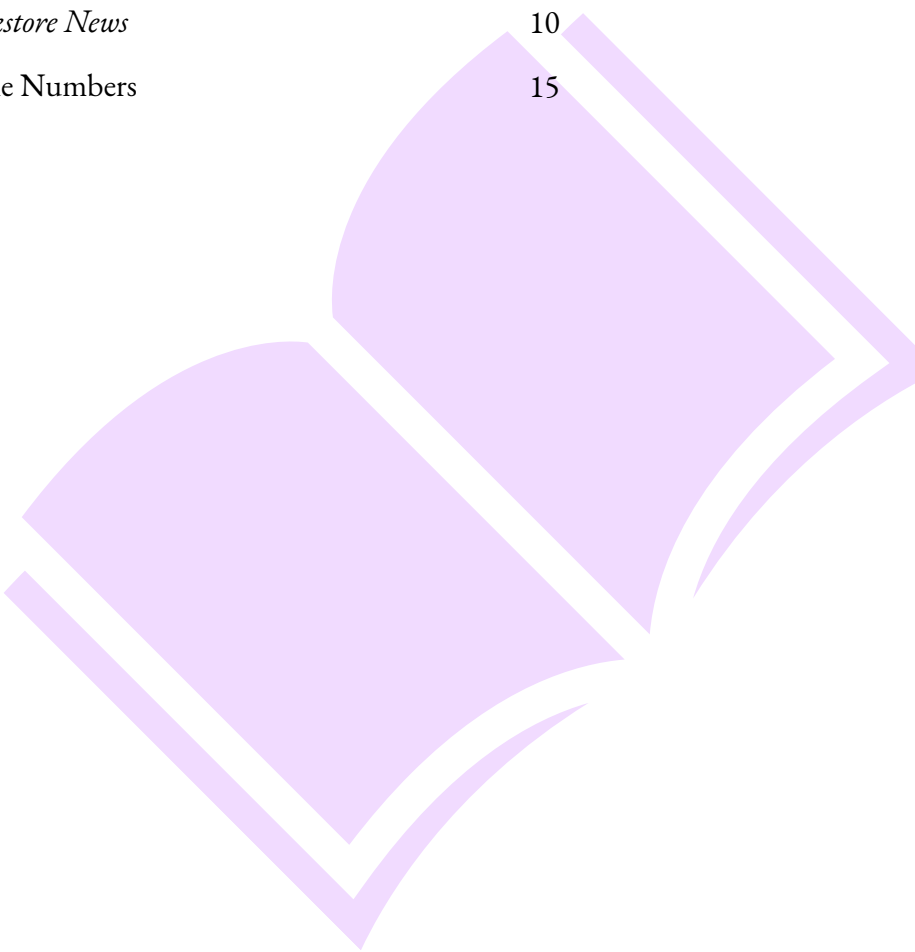


By Julie R. Enszer, May 2024

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## The Big Idea

“*Sinister Wisdom’s Feminist Bookstore News Project: Understanding the Scope and Impact of the Women in Print Movement through Bibliography*” is a digital humanities project to build and examine a large dataset from *Feminist Bookstore News (FBN)*, a US-based publication from the women in print movement. A hand-printed, stapled-in-the-corner newsletter, *FBN* grew to be the preeminent book trade magazine for feminist bookstores including feminist and lesbian publishers, vendors selling to feminist bookstores, and interested feminist readers. In addition, a range of mainstream and specialty bookstores as well as corporate, independent press, and other social movement publishers read *FBN* avidly. Carol Seajay operated *FBN* from 1976 until 2000, publishing over 130 issues that ranged from eight pages to nearly 200 pages per issue. *Sinister Wisdom’s Feminist Bookstore News Project* will generate two bibliographies:

♀ A **“Descriptive Database of Articles in *Feminist Bookstore News* 1976–2000 (including Author, Category, Graphics, and Descriptive Notes)”** of *Feminist Bookstore News*, so researchers can search the thousands of articles published to focus their research interests and explore the wide range of material considered in the magazine. (Phase 1)<sup>1</sup>

♀ An **enumerative bibliography** of every book mentioned in *Feminist Bookstore News* during its lifespan to provide a dataset of books published during this period of feminist interest. (Phase 2)

In addition, the project team has created digital facsimiles of all issues, supplementing the incomplete digital archive, as well as other publications and ephemera from *FBN*. Data will be housed in multiple sites for free, public distribution.

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<sup>1</sup> This descriptive bibliography responds to the call of Joshua Ortiz Baco, Benjamin Charles Germain Lee, Jim Casey, and Sarah H. Salter to “experiment with new ways of enumerating and describing historical periodicals and serial publications” (“Toward an Experimental Bibliography of Hemispheric Reconstruction Newspapers,” *Criticism*, Summer/Fall 2022, vol 64, nos 3-4, pp. 453-470).

## Why Is *Sinister Wisdom* Doing This Project?

*Sinister Wisdom* was founded in 1976 during the women in print movement. Organizationally, *Sinister Wisdom* is interested in the broad history of lesbian culture making, including lesbian publishing. Activists in the women in print movement developed, organized, and sustained many institutions, such as local feminist bookstores, women's coffeehouses, print shops, distribution companies, publishing ventures, and more. As these organizations recede into memory, describing, quantifying, and analyzing the work of the women in print movement becomes more important for the historical record. Important work documenting what the women in print movement meant for lesbian-feminist readers, writers, and publishers during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, but the broader implications of the movement have not been fully explored. What effects did the women in print movement have on mainstream publishing in the United States and in other English-language markets around the world?

A January 2023 conversation with Carol Seajay, held outside her San Francisco home because of COVID-19, resulted in the idea to launch a research project on *Feminist Bookstore News (FBN)*. Reveal Digital digitized issues of *FBN* in the Feminist component of the Independent Voices Project. These issues are now available freely through JSTOR.<sup>2</sup> The digital collection of *FBN*, however, was incomplete. That was the first challenge for the project: to create a complete digital collection of *FBN*. All issues are now digitized and freely available at the [Lesbian Poetry Archives](#) and the [San Francisco Public Library](#).

After completing the digitization, phase one of the project was to develop a full database of articles in *FBN*. I knew from my own research that working with PDFs, even though they are searchable, was challenging for finding and retrieving information on particular topics. The contents database for *Sinister Wisdom*, developed by volunteers, has proven invaluable to women looking for specific articles and topics in the journal. In addition, other table of contents databases that volunteers created at the [Lesbian Poetry Archive](#) for periodicals like *Onyx* and *Aché* have helped researchers understand the scope of the work of t

During a January 2023 conversation, Carol Seajay speculated about a tantalizing idea: what might we learn from a complete database of every book mentioned in *FBN*? How many books were mentioned in *FBN*? What would it involve to create a database of them all? Exploring these questions is phase two of the project.

Phase One, now complete, includes the digitization of the complete run of *FBN* and a corresponding database of table of contents and other information about the material within each issue for researchers to utilize *FBN* as an archive, spark scholarly interest in feminist bookstores and publishing, highlight books out of print, and explore the early networks of feminist merchants.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.jstor.org/site/reveal-digital/independent-voices/feminist/>

## What Was *Feminist Bookstore News*?

*Feminist Bookstore News (FBN)* began publishing in 1976 with the title *Feminist Bookstore Newsletter*. It emerged from the first women in print conference held outside of Omaha, Nebraska, at the request of booksellers who wanted to keep the energy and momentum of the conference going. A hand-printed, stapled-in-the-corner newsletter, *FBN* grew to be the preeminent book trade magazine for feminist bookstores including feminist and lesbian publishers, vendors selling to feminist bookstores, and interested feminist readers. In addition, a range of mainstream and specialty bookstores as well as corporate, independent press, and other social movement publishers read *FBN* avidly. *FBN* ran from 1976 until 2000, publishing over 130 issues that ranged from eight pages to nearly 200 pages per issue. At the end of the run of the periodical, two issues were fully electronic, 22.5 and 23.1. They are included in the database.

*FBN* also published and distributed nationally five, full-color, glossy Feminist Bookstores' Catalogs. Carol Seajay describes these further as "catalogs for bookstores to use for holiday sales and outreach". *FBN* printed 100,000 copies of each catalog using a web press. The catalogs included a list of all the feminist bookstores in the U.S. and Canada, promoting the bookstores collectively. The budget for each catalog was about \$100,000, and they were financed by the catalog's ad revenues. *FBN* rented mailing lists, including the *Ms Magazine* mailing list, and sent the catalog into the world on behalf of feminist bookstores.

"They were huge, expensive, and effective projects."<sup>3</sup> Digital copies of these catalogs are available at the [Lesbian Poetry Archive here](#). Additional ephemera—inserts to the newsletters, flyers, and other material—have been digitized and labeled as 'extras'; this material is available [here](#).

*FBN* continued in a different iteration as *Books To Watch Out For*, also edited by Carol Seajay. More information and archives of those issues are available [here](#). At present, *Books To Watch Out For* is not included in this bibliographic project.

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<sup>3</sup> Personal email with Julie Enszer, April 2024.

## What Is *Sinister Wisdom* Doing?

“*Sinister Wisdom*’s *Feminist Bookstore News* Project: Understanding the Scope and Impact of the Women in Print Movement through Bibliography” is a project to create two large datasets from *FBN* in two phases.

In Phase One (now complete), we created a “Descriptive Database of Articles in *Feminist Bookstore News* 1976-2000 (including Author, Category, Graphics, and Descriptive Notes).” This database lists all the articles and advertisements published in *Feminist Bookstore News*, enabling interested folks to search over 5,900 articles published and explore the wide range of materials in the periodical.

In the second phase (prototyped in 2024 and having a targeted completion date of late 2025), *Sinister Wisdom* volunteers will create an enumerative bibliography of every book mentioned in *Feminist Bookstore News* to provide a dataset of books published during this period.

## How Is *Sinister Wisdom* Doing This Work?

Carol Seajay, *FBN*’s publisher, commented in a January 2023 conversation that all the books mentioned in *FBN*, in aggregate, would yield valuable insights into the scope and impact of the movement. Books listed in *FBN* include not only books published by independent feminist book publishers but also trade books, university press books, self-published books, and other social movement and small press books. It is a treasure trove of information for researchers. In January 2023, PDFs of many issues were freely available through JSTOR in the Reveal Digital collection. While useful, the collection was incomplete and difficult for researchers to use in a large-scale way.

As the editor and publisher of *Sinister Wisdom*, a community-based lesbian literary journal, and the curator at the [Lesbian Poetry Archive](#), I took Seajay’s comment as a challenge to our community. How could *FBN* become a meaningful and complete historical record for contemporary lesbian writers, researchers, and readers? How could we engage this artifact of feminist history using the spirit and methods that sparked, nurtured, and sustained the women in print community?

More concretely, how could we create a complete archive of *FBN*, a database to make it more searchable and usable, and a database of all the books mentioned in *FBN*? And how could we do all of that with primarily volunteer labor?

The work began with a brief note in a *Sinister Wisdom* email announcing our spring 2023 issue on its publication date, April 15, 2023. I wrote as a postscript to the email:

"Psst! Julie and *Sinister Wisdom* are cooking up a new project and need some helping hands. Have a bit of time from May until August? A solid internet connection? Like feminist and lesbian books? Like organizing information? We have a project for you! Email Julie for more information and to express your interest. We will build a cohort of volunteers for a nifty project over the summer. Keep your eyes peeled for a Zoom launch meeting and get on the special email list for more information."

Over forty volunteers from *Sinister Wisdom* signed up to participate in the project. Around the same time, a graduate student in Spanish language and literature at the University of California-Berkeley emailed me about a summer internship. I asked if she would be willing to spend some time at the San Francisco Public Library scanning documents. She agreed, and so I found a vital partner in this project in Chloe Berger. Over the next year, Chloe scanned all the missing issues of *FBN*—and more.

By May 19, the *Sinister Wisdom Snapshot*, our biweekly email of links, good reads, and lesbian/queer women's happenings, posted this announcement:

"*Sinister Wisdom's* summer project working on an archive of *Feminist Bookstore News* is underway! If you have time this summer to volunteer on some database projects associated with it, please email Julie and mark your calendar for our kickoff meeting on Friday, 26 May 2023, at high noon E.T. If you sign up for the project, you will receive a Zoom link to the gathering."

In May, Chloe embarked on a regular schedule at the San Francisco Public Library's Hormel Center scanning issues. Issues missing from the Reveal Digital collection, notably the first six volumes of *FBN*, were the first priority. The collection of *FBN* issues at the SFPL was nearly complete. Collaborating with Seajay and the SFPL, Chloe created OCR (optical character recognition) scans of all missing issues to make them searchable.

Through research and conversations with Seajay, Chloe uncovered additional interesting gems about *FBN*. For example, there were occasionally special inserts into *FBN* only for feminist bookstore subscribers. The digitized copies of *FBN* in the Reveal Collection came from the Barbara Grier collection at the SFPL and did not include those inserts (Grier subscribed as a publisher, not as a feminist bookstore). Chloe scanned these special inserts and other interesting material for the project, including finding and digitizing the two email-only issues of *FBN*. All these materials are available at the *Lesbian Poetry Archive* at

[www.LesbianPoetryArchive.org/FBN](http://www.LesbianPoetryArchive.org/FBN).

With scanning in hand, project participants embarked on the work of creating a database of all the articles in *FBN*. Sitting down with issues of *FBN*, we created a shared spreadsheet on Google Sheets and began entering data, building in a single spreadsheet a complete list of all of the articles line by line.

After a few issues, we had a model spreadsheet and some basic instructions on the project to engage more people in the project. Individual volunteers signed up for a specific issue of *FBN*, read it, and entered bibliographic information into a shared spreadsheet on Google Sheets. *Sinister Wisdom* organized a series of Zoom meetings to explain the project and the process and then hosted Zoom work sessions during the summer of 2023.

By August 31, 2023, volunteers and interns completed data entry on sixty issues of *FBN*, about half the corpus. During the fall of 2023, we paused to assess the strengths and limitations of the existing data structure and refine it before completing the second half of the data entry for the descriptive bibliography of *FBN* in the spring. From December 2023 through March 2024, *Sinister Wisdom* volunteers and interns returned to the project and completed the database.

Volunteers entered nearly all of the data freeform. While guidelines provided some standardization for review and data entry, the final product does reflect differences among humans in reading, analysis, and entry. When the database was completed, the data was cleaned and standardized for final use and display. In addition to the “Descriptive Database of Articles in *Feminist Bookstore News* 1976–2000,” Cassidy Hunt, a volunteer, generated a list of every issue published, with notes about numbering oddities and other bibliographic details. This list is included in Appendix A and is available with the “Descriptive Database” as PDF, Word, and Excel files.

Salome “Sam” Grasland and her coworker Nayeli Jaime at [The Information Lab](#) created a dashboard for the project. The dashboard is hosted on *Tableau Public* and offers a searchable interface for the “Descriptive Database.” [It is available here.](#)

## A Word About Volunteer Labor

“*Sinister Wisdom’s Feminist Bookstore News* Project: Understanding the Scope and Impact of the Women in Print Movement through Bibliography” is a project completely done with volunteer lesbian labor. Many people working on the project recognize this periodical and the communities that it networked as vital to our lesbian history and heritage. I believe that labor undertaken to preserve and analyze lesbian history should be compensated, and I also recognize that compensation is often not possible under the current conditions of capitalism in which we live.

At times, I and others collectively bemoan the diminishment of lesbians and feminists in systems of capitalism that do not value our cultural and intellectual achievements. A lack of capital to support lesbians doing this crucial work for our communities results in fewer meaningful projects within lesbian communities. At other times, I revel in the ability to freely give time, attention, and labor to uplift lesbian and feminist communities. This project reflects these conflicting realities at this moment in US capitalism.



## How Can I Get Involved?

*Sinister Wisdom* would love to have your help in the next phase of the project. In early June 2024, *Sinister Wisdom* will post information at [www.sinisterwisdom.org/FBN](http://www.sinisterwisdom.org/FBN) about how to participate in the generation of the book database. You can also email Julie R. Enszer at [julie@sinisterwisdom.org](mailto:julie@sinisterwisdom.org) and ask to be put on the *FBN* Project listserv.

## How Will People Learn About The Project?

This project and its databases were built with volunteer lesbian labor, which was freely given to uplift and amplify lesbian voices. As such, all material generated by the project is intended to be open and free for the duration. Believing in the strengths of distributed networks, the data and this description of the project are available to search and download for free at multiple locations.

The “Descriptive Database of Articles in *Feminist Bookstore News* 1976–2000” is available now to browse at the *Tableau Dashboard*, created by Salome “Sam” Grasland and her colleague. [It is available here.](#)

The “Descriptive Database of *Feminist Bookstore News* Articles” is available to download at the [Lesbian Poetry Archive](#) and at [Sinister Wisdom](#). The project is exploring making the materials available in other locations as well.

Feminist Bookstore News Dashboards by [Salome Grasland](#)

**Article List Exploration**  
Click logo & info icon to open/close more information regarding the FBN.

Search and Filters	Volume.No	Article Title	Author	Page	Notes
Search Article Title		Books in Spanish	Carol Seajay	3	None
Search Author		Brilliant Ideas	Carol Seajay	5	None
Search Notes		Come be midwife to our birthing Old Wives' Tales	Unknown	7	Women's Visions and Books party on ...
Year	01.1	Coming Soon	Carol Seajay	5	Preview of next issue
Month		Editor's Note?	Carol Seajay	2	None
Volume		Hot New Books	Carol Seajay	2	None
Issue		Last Chance New Titles	Carol Seajay	6	very short
		Mission/About Newsletter	Re	1	None
		Rising Woman Books, Santa Rosa, California, h..	Unknown	8	None
		Black Women	Unknown	5	None
		Distributors	Unknown	6	A list of distributors
		Letters to the newsletter	Betsy; Francine [31..	1	None
	01.2	Native American Woman	Unknown	5	None
		New Titles	Unknown	7	None
		News!	Unknown	4	Mother Right bookstore opened; ..
		Young Women & Youth Liberation Booklist	Carol Seajay; Youth Liber..	6	None
		Additions to lesbian booklist from Lyndall	Unknown	3	List of lesbian titles
		Brilliant Ideas #3	Unknown	6	Advertising and promotion, selling ..
		Letters	Coletta Reid [Diana Press..	2	None

Preview window content: FEMINIST BOOKSTORE NEWSLETTER  
c/o Old Wives' Tales  
532 Valencia St.  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 552-1015  
October 76 Vol. 1: #1

At the 1976 Women in Print Conference, Aug 29-Sep 5, representatives from about 20 feminist bookstores across the country met in skills and political workshops. At the end of the week we talked about and came up with some short and long range goals and visions. We presented these to the larger group (including printers, publishers, distributors, magazines and newspapers). The following is approximately what we presented (the original notes having been lost in some later chaos):

1. We want a feminist bookstore newsletter (this is it!) to share information and to help create a communications network based on cooperation rather than (you guessed it) competition.
2. We envision feminist bookstores as a network of "women's voices" and information centers across the country. (feminist shelter?)
3. We are committed to developing our politics as well as our service functions.
4. We want to find ways of dealing with the inherent contradiction between being revolutionaries and being in a capitalist business system.
5. We want to develop ways of working together that make us more accountable to our communities and to each other.
6. We are committed to actively support the feminist media and to increase its effectiveness.
7. We intend to work on creating a feminist "books in print" which would include ordering information.

And now, more about this newsletter. It is made up of submissions from several bookstores that were at the WIP Conference and put together by Carol from Old Wives' Tales, San Francisco and A Woman's Place, Oakland and by Andre from Rising Woman Books, Santa Rosa, CA. The first three issues are being created with monetary support (loans) from Womabooks, New York City, New Worlds Bookstore, Sonerville, Mass., and Amazon Bookstore, Minneapolis, Minn.

Each issue will be composed of submissions by us, the subscribers. Ideas for contents of future issues are: info on books from your presses; other courses; book lists on specific subjects (third world women, books for young women, etc.); news about your bookstore; trouble with publishers and distributors; outreach programs; reflections on processes; and anything else you think of.

The deadline for each issue will be the last of the month. In the next issue, deadline November 1, will be a summary of the costs for the first two issues. By the third issue we'll have a subscription rates (which will be on a sliding scale). A year's subscription will include the first three issues.

Got any ideas for names for this rag?

All next time.  
Andre

## How Do I Credit This Work?

The recommended citations for the “Descriptive Database of Articles in *Feminist Bookstore News* 1976-2000” are:

Descriptive Database of Articles in *Feminist Bookstore News* 1976-2000 (including Author, Category, Graphics, and Descriptive Notes), Dover, FL: *Sinister Wisdom*, May 2024, [www.lesbianpoetryarchive.org/FBNdatabase](http://www.lesbianpoetryarchive.org/FBNdatabase).

*Sinister Wisdom*, May 2024, “Descriptive Database of Articles in *Feminist Bookstore News* 1976-2000 (including Author, Category, Graphics, and Descriptive Notes),” *Lesbian Poetry Archive*, [www.lesbianpoetryarchive.org/FBNdatabase](http://www.lesbianpoetryarchive.org/FBNdatabase).

## Big Thanks!

Julie R. Enszer and *Sinister Wisdom* wish to acknowledge the following people for their crucial contributions to this project:

Carol Seajay, the brilliant mind and indefatigable editor and publisher of *Feminist Bookstore News* and *Books to Watch Out For*, is an incredible ally, advocate, informant, and source of inspiration and support for this project. A million thanks to her. Carol, I hope that this project continues to honor you and your labor.

Chloe Berger’s appearance in May 2023 galvanized this project and her scanning work and visits with Carol made the project possible. So much gratitude.

Sam Grasland volunteered with *Sinister Wisdom* for many years and was entering the field of data science when this project began. Sam provided vital labor, insight, and thinking in the execution of the project.

Heather Tapia created the first list of books mentioned in *FBN* initiating the second phase of the project. We are all grateful for her work!

Cassidy Hunt joined the project as a volunteer from Edinburgh, Scotland during the summer of 2023. In January 2024, Michaela Hayes joined *Sinister Wisdom* as an intern with Cassidy. Together they organized everyone to complete the data entry, reviewed multiple issues themselves, and completed innumerable administrative tasks on the project. We would not have gotten to this point without them.

Tim Wilson, archivist, and Dee Dee Kramer, Digicenter Manager, at the SFPL and the Hormel Center offered help and assistance every step of the way. It is wonderful to have community library partners filled with kind and generous people dedicated to preserving lesbian and queer histories.

Every person who worked on this project indexing an issue of *FBN* was a vital and valuable part of the project. Here is the complete list of volunteers who participated in the creation of the "Descriptive Database":

Alexa Mangione  
Allison Quinlan  
Ana A. Rico  
Andréanne  
Wahlman Anna  
Greene  
Carla Bullock  
Cassidy Hunt  
Chloe Berger  
Courtney Heidorn  
Dana  
Westmoreland  
Darla Tejada  
Elizabeth Galoozis  
Elizabeth Lanyon  
Frankie Pokorny  
Kali Herbst  
Minino Katie  
Stollmack Laura  
Gibbs  
Li-Anne Wright  
M'lyn Hines

Maragret Zanimiller  
Matty Rihn  
Michaela Hayes  
Mikayla Hamilton  
Nicole Olila  
Noelle Hendrickson  
Pelaya Arapakis  
Rachel Minetti  
Raquel Espasande  
Rosal Lorico  
Rose Norman  
Sam Grasland  
Sarah Horner  
Sarah Parsons  
Savannah Tweeddale  
Taylor Doherty  
Taylor Harding  
Taylor Humin  
Theo Baker

Special thanks to Camilla Crane and Andréanne Wahlman who stepped in to finish some datawork on a tight deadline near the end. Immense gratitude to everyone who helped.

Thank you to every person who worked on or contributed to *FBN* when it was being published between 1976 and 2000. Your work is valued, remembered, and celebrated with this project.

Appreciation to the thousands of women who were a part of the women in print movement during the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. The women in print movement and its history make possible the current literary landscape where lesbians and feminists continue to write, print, publish, and promote literary work.

Thank you to the Bibliographic Society of America for a fellowship to support the second phase of this project.

Thank you to the board of directors of *Sinister Wisdom* who work tirelessly to nurture and grow the organization.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has donated to *Sinister Wisdom*. Your contributions make this work possible.

## Appendix A: *Feminist Bookstore News* Issue List

VOLUME	NUMBER	YEAR PUBLISHED	NUMBER OF PAGES	FORMAT	On JST OR?	On LPA?	NOTES
1	1	1976	8	Newsletter	N	Y	
1	2	1976	12	Newsletter	N	Y	
1	3	1977	13	Newsletter	N	Y	
1	4	1977	14	Newsletter	N	Y	
1	5	1977	15	Newsletter	N	Y	
1	6	1977	7	Newsletter	N	Y	
1	7	1977	14	Newsletter	N	Y	
1	8	1977	12	Newsletter	N	Y	
1	9/10	1977	20	Newsletter	N	Y	First double issue of FBN
2	1	1978	18	Newsletter	N	Y	
2	2	1978	20	Newsletter	N	Y	
2	3	1978	15	Newsletter	N	Y	
2	4	1978	14	Newsletter	N	Y	Theme: women's bookstores & censorship This special issue was comprised of a copy of BookLegger's <i>Guide to the Passionate Perils of Publishing</i> and a cover letter.
2	5/6	1978	86	Newsletter	N	Y	
2	7/8	1978	18	Newsletter	N	Y	
3	1	1979	20	Newsletter	N	Y	
3	2	1979	15	Newsletter	N	Y	
3	3	1978	22	Newsletter	N	Y	The Emergency Issue was comprised of a print-out of the names and addresses and bookstore terms for all of the 600+ publishers that WIND had distributed, so that the <i>FBN</i> bookstores could order those books directly in the face of WIND's demise.
3	4	1979	18	Newsletter	N	Y	
3	5	1979	12	Newsletter	N	Y	
3	6	1980	18	Newsletter	N	Y	
3	7	1980	14	Newsletter	N	Y	
4	1	1980	26	Newsletter	N	Y	

## Appendix A: Feminist Bookstore News Issue List

4	2	1980	27	Newsletter	N	Y	
4	3	1980	23	Newsletter	N	Y	
4	4	1980	20	Newsletter	N	Y	
4	5	1981	18	Newsletter	N	Y	
4	6	1981	33	Newsletter	N	Y	
5	1	1981	38	Newsletter	N	Y	
5	2	1981	22	Newsletter	N	Y	
5	3	1981	41	Newsletter	N	Y	
5	4	1982	38	Newsletter	N	Y	Theme: issue dedicated to discussions about anti-semitism through a series of letters and responses
6	1	1982	31	Newsletter	N	Y	
6	SP	1982	18	Supplement	N	Y	Supplement to issue 6.2 that was only distributed to women's bookstores
6	2	1982	20	Magazine	N	Y	FBN switches from newsletter to magazine format
6	3	1983	28	Magazine	N	Y	
6	4/5	1983	48	Magazine	N	Y	
7	1	1983	48	Magazine	Y	Y	
7	2	1984	44	Magazine	Y	Y	
7	3	1984	48	Magazine	Y	Y	
7	4	1984	48	Magazine	Y	Y	
7	5	1985	40	Magazine	Y	Y	
7	6	1985	52	Magazine	Y	Y	
8	1	1985	40	Magazine	Y	Y	First sidelines issue of FBN
8	2/3	1985	56	Magazine	Y	Y	
8	4	1985	52	Magazine	Y	Y	
8	5	1986	60	Magazine	Y	Y	
8	6	1986	72	Magazine	Y	Y	Sidelines issue 1986 Theme: International Issue. Double issue, labelled vol. 9 no.1 on front cover, is actually vol. 9 no.1-2 Note from Carol re. this issue "I've noted on my inventory list that FBN 9.1 is actually V9 N 1-2. It was "The International Issue" reporting on the Second International Feminist Bookfair in Oslo and everything there."
9	1/2	1986	85	Magazine	Y	Y	
9	3/4	1987	92	Magazine	Y	Y	First annual University Press Issue
9	5	1987	52	Magazine	Y	Y	

## Appendix A: Feminist Bookstore News Issue List

9	6	1987	99	Magazine	Y	Y	FBN 10th Anniversary special double issue - combines vol. 9 no. 6 with vol. 10 no. 1
10	2	1987	84	Magazine	Y	Y	Sidelines issue 1987
10	3	1987	84	Magazine	Y	Y	
10	4	1987	92	Magazine	Y	Y	Second annual University Press Issue
10	5	1988	78	Magazine	Y	Y	
10	6	1988	68	Magazine	Y	Y	Special issue: 3rd International Feminist Bookfair 1988
11	1	1988	84	Magazine	Y	Y	
11	2	1988	24	Magazine	Y	Y	Sidelines issue 1988
11	3	1988	92	Magazine	Y	Y	
11	4	1988	102	Magazine	Y	Y	Third annual University Press Issue
11	5	1989	86	Magazine	Y	Y	
11	6	1989	102	Magazine	Y	Y	Special issue: Recovery Books
12	1	1989	96	Magazine	Y	Y	
12	2	1989	96	Magazine	Y	Y	Sidelines issue 1989
12	3	1989	96	Magazine	Y	Y	
12	4	1989	100	Magazine	Y	Y	Fourth annual University Press Issue
12	5	1990	92	Magazine	Y	Y	Special issue: The Periodicals Issue
12	6	1990	96	Magazine	Y	Y	
13	1	1990	100	Magazine	Y	Y	Sidelines issue 1990. This issue is the first sidelines published and bound separately. Previous sidelines sections were published as inserts to a standing issue of FBN.
13	SP	1990	68	Magazine	Y	Y	
13	2	1990	96	Magazine	Y	Y	
13	3	1990	130	Magazine	Y	Y	
13	4	1990	130	Magazine	Y	Y	Fifth annual University Press Issue
13	5	1991	80	Magazine	Y	Y	
13	6	1991	120	Magazine	Y	Y	
14	1	1991	108	Magazine	Y	Y	
14	2	1991	96	Magazine	Y	Y	
14	SP	1991	52	Magazine	Y	Y	Sidelines issue 1991. Published and bound separately.
14	3	1991	128	Magazine	Y	Y	
14	4	1991	112	Magazine	Y	Y	
14	5	1992	116	Magazine	Y	Y	Sixth annual University Press Issue
14	6	1992	112	Magazine	Y	Y	

## Appendix A: Feminist Bookstore News Issue List

15	1	1992	128	Magazine	Y	Y	
15	2	1992	92	Magazine	Y	Y	
15	SP	1992	44	Magazine	Y	N	Sidelines issue 1992. Published and bound separately.
15	3	1992	136	Magazine	Y	Y	
15	4	1992	116	Magazine	Y	N	Seventh annual University Press Issue
15	5	1993	108	Magazine	Y	N	Theme: The Children's Books Issue
15	6	1993	132	Magazine	Y	N	
16	1	1993	132	Magazine	Y	N	
16	SP	1993	64	Magazine	Y	N	Sidelines issue 1993. Published and bound separately.
16	2	1993	136	Magazine	Y	N	
16	3	1993	136	Magazine	Y	N	
16	4	1993	124	Magazine	Y	N	Eighth annual University Press Issue
16	5	1994	110	Magazine	Y	N	Theme: Women and Travel Issue
16	6	1994	136	Magazine	Y	N	
17	1	1994	140	Magazine	Y	N	
17	2	1994	104	Magazine	Y	N	
17	SP	1994	72	Magazine	Y	N	Sidelines issue 1994. Published and bound separately.
17	3	1994	128	Magazine	Y	N	
17	4	1994	108	Magazine	Y	N	
17	5	1995	120	Magazine	Y	N	Theme: Sports, Health & Fitness
17	6	1995	136	Magazine	Y	N	Theme: National Feminist Bookstore Week
18	1	1995	140	Magazine	Y	N	
18	2	1995	94	Magazine	Y	N	
18	SP	1995	64	Magazine	Y	N	Sidelines issue 1995. Published and bound separately.
18	3	1995	144	Magazine	Y	N	
18	4	1995	104	Magazine	Y	N	
18	5	1996	116	Magazine	Y	N	Theme: International Women's Voices
18	6	1996	128	Magazine	Y	N	
19	1	1996	132	Magazine	Y	N	
19	2	1996	144	Magazine	Y	N	Sidelines issue 1996. Published and bound separately.
19	3	1996	140	Magazine	Y	N	
19	4	1996	132	Magazine	Y	N	Theme: Women & Humor
19	5	1997	108	Magazine	Y	N	Theme: Women in Cyberspace
19	6	1997	136	Magazine	Y	N	
20	1	1997	136	Magazine	Y	N	Theme: FBN 20th Anniversary
20	2	1997	136	Magazine	Y	N	Sidelines issue 1997. Published and bound separately.

## Appendix A: Feminist Bookstore News Issue List

20	3	1997	128	Magazine	N	Y	
20	4	1997	140	Magazine	Y	N	
20	5/6	1998	144	Magazine	Y	N	Theme: double issue for Black History Month & Women's History Month
21	1	1998	160	Magazine	Y	N	
21	2	1998	148	Magazine	Y	N	Sidelines issue 1998. Published and bound separately.
21	3	1998	140	Magazine	Y	N	Theme: "young" feminists
21	4	1998	104	Magazine	Y	N	
21	5	1999	132	Magazine	Y	N	Theme: 2nd annual Black History Month & Women's History Month
21	6	1999	148	Magazine	Y	N	
22	1	1999	112	Magazine	Y	N	The digital archive of this issue on JSTOR has an error with some pages repeating
22	2	1999	128	Magazine	N	Y	Sidelines issue 1999. Published and bound separately.
22	3/4	1999	162	Magazine	Y	N	
22	5	2000	32	Electronic	N	Y	First electronic issue of FBN
22	6	2000	140	Magazine	Y	N	
23	1	2000	28	Electronic	N	Y	Final issue of FBN

### N.B.

In *FBN* vol. 14, no. 5, Seajay mentions the desire for a *FBN* book index.

In *FBN* vol. 19, no. 5, Seajay writes about indexing: “We’re looking for a library student or any other volunteer interested in indexing *FBN*’s first twenty years. It’s not as big a project as it seems—all the books are indexed for the last ten years, but an index on articles would be a wonderful resource.”

*FBN* published five Feminist Bookstores’ Catalogs from 1995 through 1999. Digital reproductions of these catalogues are available at the *Lesbian Poetry Archive*, [www.lesbianpoetryarchive.org/FBN](http://www.lesbianpoetryarchive.org/FBN).

In 2003, Carol Seajay launched *Books to Watch Out For*. More information about that project is also at the *Lesbian Poetry Archive*, [www.lesbianpoetryarchive.org/fbn](http://www.lesbianpoetryarchive.org/fbn)



## Appendix B: *Feminist Bookstore News* By the Numbers

Year of first issue	<b>1976</b>
Year of last issue	<b>2000</b>
Total number of issues of FBN	<b>134</b>
Total number of pages published in FBN	<b>10,746</b>
Length of first issue	<b>8 pages</b>
Length of last issue	<b>140 pages (22.6, last print issue)</b>
Length of last electronic issue	<b>28 pages (23.1, last electronic issue)</b>
Shortest issue published	<b>7 pages (volume 1, number 6)</b>
Longest issue published	<b>162 pages (volume 22, number 3/4)</b>
Number of issues published in the 1970s	<b>20</b>
Number of issues published in the 1980s	<b>47</b>
Number of issues published in the 1990s	<b>64</b>
Number of issues published in the 2000s	<b>1 print and 2 electronic issues</b>
Total pages published in the 1970s	<b>373</b>
Total pages published in the 1980s	<b>2635</b>
Total pages published in the 1990s	<b>7538</b>
Total pages published in the 2000s	<b>200</b>
First issue formalizing a Table of Contents	<b>volume 3, number 6 (1980)</b>
First email only issue	<b>volume 22, number 5, published 2/21/2000</b>
Title changed from Newsletter to News	<b>volume 6, number 2 (1982)</b>
First display advertisement*	<b>volume 3, number 5 (October 1979)</b>
Name of advertiser	<b>Harper &amp; Row Publishers</b>
Books advertised	<b><i>Seasons of Woman</i> by Penelope Washbourn; <i>Rape</i> by Susan Griffin; <i>Womanspirit Rising</i> by Carol P. Christ and Judith Plaskow; <i>The Spiral Dance</i> by Starhawk; <i>Becoming Woman</i> by Penelope Washbourn</b>
Number of advertisers in the January 1985 issue	<b>4</b>
Number of advertisers in the Fall 1985 issue	<b>19</b>
Number of advertisers in the January 1990 issue	<b>28</b>
Number of advertisers in the Fall 1990 issue	<b>19</b>
Number of advertisers in the January 1995 issue	<b>38</b>
Number of advertisers in the Fall 1995 issue	<b>76</b>
Number of advertisers in the January 2000 issue	<b>54</b>
First issue produced on a computer	<b>volume 7, number 2 (1984)</b>
First issue produced using desktop publishing	<b>volume 11, number 4 (1988)</b>

\*Debates about advertising began very early in the life of *Feminist Bookstore News*. In *FBN* volume 2, number 4, a paid review was published. Interesting debates about advertising continued through the following years.

Compiled by Cassidy Hunt for *Sinister Wisdom*.