


Maintaining an LGBT Studies Collection in an Academic Library

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What is LGBT?

- ▶ Lesbian / Gay / Bisexual / Transgender
 - ▶ Also includes Intersex, Questioning, and Queer (LGBTIQQ)
 - ▶ LGBT Studies: Involves the academic investigation of sexuality in many established fields...
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Academic Disciplines that Address LGBT Studies

- ▶ English
- ▶ Comparative Literature
- ▶ Foreign Language
- ▶ Sociology
- ▶ History
- ▶ Anthropology
- ▶ Political Science
- ▶ Law
- ▶ Psychology
- ▶ Economics
- ▶ Management
- ▶ Mass Communications
- Social Work
- Education
- Counseling
- Medicine
- Biology
- Art
- Music
- Theater
- Film
- Marketing
- Linguistics
- ...and more...


Interdisciplinary!




The Need for LGBT Resources

- ▶ Increasing visibility of LGBT people in society
 - ▶ Increasing number of self-identified LGBT students, faculty, and staff
 - ▶ Increasing media coverage of LGBT civil rights struggles around the world
 - ▶ Increasing number of LGBT youth suicides
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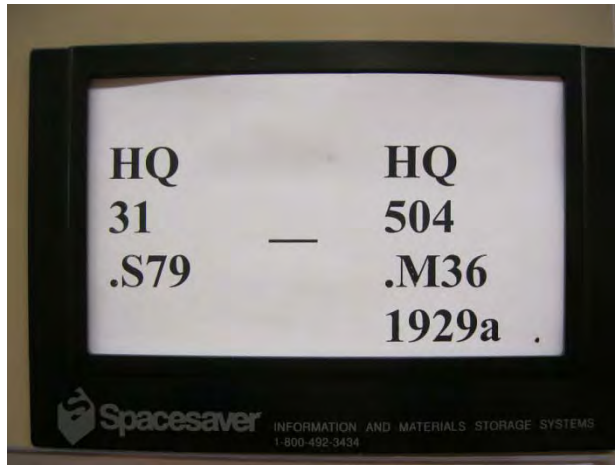
Information Seeking Behavior of LGBT Youth

- ▶ Looking for others like themselves
 - ▶ Looking for validation that they are “normal”
 - ▶ Often intimidated by libraries
 - ▶ Will search for LGBT information online
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Is It Safe to Read LGBT Books?

- ▶ Academic LGBT non-fiction often shelved in one main location of the collection
 - ▶ “The Barnes & Noble Test”
 - ▶ LGBT books found “mis-shelved” in other parts of the library
 - ▶ Sometimes they are stolen / vandalized
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HQ73-77.95: GENERAL LGBT STUDIES



Saint Cloud State University, James W. Miller Learning Resources Center

~ 7% of our HQ range is General LGBT Studies materials

85% circulated at least once (34% circulated more than 10 times)

85% browsed at least once (33% browsed more than 10 times)


LGBT Reading Trends

- ▶ 43% spend 1–4 hours/week reading news
- ▶ 35% spend 1–4 hours/week reading books
- ▶ 39% spend 1–4 hours/week reading mags
- ▶ 30% spend 10–19 hours/week online

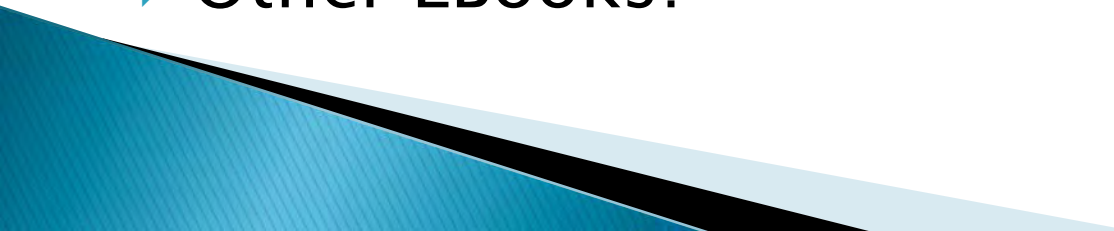
- ▶ 94% reading LGBT print media
(69% <1 hour/week; 25% 1–4 hours/week)
- ▶ 76% reading LGBT online media
(35% <1 hour/week; 41% 1–4 hours/week)

OutNow Global, www.outnowconsulting.com

LGBT Books and EReaders

- ▶ Developing LGBT EBook collections may preserve anonymity of readers
 - ▶ “Digital natives” may be more likely to read EBooks and use EReaders
 - ▶ How many “core” resources are accessible for EReaders?
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LGBT ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

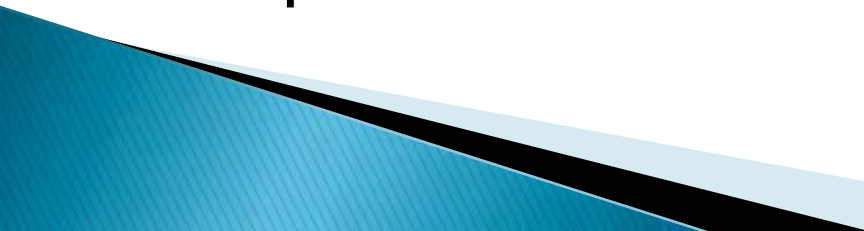
- ▶ EBSCO's GLBT Life Database
 - ▶ www.glbtq.com
 - ▶ Some LGBT encyclopedias now available as EBooks (EBL, ebrary, Gale Online, NetLibrary)
 - ▶ OutHistory.org
 - ▶ Other EBooks?
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“Core” LGBT Titles


- ▶ Publishing Triangle
 - ▶ Lambda Literary Foundation
 - ▶ ALA GLBT Round Table

 - ▶ How many of their award winning / recommended titles are available in EBook format?
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2009: Amazon: “Ham-Fisted” Error

- ▶ Sales ranking removed from LGBT-themed books
 - ▶ Amazon’s Excuse: “We exclude ‘adult’ material from appearing in some searches and best seller lists. Since these lists are generated using sales ranks, adult materials must also be excluded from that feature.”
 - ▶ Impact on Kindle Ebook availability?
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Publishing Triangle

- ▶ Top 100 LGBT fiction / non-fiction (2 lists)
 - ▶ Visitor's 100 Best (actually 87 titles)
 - ▶ Only 50 titles (~ 17%) digitized for Kindle
 - ▶ Only 42 titles (~14%) in Google Ebookstore
 - ▶ Less than 10% available through Overdrive
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E-Versions of LLF Winners

- ▶ Lambda Literary Awards 1990–2010


2,062 titles recognized (@ 100/year)

280 titles digitized for Amazon Kindle
LESS THAN 15%!!!

E-Versions of ALA GLBTQRT Winners

- ▶ Stonewall Award winners 1990–2010
 - 226 titles recognized (@ 11 per year)
 - 72 titles digitized for Kindle (~ 32%)


Challenges of Ebook Collections

- ▶ LGBT content limited
 - ▶ Access issues (NetLibrary)
 - ▶ Hathi Trust Ebooks not available for all
 - ▶ Not all EReaders read subscription based Ebook collections
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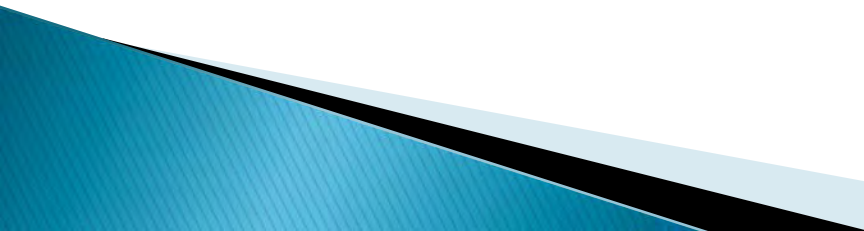
E-Versions of Dual Award Winners

▶ Titles Recognized by LLF and ALA GLBTTRT

- 1990–2010: 104 recognized titles / 43 dual winners
 - Less than half of the recognized titles in Kindle format
 - Less than half of the dual winners in Kindle format

 - 14 dual winners recognized by Publishing Triangle
 - 57% available for Kindle
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Supporting Arguments for LGBT Collection Development in Academic Libraries

1. American Library Association Bill of Rights
 2. Academic libraries support the educational/lifelong learning needs of all students
 - ▶ 3. All faculty must learn about the needs of LGBTIQ people
 - ▶ 4. Academic libraries are used by professionals who work with LGBTIQ people
 - ▶ 5. LGBTIQ topics can be addressed in any academic discipline
 - ▶ 6. The course catalog: % of courses that would address LGBTIQ topics
 - ▶ 7. It is not an extra expense—cost is already included in Collections budget
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