

# Women's History Month



## Book List March 2013

### ***Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics***

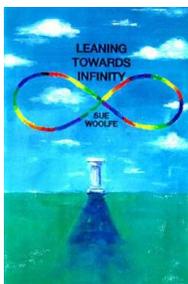
The National Women's History Project celebrates the contributions of women throughout history and around the world. Although women's history is intertwined with that of men, several factors - social, religious, economic, and biological - have worked to create a unique sphere of women's history.

A history week developed around March 8<sup>th</sup> (already established as International Women's Day in 1911). In 1987, thanks to lobbying by a coalition lead by the National Women's History Project, the week expanded to encompass the entire month.

This year's theme is "Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics." It is with that in mind, and an emphasis on recently published titles, that we present the following selection of books, videos, and websites that will help you learn more about women in history. All books and videos are available at the Norfolk Public Library, and the websites may be viewed online at any of the public computer stations located in the library or from home.

## ADULT FICTION

The following is a selected list of fiction books that provide an insight into women's experiences in history as well as Women's Empowerment through literature and storytelling.

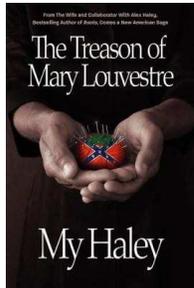
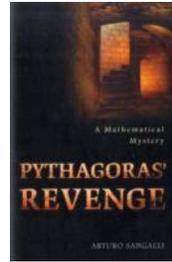


### **Leaning Towards Infinity: How My Mother's Apron Folds into My Life**

*(Sue Woolfe)* Through three generations of a family and over several continents, Woolfe explores and prods at the force of brilliance in some women, and the actions of genius, but equally she casts a searchlight around the dark world of having to be a mother, that paradox where infinite love must withstand the daily onslaught of sleeplessness, anger, and selfishness.

### **Pythagoras' Revenge: A Mathematical Mystery**

(*Arturo Sangalli*) The celebrated mathematician and philosopher Pythagoras left no writings. But what if he had and the manuscript was never found? Where would it be located? And what information would it reveal? These questions are the inspiration for the mathematical mystery novel *Pythagoras' Revenge*. Suspenseful and instructive, *Pythagoras' Revenge* weaves fact, fiction, mathematics, computer science, and ancient history into a surprising and sophisticated thriller.



### **The Treason of Mary Louvestre**

(*My Haley*) From the widow and collaborator of Alex Haley, award-winning author of *Roots*, comes a new American epic from the Civil War. *The Treason of Mary Louvestre* is based on the true story of a seamstress slave from the Confederate town of Norfolk, Virginia. When her owner gets involved with modifications to the ironclad CSS Virginia, Mary copies the plans and sets out to commit treason against the South. Facing certain death as a spy if caught, she treks two hundred miles during the bitter winter of 1862 to reach the office of Union Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles, where she hands over the plans.

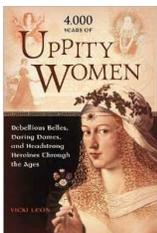
### **WWW: Wake**

(*Robert J. Sawyer*) Caitlin Decter is young, pretty, feisty, a genius at math-and blind. Still, she can surf the net with the best of them, following its complex paths clearly in her mind. But Caitlin's brain long ago co-opted her primary visual cortex to help her navigate online. So when she receives an implant to restore her sight, instead of seeing reality, the landscape of the World Wide Web explodes into her consciousness, spreading out all around her in a riot of colors and shapes. While exploring this amazing realm, she discovers *something* lurking in the background.



## **ADULT NONFICTION**

The following is a selected list of adult nonfiction books on topics of women in history, science, and more.

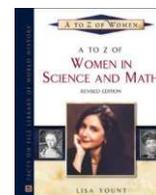


### **4,000 Years of Uppity Women: Rebellious Belles, Daring Dames, and Headstrong Heroines Through the Ages**

(*Vicki León*) A light-hearted look at women in history through 1899.

## A to Z of Women in Science and Math

(Lisa Yount) Provides concise biographical profiles of 195 women throughout history who have made significant contributions in the fields of science and mathematics.

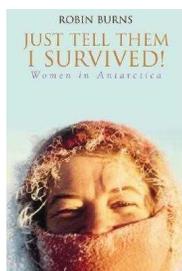


### As I Remember: An Autobiography

(Lillian M. Gilbreth) Written in 1941, Dr. Gilbreth's third-person autobiography focuses on her family but with some references to her time and motion studies, development of the modern kitchen (creating the "work triangle"), the synthesis of psychology and scientific management, and the industrial consulting firm she shared with her husband (see also *Cheaper by the Dozen* by Frank B. Gilbreth).

### In Other Worlds: SF and the Human Imagination

(Margaret Atwood) A series of essays explores essential truths about the modern world and the author's personal relationship with the science fiction genre, in a volume complemented by key reviews and her three unpublished Ellmann Lectures.

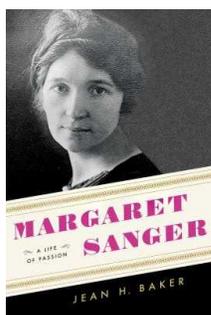
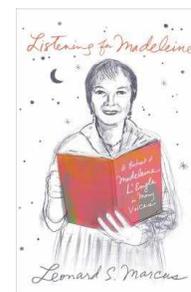


### Just Tell Them I Survived! Women in Antarctica

(Robin Burns) About 400 women have been on Antarctic expeditions in roles ranging from scientists to radio operators to support staff for short stints or long winters. These accounts show women seeking adventurous lives beyond the restrictions of more civilized climes in an environment of arresting beauty and isolation.

### Listening for Madeleine: A Portrait of Madeleine L'Engle in Many Voices

(Leonard S. Marcus, ed.) Madeleine L'Engle, as a writer of skillful and popular books for educated American children, has been a much-loved and influential figure for many US authors. Leonard S. Marcus is an experienced writer about children's books and their authors. As editor, he collected a set of memories of L'Engle by those who knew her, including contributors who have been influenced in many ways by that contact.



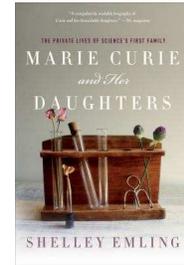
### Margaret Sanger: A Life of Passion

(Jean H. Baker) Undoubtedly the most influential advocate for birth control even before the term existed, Margaret Sanger ignited a movement that has shaped our society to this day. Her views on reproductive rights have made her a frequent target of conservatives and so-called family values activists. Yet lately, even progressives have shied away from her, citing socialist leanings and a purported belief in eugenics as a blight on her accomplishments. In this captivating new biography, the

renowned feminist historian Jean H. Baker rescues Sanger from such critiques and restores her to the vaunted place in history she once held.

### **Marie Curie and Her Daughters: The Private Lives of Science's First Family**

(*Shelley Emling*) A new portrait of the two-time Nobel winner and her two daughters. Focusing on the first family in science, this biography of Marie Curie plumbs the recesses of her relationships with her two daughters, extraordinary in their own right, and presents the legendary scientist in a fresh way.

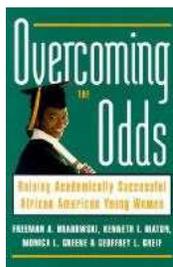
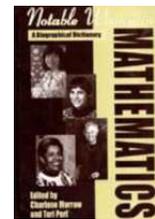


### **My Beloved World**

(*Sonia Sotomayor*) The first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor has become an instant American icon. With a candor and intimacy never undertaken by a sitting justice, she recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench -- a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself.

### **Notable Women in Mathematics: A Biographical Dictionary**

(*Charlene Morrow and Teri Perl, eds.*) Substantive biographical essays on 59 women mathematicians from around the world who have made significant contributions to mathematics from antiquity to the present.

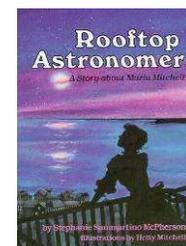


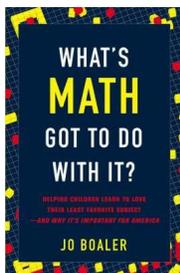
### **Overcoming the Odds: Raising Academically Successful African American Young Women**

(*Freeman A. Hrabowski III, et al.*) This book offers specific and inspiring examples of the practices, attitudes, and parenting strategies that have enabled these women to persevere and triumph. It is an invaluable guidebook on creating the conditions that lead to academic-and lifelong-success for parents, educators, policy makers, and all those concerned about the education of young African American women.

### **Rooftop Astronomer: A Story About Maria Mitchell**

(*Stephanie Sammartino McPherson and Hetty Mitchell*) Born in 1818, Maria Mitchell had the good fortune to grow up in a Quaker family where daughters were as well educated as sons. Her love for science led her to become America's first professional female astronomer and the first to discover a telescopic comet. Later, her love for justice led her to fight for women's rights as president of the Women's Congress and as a professor at Vassar.

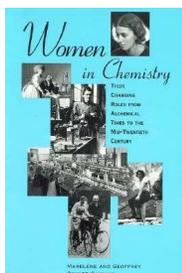
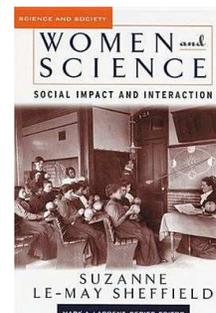




**What's Math Got to Do with It? Helping Children Learn to Love Their Most Hated Subject--And Why It's Important for America** (*Jo Boaler*) In this straightforward and inspiring book, Boaler outlines the nature of the problem by following the progress of students in middle and high schools over a number of years, to find out which teaching methods are exciting students and getting results.

### **Women and Science: Social Impact and Interaction** (*Suzanne Le-May Sheffield*)

Marie Curie was exceptional, but she was ordinary as well. She faced all the trials and tribulations shared by women of her time; furthermore, she had to contend with the barriers against women's wider participation in educational institutions, in scientific practice, and professional attainments and rewards.



**Women in Chemistry: Their Changing Roles from Alchemical Times to the Mid-Twentieth Century** (*Marelene Rayner-Canham, Geoffrey Rayner-Canham*) Though rarely noted, women have been active participants in the chemical sciences since the beginning of recorded history. This thought-provoking book brings to life the many talented women who--besides the universally respected Marie Curie--made significant contributions to chemistry.

## **JUVENILE AND YOUNG ADULT FICTION**

The following is a selected list of recently published juvenile and young adult (YA) fiction books with a strong female character.

### **Bitterblue** (YA)

(*Kristin Cashore*) In the long-awaited companion to bestsellers *Graceling* and *Fire*, Bitterblue, queen of Monsea, realizes her responsibility and the futility of relying on advisors who surround her with lies as she tries to help her people to heal from the thirty-five-year spell cast by her father.

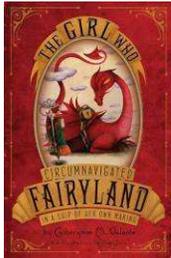


### **Daughter of Smoke and Bone** (YA)

(*Laini Taylor*) Seventeen-year-old Karou, a lovely, enigmatic art student in a Prague boarding school, carries a sketchbook of hideous, frightening monsters--the chimaerae who form the only family she has ever known. She is about to be caught up in a brutal otherworldly war, a romance, and the truth about herself.

### **The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate**

*(Jacqueline Kelly)* In central Texas in 1899, eleven-year-old Callie Vee Tate is instructed to be a lady by her mother, learns about love from the older three of her six brothers, and studies the natural world with her grandfather, the latter of which leads to an important discovery.



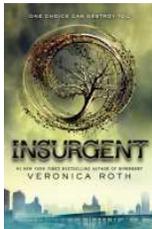
### **The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland In a Ship of Her Own Making**

*(Catherynne M. Valente)* In the tradition of Oz and E. Nesbitt, the first tale of Fairyland takes a young girl named September from Omaha all the way through the Perverse and Perilous Sea, Pandemonium, and the Autumn Provinces, bravely battling the mysterious Marquess alongside her friends. Unforgettable and

beautiful.

### **Grave Mercy (YA)**

*(Robin LaFevers)* In the fifteenth-century kingdom of Brittany, seventeen-year-old Ismae escapes from the brutality of an arranged marriage into the sanctuary of the convent of St. Mortain, where she learns that the god of Death has blessed her with dangerous gifts--and a violent destiny.

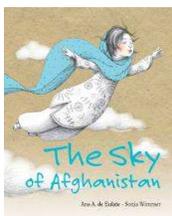


### **Insurgent (YA)**

*(Veronica Roth)* As war surges in the dystopian society around her, sixteen-year-old Divergent Tris Prior must continue trying to save those she loves--and herself--while grappling with haunting questions of grief and forgiveness, identity and loyalty, politics and love.

### **Quintana of Charyn (YA)**

*(Melina Marchetta)* A conclusion to the Lumatere trilogy that includes Froi of the Exiles finds Froi and his companions traveling through Charyn to find Quintana and build an army to secure her unborn child's right to rule, an effort that culminates in an ultimate showdown with Isaboe of Lumatere.



### **The Sky of Afghanistan**

*(Ana A. de Eulate; Sonja Wimmer, ill.)* Beautifully illustrated and undeniably moving, this is the story of a little Afghan girl's dreams of peace. As her country is wracked by war, a girl's imagination drifts toward the idea of peace for her people and for her country. Her powerful dreams soon take wing and fill the homes and hearts of

those around her, uniting a people in their common desire for peace.

## The Spindlers

(Lauren Oliver; Jacopo Bruno, ill.) When Liza's brother, Patrick, changes overnight, Liza knows exactly what has happened: the spindlers have gotten to him and stolen his soul. To rescue Patrick, Liza must go Below, armed with little more than her wits and a broom. There she will face her greatest challenge at the spindlers' nests, where she encounters the evil queen and must pass a series of deadly tests, or else her soul, too, will remain Below forever.



## JUVENILE NONFICTION

The following is a selected list of juvenile nonfiction books on topics of women in history, science, and more.

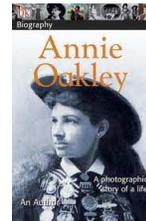


### Abigail Adams

(Kem Knapp Sawyer) Highlights the life and accomplishments of the wife of the second president of the United States, a dedicated wife and mother who spoke up against slavery and for women's rights.

### Annie Oakley

(Charles M. Wills) Whether it was a pistol, rifle, or shotgun, the legendary marksman Annie Oakley was masterful with them all. Dubbed "Little Sure Shot" by Chief Sitting Bull (she was 5 feet tall), her sharp shooting in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show won her many awards and captivated audiences far and wide. Her name remains synonymous with firearms and entertainment.

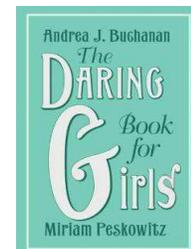


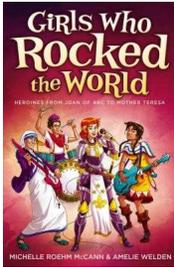
### Brave Girl: Clara and the Shirtwaist Makers' Strike of 1909

(Michelle Markel; Melissa Sweet, ill.) This is an illustrated account of immigrant Clara Lemlich's pivotal role in the influential 1909 women laborer's strike. Markel describes how Clara worked grueling hours to acquire an education and support her family before organizing a massive walkout to protest the unfair working conditions in New York's garment district.

### The Daring Book for Girls

(Andrea J. Buchanan and Miriam Peskowitz; Alexis Seabrook, ill) This is the manual for everything that girls need to know—and that doesn't mean sewing buttonholes! Whether it's female heroes in history, secret note-passing skills, science projects, and friendship bracelets. But it's not just a guide to giggling at sleepovers—although that's included, of course! Whether readers consider themselves tomboys, girly-girls, or a little bit of both, this book is every girl's invitation to adventure.



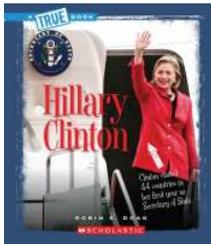
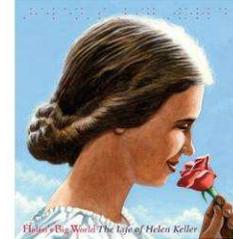


## Girls Who Rocked the World: Heroines from Joan of Arc to Mother Teresa

(Michelle Roehm McCann and Amelie Welden) This fun and inspiring collection of influential stories provides forty-six illustrated examples of strong, independent female role models, all of whom first impacted the world as teenagers or younger.

## Helen's Big World: The Life of Helen Keller

(Doreen Rappaport; Matt Tavares, ill.) This picture book biography looks at the life of the deaf blind girl who learned to communicate from her teacher Annie Sullivan, and from there went on to achieve celebrity and advocate for pacifism, workers' unions, women's suffrage, civil rights, and opportunities for those with disabilities.

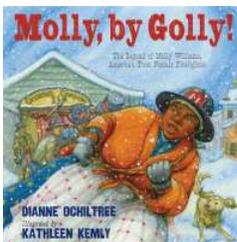
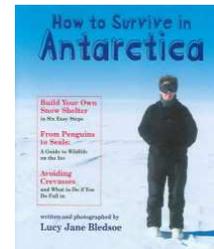


## Hillary Clinton

(Robin S. Doak) As a first lady, a senator, and secretary of state, Hillary Clinton has long been one of the nation's most influential political figures. Readers will follow along with this incredible leader's life story, from her childhood and earliest political activity to her recent activities as secretary of state.

## How to Survive in Antarctica

(Lucy Jane Bledsoe) During her exploratory sojourns to Antarctica, Lucy Jane Bledsoe witnessed many amazing sights, such as mummified seals, and picked up more than a few survival tactics. Part memoir, part survival tips, part curiosities, Lucy Jane Bledsoe's book lets readers vicariously experience the author's adventures while on exploration in Antarctica.

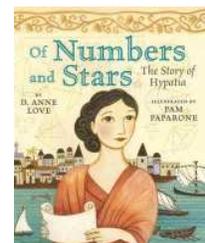


## Molly, By Golly: The Legend of Molly Williams, America's First Female Firefighter

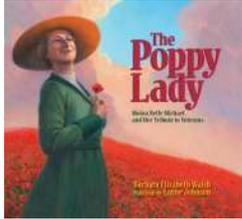
(Dianne Ochiltree; Kathleen Kemly, ill.) Introduces the first known female firefighter, Molly Williams, an African American cook for New York City's Fire Company 11, who one winter day in 1818 with many volunteers sick with influenza jumped into action to stop a house fire.

## Of Numbers and Stars: The Story of Hypatia

(D. Anne Love; Pam Paparone, ill.) The daughter of mathematician Theon, Hypatia grew up on the northern tip of Egypt in the great city of Alexandria in the 4th century A.D. Unlike most girls of her time, Hypatia learned to read and write, and as she grew older was tutored in mathematics, astronomy, and philosophy. In time, word



spread of her brilliance and scholars from all over the world came to her seeking her advice and opinions in these subjects. Records of her fame as a teacher can be found in the writings of Socrates. One of her most famous students, Synesius, developed the astrolabe under her direction.

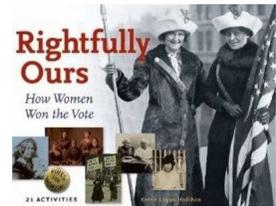


**The Poppy Lady: Moina Belle Michael and Her Tribute to Veterans**

(Barbara Elizabeth Walsh; Layne Johnson, ill.) Recounts the efforts of Moina Belle Michael to launch a national campaign establishing the red poppy of Flanders Fields as a reminder of the sacrifice and courage of America’s soldiers. A heartfelt alternative to the familiar children’s books on Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

**Rightfully Ours: How Women Won the Vote: 21 Activities**

(Kerrie Logan Hollihan) Tells of the struggle for women’s suffrage in the United States, a movement that began alongside the abolitionist cause and continued through the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, the amendment that granted women the right to vote.

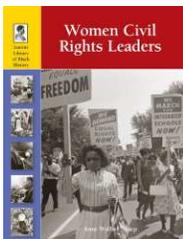
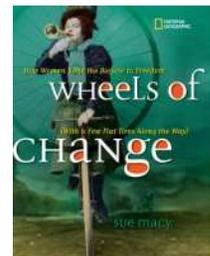


**Vision of Beauty: The Story of Sarah Breedlove Walker**

(Kathryn Lasky; Nneka Bennett, ill.) Engagingly presents the life of Sarah Breedlove Walker who, though born in poverty, pioneered in hair and beauty care products for black women, and became a great financial success.

**Wheels of Change: How Women Rode the Bicycle to Freedom (With a Few Flat Tires Along the Way)**

(Sue Macy) Through vintage photographs, advertisements, cartoons, and songs, a lively look at women’s history transports young readers to bygone eras to see how women used the bicycle to improve their lives.



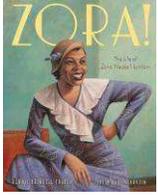
**Women Civil Rights Leaders**

(Anne Wallace Sharp) This book covers Ida B. Wells and the campaign against lynching , Dorothy Height and the National Council of Negro Women, Septima Clark, the women of the Montgomery bus boycott, Daisy Bates and school desegregation, Ella Baker, the spiritual leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee , and Fannie Lou Hamer and the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

**Women of the U.S. Air Force: Aiming High**

(Heather E. Schwartz) Women in the Air Force aim high. They travel overseas to protect civilians in dangerous places. They pilot planes and even visit outer space. Learn more about what women in the U.S. Air Force are doing for their country.





### **Zora! The Life of Zora Neal Hurston**

(*Judith Bloom Fradin and Dennis Brindell Fradin*) A tribute to the life and achievements of the Civil Rights activist and acclaimed author examines such topics as the poverty that marked her life, her relationships with such contemporaries as Langston Hughes and Alain Locke, and the posthumous recognition of her considerable talents.

## **Videos**

The following is a selected list videos that provide a look at women's history in the United States.

### **Erin Brockovich**

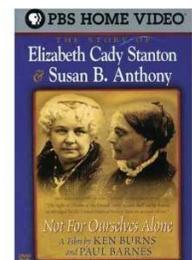
(*Julia Roberts*) Erin Brockovich is a feisty young mother who convinces attorney Ed Masry to hire her and promptly stumbles upon a monumental law case against a giant corporation. The two begin an incredible and sometimes hilarious fight that will bring a small town to its feet and a huge company to its knees.

### **Iron Jawed Angels**

(*HBO Films*) In this movie Alice Paul and Lucy Burns were two defiant suffragist women who fought for the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The two activists broke from the mainstream women's rights movement and created a more radical wing, daring to push the boundaries to secure women's voting rights in 1920. In a country dominated by chauvinism, this is no easy fight. Along the way, sacrifices are made: Alice gives up a chance for love, and colleague Inez Mulholland gives up her life.

### **Not for Ourselves Alone: The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton & Susan B. Anthony**

(*Ken Burns and Paul Barnes*) Presents the history of women's suffrage in the United States through the dramatic, often turbulent friendship of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan Anthony. Part 1 covers the years from their youth up to the establishment of the National Woman Suffrage Association in 1868. Part 2 spans the period from 1868 to the passage in 1919 of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the Constitution which gave women the vote. (Search in catalog without "Not.")



### **Shirley Chisholm: First African American Congresswoman**

Profiles the life and career of Shirley Chisholm (1924-2005), the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress and the first to campaign for the U.S. presidency. Her legacy of political and social activism laid the foundation for the rise of women and Blacks in American politics.

### **Trial by Media**

In this teleplay Lyssa Grant Hughes has given blood sweat and tears to build a name for herself as a doctor. As a respected physician promoting women's health issues and fighting for women's rights, she has decided to set her sights on a career in politics. When a family friend tips a reporter about a minor indiscretion in her past, Lyssa's campaign becomes the focus of a media feeding frenzy.

### **The Women of Brewster Place**

(*Oprah Winfrey*) Mattie Michael, whose life has been plagued by misfortunes, is alone in a ghetto tenement on Brewster Place. She gradually unites the other tenement women to help them struggle for a new life.

## **ONLINE DATABASES**

Use your Norfolk Public Library card number for access to these resources found on our database page [www.npl.lib.va.us/reference/reference.html](http://www.npl.lib.va.us/reference/reference.html) to learn more about women's history.

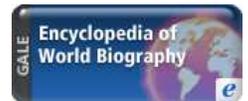
### **Biography In Context**

Includes full-text articles from hundreds of periodicals. A gender-searchable resource based on one or more personal facts such as birth and death year, nationality, ethnicity, occupation or combine criteria to create a highly-targeted custom search.



### **Encyclopedia of World Biography**

Approximately 7,000 biographies on notables from every part of the world and from all time periods. Includes thousands of photos, a consolidated index, and more.



### **Encyclopedia Virginia**

A chronicle of the state's history, politics, and geography through the perspectives of all the ethnically, culturally, and linguistically diverse peoples who have lived there.



### **World Book Online Reference Center**

Containing every article from the 22-volume print set plus thousands more. This database has state-of-the-art multimedia, maps, editor-reviewed Web sites, and more.



## WEBSITES

The following is a selected list of websites that provide an overview of women's history.

**Biography.com-** [www.biography.com/womens-history/index.jsp](http://www.biography.com/womens-history/index.jsp)

Timelines, videos, history and educational information about the contributions of women in history from the Biography Channel.

**History.com-** [www.history.com/content/womenhist](http://www.history.com/content/womenhist)

Achievements, history, videos, timelines and trivia in regard to women's history month from The History Channel.

**Virginia Women in History-** [www.lva.virginia.gov/public/vawomen/](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/vawomen/)

Features Virginia women who have been overlooked by history books. Created by the Library of Virginia.

**VIRGINIA  
WOMEN <sup>IN</sup>  
HISTORY**

**National Women's History Project (NWHP)-** [www.nwhp.org](http://www.nwhp.org)

A resource for promoting and celebrating Women's History. The NWHP selects the annual theme for Women's History Month.

**National Women's Museum-** [www.nwhm.org](http://www.nwhm.org)

A multimedia resource of photographs, essays, recordings, documents and a virtual museum collection about women's contributions to history.

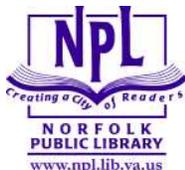
**Library of Congress-** <http://womenshistorymonth.gov/>

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join together with one website in paying tribute to the generations of women whose commitment to nature and the planet have proved invaluable to society.

**Smithsonian Education-**

[www.smithsonianeducation.org/heritage\\_month/whm/index.html](http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/heritage_month/whm/index.html)

A multimedia resource of photographs, essays, recordings, documents and a virtual museum collection about women's contributions to history for educators and students. This year includes new information about women inventors and women in aviation and space history.



Norfolk Public Library  
(757) 664-READ  
[www.npl.lib.va.us](http://www.npl.lib.va.us)

