The authors of collections in the library tend to assign a person as an author. We are evaluating the gender typically associated with a person's name, and any non-person designation as an author. Duke's Library contains a wide variety of collections, from personal papers to institutional records. This suggests that the library's treatment of gender is complex and multifaceted. Our goal was to explore the extent to which gender is represented in the library's catalog.

As shown in the above chart, the names of the authors present in the library's card collection are overwhelmingly male. This comes as no surprise to anyone who has looked through the cards. Something else of note is the strong presence of binarily gendered names, i.e., those that are strongly associated with one gender or the other. Perhaps this is unsurprising, given that the library is a place of learning and research.

For the pie chart, we combined "mostly male" names with "male" names and "mostly female" names with female names to more easily visualize the gender frequencies. Androgynous names were dropped for the pie chart's sake, due to the fact they compose only about 0.02% of the names. The chart shows that about nine out of ten of the collection authors present in the main entry file were, in fact, male. This confirms our speculation that men were more often than women represented in the catalog. In addition, this supports the theory that men are more likely to be elevated to the "author" of collections that entail multiple individuals, possibly because they are the "head of the household," likely the husband, would be elevated to the "author" of collections that entail multiple individuals, possibly because they are the "head of the household," likely the husband.

As shown in the above bar chart, the gender ratios of collection authors in the Rubenstein Library's Main Entry Card Catalog are overwhelmingly male. This comes as no surprise to anyone who has looked through the cards. Something else of note is the strong presence of binarily gendered names, i.e., those that are strongly associated with one gender or the other. Perhaps this is unsurprising, given that the library is a place of learning and research.

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