INTRODUCTION
The papers of journalist Carol R. Richards consist of articles, books, clippings, correspondence, handwritten notebooks, audio cassettes, and miscellaneous research materials on a variety of topics such as education, Gerald Ford, Nelson Rockefeller, and women’s issues.

DONOR INFORMATION
The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Carol Richards on 14 January 1988 (Accession No. 4820). They are a part of the National Women and Media Collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
Carol R. Richards was born September 24, 1944, in Buffalo, New York. She graduated from Syracuse University in 1966, where she was the co-founder, editor, and publisher of two college weeklies. She worked summers at the Buffalo Evening News and the Albany Knickerbocker News. After graduation, she was a reporter for the Times-Union in New York.

In 1967, Richards moved on to Gannett News Service (GNS), where she held the positions of regional correspondent, White House correspondent, national correspondent, regional news editor, and national news editor. During her time at Gannett, Richards’ impressive reporting earned her several honors and awards, such as the 1979 Silver Gavel Award for her series on welfare fraud, and the 1980 Best of Gannett Award for her series on education in the United States, “The Endangered Dream.”

Although this collection reveals very little about Richards’ personal life, her interests are apparent within her writing and research—she wrote extensively on subjects such as education, feminism, and politics. She served as the President of the Washington Press Club from 1981 to 1982, and was the chairman of the National Press Forum in 1986.

In 1985, Richards became one of the founding editors of USA TODAY. In 1987, she was named the deputy editorial page editor at Newsday, where she remained and wrote columns until 2002. She later taught journalism courses at George Washington University from 2010-2011.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE
The Carol Richards Papers are arranged into the following five series: Research, Articles, Miscellaneous, Notebooks, and Audio Cassettes.

The Research series consists of material concerning a wide variety of topics. The series is arranged alphabetically by topic and includes material such as articles, books, and clippings on education in America between 1974 and 1985, Gerald Ford’s presidency, Nelson Rockefeller, and women’s issues such as abortion, title IX legislation
and Equal Rights. Also included in the series is material on the GNS Education Project which includes the compiled research, correspondence, and notes of a team of reporters that Carol Richards was heading in 1980. They were deployed to twenty-two schools in nine different states, investigating the conditions of education and teachers in America. Their finished product, a series of articles entitled “The Endangered Dream,” won the 1980 Best of Gannett Award.

The Articles series contains clippings, newspapers, and article drafts written by Carol Richards. The clippings include newspapers containing Richards’ 1980 “Endangered Dream” articles. The drafts are composed of abstracts and rough drafts of articles. They are arranged alphabetically by subject.

The Miscellaneous series contains one folder, which holds transcripts of speeches by Carol Richards, as well as one personal letter that does not pertain to any of her research.

The Notebooks series contains Carol Richards’ handwritten notebooks. There is no distinguishable date on the majority of the notebooks. They are grouped by subject and arranged alphabetically. However, each individual notebook contains a wide range of material and its contents are not limited to the subject category under which it was filed.

The Audio Cassettes series contains five audio cassettes. Two contain recordings of Nelson Rockefeller. Also included is a speech given by Richards in 1980 at the Washington Press Club and a promo for her GNS Education Project.

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