
Chalmers Library Research Award

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Chalmers Library Research Award Winner 2024

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Zelda Saltzman

Chalmers Library Research Award Essay

As a history major, library based research is something that I have become quite familiar with during my time at Kenyon. Various library sessions, led by Shannon Simpson, with my Practice and Theory class as well as with my Senior Seminar, helped me understand how to best utilize the resources I had in front of me. My capstone project was an investigation of entertainment media and advertising during the Cold War period and its impact on gender roles, . This expanded my research to various different kinds of history: Women's and Gender history, advertising history, television history, radio history, magazine history, and of course, Cold War history. This had me exploring the stacks in L1, L2, and requesting all kinds of books from Consort.

Through discussions with Shannon Simpson, she implored me to start off small, and allow my research to guide my paper. She assisted in helping me narrow down my research to what I was specifically trying to research; how the media influenced gender and politics during the Cold War. She helped me define my keyword searches and really think about what kind of language was being used during the period in which I was studying. The study of "gender" is a fairly newer field, so being sure to use "women" and "ladies" in my research helped me find more resources. In addition, she reminded me of the purpose of footnotes. I would say a little bit less than half of my sources came from looking at footnotes of other historians, to see where their research had guided them. I used Shannon's suggestions to find secondary resources to help me outline my initial argument. In addition to Shannon Simpson's help, Carmen King, the former Fine Arts and Humanities librarian at Kenyon, also helped me with my research, pointing me to online sources that Kenyon grants students access to. Suggestions like looking at Life

Magazine's Microfilm collection and using Academic Search Complete helped me to find resources outside of Chalmers. Carmen assisted in finding places to find the primary source material that my research needed. I used Internet Archive to find recordings of radio episodes, which serve as multiple primary sources in my research, as well as magazine articles and advertisements, which are also discussed in my paper. Through the help of library resources, I was able to place my primary source material (television and radio episodes, magazine articles, and magazine advertisements) into conversation with secondary source material about gender, family, and Cold War history.