Library Outing:
Revisiting Lesbian and Gay Collection Development

Lori Ann Saeki
LIS 615
April 22, 2004
Outing the Library:
Lesbian and Gay Collection Development and Access in Public Libraries

LIS 610
December 2003

Why collect LGBT materials?

• Many LGBT folk see library as a source, particularly during the coming out process

• Bad early experiences can keep LGBT patrons away from the library down the line

• Ignore issues facing 10 percent of the population?

Alyson, 115.
Gough, 57-58.
LGBT Materials in Existing Collections

- Loverich/Degnan checklist study
  - 136 OCLC Libraries
- Sweetland/Christensen checklist study
  - OCLC Catalog
- Both surveys found low instance of LGBT titles

Why so few LGBT titles?

• Ritchie’s survey of librarians’ selection tools:
  • *Booklist*
  • *Library Journal*
  • *Publisher’s Weekly*

• Spence:
  • Most commonly held books = Books with most mainstream reviews

Why so few LGBT titles?

- Many LGBT works published by small press/gay press (particularly fiction)
- Gay publishing still relatively new

Alyson, 114-115.
Methods for selecting more LGBT titles

- Check bibliographies of books already in the collection
- Consult *Small Press Record of Books in Print*
- Get recommendations from local LGBT bookstores
- Request catalogs from LGBT publishers
- Get to know the folks at your local LGBT community center

Gough, 40-43.