

Library Outing:

Revisiting Lesbian and Gay Collection Development

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Outing the Library: Lesbian and Gay Collection Development and Access in Public Libraries

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Alyson, Sasha. "What Librarians Should Know About Gay and Lesbian Publishing." *Alternative Library Literature 1984/1985*. Sanford Berman and James P. Danky, eds. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1986. p. 114-115.

Gough, Cal. "Gay and Lesbian Materials in Public Libraries." *Gay and Lesbian Library Service*. Cal Gough and Ellen Greenblatt, eds. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1990. p. 38-58.

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?

Alisa J. Whitt, "The Information Needs of Lesbians," *LIS Research* 15 (1993): 275-288.

Alyson, 115.

Gough, 57-58.

Steven L. Joyce and Alvin M. Schrader, "Hidden Perceptions: Edmonton Gay Males and the Edmonton Public Library," *Canadian Journal of Library and Information Science* 22 (1) (April 1997): 19-37.

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

Patricia Loverich and Darrah Degnan, "Out on the Shelves? Not Really," *Library Journal* 124 (11) (June 15, 1999): 55.

James H. Sweetland and Peter G. Christensen, "Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Titles: Their Treatment in the Review Media and their Selection by Libraries," *Collection Building* 14 (2) (1995): 32-41.

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

Catherine J. Ritchie, "Collection Development of Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual-Related Adult Non-Fiction in Medium-Sized Illinois Public Libraries," *Illinois Libraries* 83 (2) (Spring 2001): 39-62.
Alex Spence, "Controversial Books in the Public Library: A Comparative Survey of Holdings of Gay-Related Children's Picture Books," *Library Quarterly* 70 (3) (July 2000): 335-379.

Why so few LGBT titles?

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

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