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Gender and Work

a research project at the Department of History, Uppsala University

Standardised descriptions

Women's Work in Early Modern Europe
24 September 2010
Jesus College, Cambridge

Rosemarie Fiebranz



Vetenskapsrådet

*Knut och Alice
Wallenbergs
Stiftelse*



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The verb-oriented method in the GaW database

Source phrases / fragments describing

‘time use with the purpose
of making a living’

= Activities



The verb-oriented method

transitive verb +
direct object

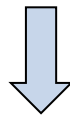
‘chop wood’



Standardised descriptions

”Translating” premodern language:

‘her employment was (as she
faith) to wynde Silk’*



‘wind silk’

*Old Bailey: Ordinary's Account, 27th January 1687



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*Different ways of
expressing the same activity:*

"dee redan
dijkat opp
detta dijke
igenom sin
äng"

dig drainage ditch

"till en wiss tid
opdijka det
stora
afloppsdiaket"

(gräva avloppsdike)



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fire

chop wood

forest

fell timber
chop wood

Grouping
activities...

wood

chop wood
fell timber

building

fell timber



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Charcoal burner / burn charcoal

HISCO:

'Chemical processors
and related workers'

Swedish 18th c:

Agricultural /
forestry work



Fol. I, Oeconomie rurale, Charbon de Bois, Pl. II.