Library on Gender and Equality & Historical Archive of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality of Greece (Ministry of the Interior)

A brief presentation

by Loukia Mavromitrou, Librarian, Chief of the Library

Background

- The Library on Gender and Equality (LGE) was established in 1984 and it is a fully organized library, specialized in gender's issues, equality and women's movement history.
- It' a department of the General Secretariat for Gender Equality (Ministry of the Interior) which is the governmental agency in Greece, responsible to plan, implement, and monitor the implementation of gender equality policies in all sectors.
- The Library in **2007 established the Historical Archive** which collects, stores and documents old, rare and valuable documents and visual material, from the women's movement struggles for equal rights, voting rights, combating violence, etc. in Greece

Purpose

The Library on Gender and Equality operates:

- as an **information center** for GSGE and its staff
- as a GATEWAY to gender equality information for researchers and academic community
- as a space where every citizen could find resources in order to be aware of inequalities and gender-based discriminations, and finally as
- as space for protection, preservation and dissemination of the cultural heritage through Historical Archive

Operation

Library

- operates acccording to «Operation and Loaning Rules"
- is located in the center of Athens, and it is daily open to the public.
- public access to the Historical Archive is permitted by appointment
- operates as a lending library
- is accessible by people with disabilities
- provides on-line access through library's catalogue (OPAC),
- serves distant users (via e-mail or fax).

Collections

LGE today consists of two Collections:
the "Main Library's Collection"
and
the "Historical Archive's Collection"

Library's Collection

The collection of the library counts 13.800 printed documents and consists of

books, leaflets, articles, dictionaries and encyclopaedias, grey literature, laws, journals

and

...it is organized under the following thematic categories:

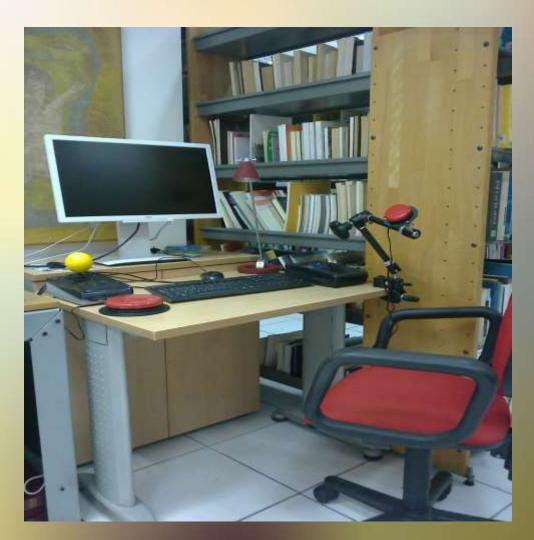
- Gender & women's studies
- Mythology
- religion
- social anthropology
- women's history
- biographies
- philosophy
- women's movement / feminist ideology
- politics, law / legal position
- women's status in Greece and elsewhere
- social care and insurance
- demography
- environment

- housing
- roles of the sexes
- education
- employment
- arts and culture
- mass media
- language
- athletics
- psychology
- mental physical and reproductive health
- sexuality
- family and marriage
- literature

The one of the two Reading Rooms of the Library



Computers with special equipment for people with disabilities



Access to Grey literature on gender and equality issues

 Electronic Articles, Ph.D Theses, Conference speeches and Proceedings, National Reports, Surveys, Speeches and Lectures, Material produced through National and European Programs, teaching material and relevant documents,

produced by

 public Organisations, academic and research institutions in Greece, giving Links to full text of available documents through internet

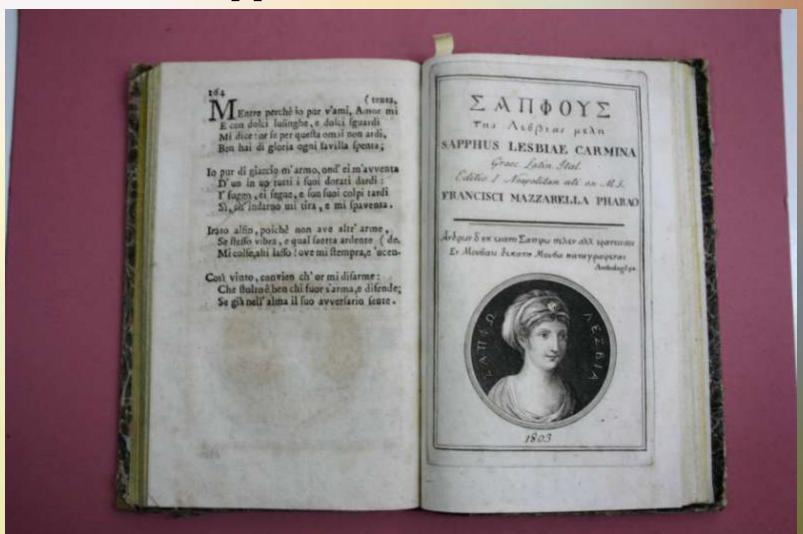
Archival collection

The **Archival collection** counts 8.700 old and rare documents **dated since** the beginning of the 19th century to the present. It is mainly composed of books, pamphlets, women's and feminist journals, declarations, posters, photos, manuscripts, videotapes, several objects, handmade banners, placards, etc.

The material of the archival collection derives mainly from donations and from purchases.

Our oldest book published in 1803:

"Sapphus Lesbiae Carmina"



The Documentation of collections

Both collections are being documented by the same software using common indexes of names and subjects.

However the documentation of archival documents is based on the International Standard Archival Description

On-line Services

The library provides

 access in library's catalogue (OPAC), hosted in the website http://www.isotita.gr

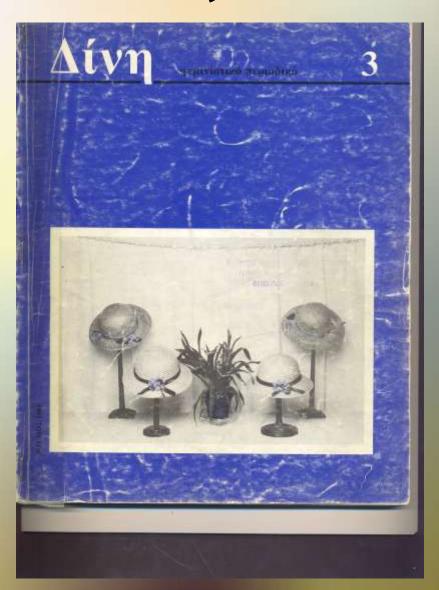
and

access in digitalized material of Archival collection

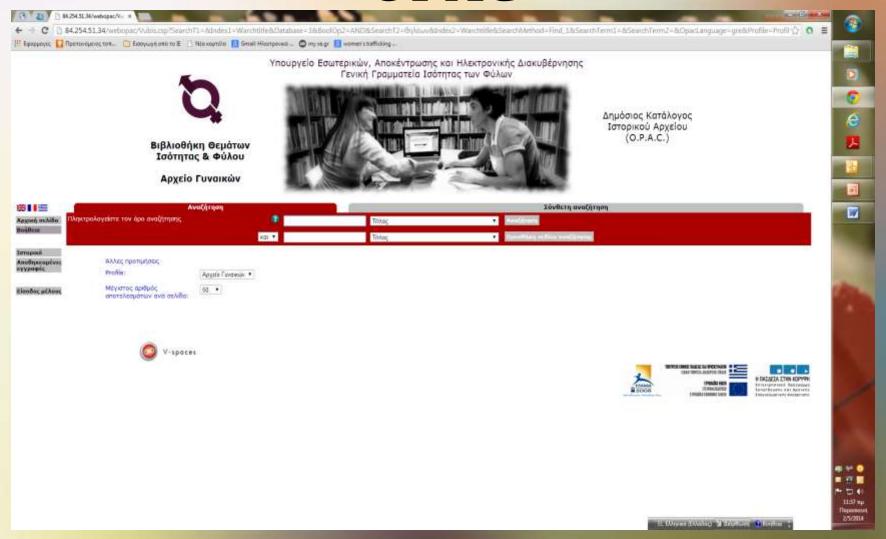
A Nelly's photograph



The feminist journal "Dini"



OPAC



Free Internet Access



Collaborations

The LGE organizes:

- exhibitions of archival collections
- events in honor of donors
- book presentations

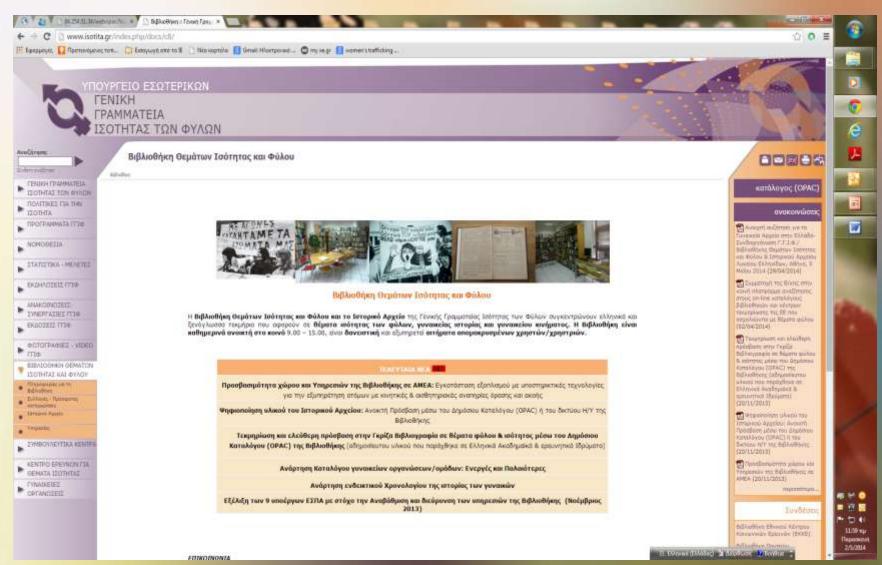
and participates in bibliographical databases projects as:

- "Hellenic Academic Libraries Union Catalog",
- European institute for Gender Equality 's Resource & Documentation Centre).

Information for the Public

- Information to the users by e-mail
- On-line Information through the Library's Website
 - Library's News
 - Announcements for events, conferences, collaborations, etc
 - New acquisitions and donations
 - New orders
 - Reference material (several Lists as the "Indicative chronology of Greek women's history", "Catalogue of Greek women's organizations (active and inactive)"
- LGE participates in Social Networks and has a Facebook page

Library's first webpage



Library's Facebook



Projects

- Development of a thematic digital repository on gender issues with open access to the public.
- Enrichment of Library's Database with special/alternative material for people with disabilities (Braille books, e-books, etc), as also governmental policy material.
- Mapping the Women's Archives of Greece and development of an On-line Catalog, with information of public and private archives in Greece.
- Digitalization of archival material.
- Full Accessibility for people with disabilities in space and services.
- Retrospective documentation by librarians and archivists.
 and finally
- The creation of a "Women's Oral History Database" with interviews and testimonies of Greek women.

Thank you for your attention,

Loukia Mavromitrou