

Shoebridge, Michele. *Women in Sport: A Selected Bibliography*. London and New York: Mansell Publishing Limited, 1987. Pp. xi, 231. Author index, subject index. £28.50.

Michele Shoebridge's *Women in Sport: A Selected Bibliography* is exactly what the title implies. References include monographs, conference proceedings, parts of books and conference papers, published articles in the English language between 1970 and 1986, and theses. Almost without exception the terms women and sport (or variations of these terms) appear in the title of works selected for inclusion. The bibliography is divided into seven major categories: bibliographies, conference proceedings, major subject areas, individual sports, biographies, serials, and organizations. Each category is further subdivided and there are subdivisions within subdivisions. Major Subject Areas, for example, has seventeen subdivisions and each subdivision is further divided into monographs, conference papers, parts of monographs, articles, and theses. Some subject areas, "Sociological Aspects," for example, are further divided into topical subheadings.

Shoebridge's seven years at the Sport Documentation Centre at the University of Birmingham doubtless influenced both the selection of sources and the organization of the bibliography. Her main interest is with research dealing with the physiological capacity of women to compete at the same level as men and with research involving women's struggle to overcome the sociological constraints that limit women's involvement in sport. Consequently, the "Physiological Aspects" section and the "Sociological Aspects" section are the two strongest areas of the bibliography, accounting for nearly half the total number of citations. The organization of the selected works is, I think, Shoebridge's major contribution. Specific research topics are easy to find; cross referencing is effective; most sources are annotated; and enough information is included to facilitate access to interlibrary loan. Shoebridge has not only provided information on women's participation in sport, she has organized the information in a way that makes the selected bibliography very useful.

There are two interrelated weaknesses in Shoebridge's selected bibliography. First, the section on history is thin, a total of sixty-two references from 1900 to

1985. Sport historians interested in the history of women in sport will be disappointed. A large part of the problem has to do with the selection process. Only titles that contained the terms women and sport or variations of these terms are included. This fact highlights what I consider to be the second major weakness of the selective bibliography. Referencing women's entrance into sport is important, but we need to do more than just that. We need to understand women's point of view; we need to come to grips with women's rightful sense of anger and frustration regarding inequities that exist in terms of biological, social, economic, and legal rights and freedoms. We need to study women's sport history within the framework of these larger issues. Hence, I would argue that a bibliography, even a selected bibliography, must be based upon much more than a compilation of sources that include the terms women and sport.

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