LGBTQ Resources @ the Inforum

LGBTQ Information Studies & Professionals


The scholarly essays in this book are divided into three sections: 1) Queering the Canon; 2) After Stonewall; and, 3) Queer Readers and Writers. The first section examines classic works from a queer theory perspective, while the second set focuses on texts addressing cultural politics since 1969. The last section covers queer theories of children’s textuality by looking at who make up queer readers and writers. The majority of the contributors are professors of English, as well some Women and Gender Studies scholars. Essay publication dates range from 1997 to 2010. –NKS


In this edited volume of essays, archivists, librarians, and activists address some of the practical and theoretical issues associated with collecting, preserving, and providing access to materials documenting the contemporary feminist and queer activist movements. Materials that are particularly challenging to manage or capture include digital archives, and those that are ephemeral in nature, such as websites and blogs. Ultimately, this book opens up a conversation about ways to document and study records created outside the limits of convention. –JC


This collection of essays explores the relationship between LGBT people and the library profession. While libraries have been places of refuge for LGBT people, Carmichael’s book exposes some of the less-than-positive realities that LGBT library professionals have faced on the job. The essays in this work have a historical, even anecdotal, focus. It’s divided into four sections: theories and context of LGBT individuals in libraries; an homage to the groundbreaking LGBT library professionals; the work archivists and academics are doing to preserve this history; and a look into the future of libraries and LGBT professionals. –AM

This book details the history, organization and administration of the Canadian Gay Archives. It provides readers with information about how its collection is arranged and maintained, as well as detailing specific procedural activities. The authors also communicate past mistakes made in archive administration and the steps that were taken to correct these mistakes. –EV


Gough, Michel, and Kline have compiled a comprehensive list of resources, including, but not limited to, books, book chapters, articles, and dissertations relating to LGBT issues in libraries and archives. This list includes resources that provide practical information to assist librarians and archivists increase and maintain LGBT collections. –AM


In an effort to determine why librarianship draws a disproportionately high number of gay men, Hoffman and Mintz undertook a study in which they tried to identify why gay men sought out careers in libraries by interviewing a number of gay librarians. They explore why gay men are more inclined to librarianship than straight men and try to unpack why these preferences exist. –AM

Keilty and Dean have compiled an extensive collection of 27 previously published and unpublished essays that speak to, and reflect some of the interventions being made within the field of information studies, and the discourse around the ways in which gender, sexuality, race, and technology intersect. A foreword, introduction, and afterword provide context to topics that include information as gendered labour, cyborgs and cyberfeminism, online environments, information organization, information extraction and flow, archives, and performance. Patrick Keilty is a professor here at the University of Toronto’s Faculty of Information, as well as the Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies. – JC


*Liberating Minds* brings together essays and histories about LGBT library professionals and the role librarians have played in preserving LGBT interests within a library’s collection. Ranging from academic to anecdotal essays, this book offers something for anyone interested in the relationship between libraries and the LGBT community, including why libraries are the professional destination for LGBT individuals and how libraries advocate for LGBT representation. –AM


*Gender, Sexuality, and Museums* is a collection of essays and case studies tackling the relationship between LGBT issues and museums. Divided into five sections, this book: examines the history of the work women have had in museums, including feminist and queer theory applications; focuses on the ways women and LGBTQ groups have influenced collections and exhibitions; provides several case studies that highlight the way museums have represented LGBTQ collections. *Gender, Sexuality, and Museums* is the first book of its kind, and would be of interest to students and professionals, as well as those interested in women studies and LGBT studies. –AM

Mowlabocus’s work fits into multiple fields – digital media studies, cultural studies, and gender and sexuality studies – and is based on his PhD dissertation, completed in 2006. He situates the work in the context of gay British subculture from 1984 on, before moving on to the first decade of the 21st century, through a focus on the popular UK-based website, Gaydar, for his case studies and critical analyses. The book examines the impact of digitality on mainstream, urban, gay male culture and identity, as well as on sexual practices and risk. It includes an extensive bibliography. – NKS


This collection of essays addresses the experiences of library workers who are out in their library workplaces. From people who have long since been in the profession to newly graduated librarians, the essays cover urban/rural areas, all kinds of libraries, and positions ranging from administrators to front-line workers. The overall theme relates to “how our identities intersect with our professional values.” The editor points out the historical significance of this book, since it includes the voices of both the first generation of out library workers, who are now about to retire, and those of the new generation. – NKS


*Queer Online: Media Technology and Sexuality*, contains 12 articles in four sections: Theoretical Landscapes, Rethinking Community and Spatiality, Reformulating Identities and Practices, and Relocating Structures and Agencies. The articles examine various new media, technology, and online communities in terms of their relation to queer theory and use by the queer community. David Phillips is an associate professor at the Faculty of Information.

Out at the Library serves a twofold purpose: to educate the public about LGBT issues and achievements past and present; and to describe the center and its exhibitions. The center is a ceremonial space with rotating exhibitions of personal papers, artwork, books, and other artefacts, most of which are discussed in the book. Snyder collects personal stories and firsthand accounts of the Center from those involved in its creation, or in developing its collections. Their stories are inspiring and emotional, but most of all, political. Out has pages of beautiful photographs and colourful text boxes. Reading this book is like being at a museum—full of visuals and history. –AF


This recently published book examines the complex, and sometimes conflicting relationships between LGBT groups and cultural and heritage organizations. The author presents some good practices, but also emphasizes some of the problems that still urgently need to be addressed. This would be a useful resource for anyone in the libraries, archives, or museums fields, looking for guidance on this issue. –JC

About LGBTQ Information Services


The creators of Out on the Shelves wanted to provide a guide for libraries, to ensure that lesbian patrons could find books that represented their lives and experiences. Though published in 1989, Out on the Shelves still provides an interesting list of diverse reading. Each entry has a small review that provides a basic summary. Books are categorized by genre, and are not limited to either fiction or non-fiction. Philosophy, thrillers, and plays are also covered. A list of periodicals and organizations appears at the end of the book. There is a guide to ordering lesbian books, with names of publishers or distributors. –AF

This genre guide provides readers with comprehensive reference resources for 20th century gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered literature. Bosman and Bradford have complied an extensive list of authors and titles, spanning from general fiction to amateur detective to space opera. The guide also provides and introduction to LGBT publishers and a brief description of each genre category. Read it separately or as part of the *Genreflecting* series. Either way, it is an important resource for information professionals. –AF


Young adults questioning their sexuality often make use of their autonomy to use the library unsupervised, in order to find fiction which represents their experiences. *The Heart Has Its Reasons* goes beyond a simple catalogue of GLBTQ-themed book published over the last forty years, although it can certainly be used as a tool for reader’s advisory. Through its examination of past titles, this book establishes criteria by which to evaluate books with GLBTQ content. The writing style is lively and engaging, combining the strengths of the authors, one of whom is a professor and the other, a literary journalist and editor. It also contains a useful timeline of pivotal moments in history relevant to GLBTQ Youth. –AB


*An Archive of Feelings* provides a cultural critique of trauma studies and argues for the inclusion of a lesbian and queer perspective in this field, particularly in relation to sexual trauma. Cvetkovich examines a variety of media, including oral histories from queer activists, literature, videos, performances, and music, in terms of how these inform an understanding of sexual trauma. She explores ways in which trauma can be re-interpreted in a sexually positive, productive light as opposed to one of clinical detachment. – RM

This book will act as a pathfinder through the ever-expanding Web resources for locating credible and helpful resources for LGBTQ studies in numerous fields. It begins with a brief general guide to locating and evaluating Internet resources, followed by a chapter on the major LGBTQ research tools, and then individual chapters for discipline-specific categories. Several chapters end with an interview with an expert on the topic. Although some of the URLs may be out-of-date by now, the large number of entries guarantee that this book is still worth checking out.—AB


In this essay, Gough criticizes libraries for not doing enough to represent the interests of its gay and lesbian patrons in their collections. Gough debunks the often-cited excuses used to justify the limited resources, arguing that the library is often one of the places gay and lesbians come to explore their sexuality, and should provide information relating to LGBT issues. To help librarians better meet the needs of their gay and lesbian patrons, Gough offers practical ways of selecting materials to enhance a library’s LGBT resources for adult and young adult users. —AM


These essays examine service to LGBTQ users of libraries and archives in the digital age, and are arranged into 7 sections: new communities and connections, libraries, archives, collection development, bibliographic access, censorship of LGBTQ resources, and professional concerns. Each section includes personal profiles that give individual accounts and experiences, as well as insights into particular libraries and archives. Building on ideas introduced in *Gay and Lesbian Library Service* (1990), this collection brings the discussion into the context of the 21st century by incorporating the role of new digital environments, and what it means for libraries and archives. —JC

*Boys’ Love Manga* is a collection of 14 essays on this genre of Japanese animation. It is divided into 3 sections: Boys’ Love and Global Publishing, Genre and Readership, and Boys’ Love and Perceptions of the Queer. Boys’ Love is a specific sub-genre of Japanese manga or anime that involves male-male homoerotic relationships, though it is written primarily by women. Various types of Boys’ Love relationships have been represented and explored in Japanese art and culture for centuries under various names (see the comprehensive glossary). BL now enjoys a world-wide fan-base, primarily composed of women. The essays presented here explore the culture and sexual controversies of this new global community.—RM


Like other titles in the *How-To-Do-It-Manuals for Librarians* series, this book is highly organized and accessible. These qualities make it invaluable as a reference book for Youth or Teen Service librarians. It applies questions of information-seeking, reader’s advisory, collection development, and programming, specifically to respond to the needs of LGBTQ youth. This manual can either serve as a kickstart for recent graduates or as a reminder to experienced practitioners.—AB


Campbell has compiled an extensive annotated bibliography of children’s books with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer content. Highlighting titles for children from infancy to age 11, *Rainbow Family Collections* includes over 250 children’s picture books, informational books, and chapter books. Each entry contains a synopsis of the content, a list of awards received, and citations of professional reviews. Also included is an overview of LGBTQ children’s literature, tips on designing welcoming places, ways of offering effective library service, and criteria for selecting the best books. —JC

*Challenging Silence, Challenging Censorship* is the fourth in a series on social justice advocacy for bisexual, gay, lesbian, trans-identified and two-spirited youth. This title emphasizes a synergistic relationship between policy, ethical and legislative framework, and practical resources. It aims to help educators, librarians and community stakeholders in school and public library environments address discrimination and isolation facing GLBT youth by building inclusive collections and curriculums. –AB


This *Genreflecting* guide focuses on the most turbulent of developmental stages – that of the teenager years. The guide provides lists of books and authors that cover topics such as coming out, being yourself, and dealing with school. The books chosen cover a range of eras, authors, and writing styles, but all provide literary support and assurances that this age too will pass. –AF

**Periodicals**


The *GLBT Newsletter* is a quarterly publication which chronicles the events and issues of interest to the Gay and Lesbian Task Force which was one part of the ALA’s Social Responsibilities Round Table. It ran from 1988-1994, when it changed its name to the *GLBTF Newsletter.* —AB

The **GLBTF Newsletter** continues the **GLTF Newsletter** after its mandate was widened to include a broader notion of queer sexualities. It contains information on the committee’s work, conferences, and book reviews. The Inforum’s subscription closed with vol. 9, no. 4 (Winter 1997) but the newsletter is still in publication.—AB

Compiled and annotated by Inforum Student Assistants: