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Dr. Donna Allen founded, in 1972, the Women's Institute for Freedom of the Press, which published, among other activities, the annual Directory of Women's Media, books, and the monthly Media Report to Women, which she edited and indexed during its first 15 years, and for which she is now a columnist. She is the author of Media Without Democracy and What To Do About It (1991). In 1989 she co-edited with Dr. Ramona Rush Communications at the Crossroads: The Gender Gap Connection (Ablex).

Allen, an economist and historian who taught for Cornell University, has written books and monographs on economics, media, and women, and spoken at national and international conferences. In the early 1970s as associate professor she taught media economics and women and media for Antioch College, Baltimore Media Studies Center.

She received the 1979 Headliner Award, Women in Communication, Inc.'s highest honor, the Wonder Woman Award in 1983, and subsequently awards from the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications and from American Journalism Historians Association.

She has judged media awards, including the NAB Crystal Radio Awards, and was the keynote speaker at the 1990 Spring meeting of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communications on "Women, Minorities and Freedom of the Press" and at the 1992 Mass Communications Conference at Jackson State University on "Women in Communications." She has been a speaker at press accountability conferences in Madrid, Nice, Paris, Manila, Montreal, Moscow, Prague and Kiev.