**Women in Publishing Oral History Questionnaire**

We are sending this questionnaire to more than 100 Women in Publishing members, past and present. We want to capture your recollections, observations, feelings and anecdotes about WiP in order to create a descriptive analysis of what it meant to be a WiP member, both personally and professionally. We also hope to be able to draw some statistics from your responses.

We would like to publish the analysis and any statistical data on the Project Website, but would like to reassure you that *your responses will be treated as anonymous; there will be no attribution of data or quotes; and your individual responses will not be shared with anyone outside the team of three women working on the project, nor with other respondents.*

This questionnaire has 9 sections, and includes some questions to prompt your memory. Don’t feel you must stick to them or work through them all. We want to hear about your own experiences. Free-flowing answers will be appreciated. Whatever you send will contribute to an on-going history of an organisation that has passed through many different phases and over the years has challenged, stimulated, frustrated and/or inspired its members in many different ways.

*Please put your answers in the grey boxes – they will grow as you write, and you can write as much (or as little) as you wish.*

**Section 1: Background Details**

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Email:**

How did you get into the book trade?

Why did you join the book trade?

What other careers did you look at?

**Section 2: Joining Women in Publishing**

When did you join WiP?

What was your job at that time?

What was your previous job history?

Did you have experience of any other book trade or feminist organisation (e.g. Society of Young Publishers, Women in the Media etc)

Have you been involved with any other book trade or feminist organisation since?

How did you hear of WiP?

Why did you join WiP? (E.g. to network professionally, to join a feminist organisation, to make friends, to improve your job prospects; were you motivated to join by a speaker or a specific event? Other?)

Who paid for your membership – you or your company?

How long were you/have you been a member?

**Section 3: Being Part of Women in Publishing**

Can you remember your first WiP meetings? Please tell us about them. For instance, did you go on your own or with somebody else? How did you feel about going along?

How often did you attend meetings? Where were the meetings held?

Did you prefer ‘trade’ speakers or those from outside the book business?

Did you attend special events (e.g. Betty Friedan at the ICA)?

Do you have any particular recollections or impression of these occasions?

Did you attend any of the annual conferences? If so what do you remember of them?

Were you a speaker at any of the meetings or at any of the conferences? When? What did you speak about?

Were you a member of the WiP main committee? Of any sub-committee? Of any working group? (E.g. training, assertiveness training, mentoring, conference, Bentinck Report, advertising monitoring, Pink Pig and Pandora Awards, *Wiplash* newsletter, London Book Fair stand, International WiP meetings at the Frankfurt Book Fair, monitoring book reviews for gender bias, monitoring the effect of Clause 28.)

How did you become a member of this/these group/s?

How were these groups structured and run? How effective do you think they were?

Were you a member of any regional (e.g. WiP Oxford) or of any international WiP organisation?

Training courses were integral to WiP’s activities. Did you attend or teach on any of them? Please describe your experience.

Do any particular events or issues stand out for you?

**Section 4: WiP and Your Aspirations**

What did you hope joining WiP might achieve for you as an individual? (E.g. equality in the workplace, promotion, pay rise, pay bargaining, skill sharing, networking, friendships etc)

What did you hope WiP might achieve for women in the book trade collectively?

Do you feel your hopes were realised? Please explain.

Do you feel you were able to contribute to WiP? If so, please describe in what way.

If you were actively involved in WiP, do you feel this affected your personal and/or professional development in any way? If so, please explain how.

How do you feel WiP fitted into the feminist political debates of the 1980s and 1990s?

How did WiP fit your own political outlook?

**Section 5: WiP and Your Career**

How did your employer and colleagues react to your membership of WiP?

How did your career progress after joining WiP?

Looking back on your career in the book trade, would you say that WiP played any role in it (e.g. do you think it helped or hindered your career in any way)? If so, could you explain how?

Did WiP give you any new skills or advantages? If so, can you say what these were and how your acquired them (e.g. via networking, training etc)?

Did your experience in WiP affect the way you thought about yourself? If so, please describe how.

Did your experience in WiP affect the way you thought about others? If so, in what ways?

Do you feel WiP has made a difference to the wider book trade? If so, in what ways?

**Section 6: WiP and Your Life Outside Work**

What were your initial impressions of WiP? (E.g. did it seem welcoming, daunting, excluding in any ways?) Did these feelings change? If so how?

Are you still in touch personally or professionally with people you met through WiP?

How long have you know them? Why do you think those relationships have lasted?

**Section 7: Still a Member?**

Are you still a member of WiP? If not, why did you leave?

Do you belong to any book trade and/or feminist organisations now? If so, which?

How do they compare with your experience of WiP?

Do you see the influence of WiP in any organisations today? If so, please can you describe it.

**Section 8: Snapshots**

What is your favourite memory of WiP?

What is your least favourite memory of WiP?

Thank you for all the time and thought you’ve given to these questions. Any further reflections, reminiscences and suggestions will be warmly welcomed.

**Section 9: Your Questions**

Finally, what questions would you most like to ask of other WiP members?

*Do you have any WiP memorabilia and ephemera – particularly photos – that you might like to donate to this project? Please list these rather than send them at this stage.*