

# STRATEGIC PLAN: NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF LGBT HISTORY & CULTURE

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### ABSTRACT

This report, commissioned by the Velvet Foundation and funded through a grant from the Arcus Foundation, was to assess the scope of existing collections, repositories, and interpretive exhibition activities related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender history and culture in the United States, and to assess how these findings are relevant to a proposed National Museum.

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### FINDINGS: LGBT REPOSITORIES AND HOLDINGS

**LGBT Repositories in the United States.** This research project found 87 organizations and institutions housing collections and archives with LGBT-related materials – 51% university libraries, 14% nonprofit LGBT archives, 9% historical societies, 7% LGBT community centers, 6% museums, 5% LGBT libraries, 5% other nonprofits, and 3% public libraries.

**Location of LGBT collections.** Of these 87 organizations, 33% are located in the Northeast (including Washington, D.C.), 28% in the Midwest, 17% in California, 9% in the Southeast, 6% in Texas, and 5% in the Pacific Northwest. The concentration of LGBT collections in these the Northeast and Midwest is due to the high number of university libraries listed as LGBT repositories.

**LGBT communities represented in collections.** The vast majority (72%) identified themselves as repositories containing historical and cultural items associated with all four LGBT communities. This count, however, reflects the organization’s collecting policy and cannot be interpreted to represent the percentage of items held in collections associated with either the bisexual or transgender communities, which appear to be under-represented.

**Number of items in LGBT collections.** It is impossible to provide an accurate estimate of items specifically devoted to LGBT history and culture, but appears to be well over 1 million items (including papers, photographs, rare publications, and objects) held in repositories operated by many different types of organizations.

**Range of items in LGBT collections.** The holdings in these repositories include two-dimensional items, three-dimensional objects, and media – 55% hold items in all three categories; 17% have two-dimensional only (personal papers and historic papers of LGBT organizations), 13% hold two-dimensional and media, 10% hold two-dimensional and 3-D objects, and 5% did not have a physical archive (i.e. on-line “virtual” presence for an archive physically maintained by a university or historical society).

### FINDINGS: INTERPRETATION OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL LGBT MATERIAL

**Locating LGBT items within collections.** Finding repositories and learning about the LGBT holdings within them was a significant undertaking – no up-to-date master list of archives and repositories currently exists. Not all organizations identify their LGBT

materials as “collections”. Holdings within nonprofit organizations dedicated to the LGBT community (e.g. LGBT archives, LGBT libraries, LGBT community centers) are easily identifiable; however, finding LGBT materials in many other repositories (i.e. university libraries, museums, historical societies) is challenging. The vast majority of LGBT collections (72%) are clearly identified; however, 25% of the institutions housing LGBT materials do not distinguish them in any way – a researcher or exhibitions curator would have to know in advance what they were seeking or contact the archivist for specific help.

**Access to LGBT collections.** LGBT libraries, community centers, and nonprofit archives typically post hours that their archives are open to the public for drop-in service. Although university libraries are primarily used by faculty and students, most of the special collections and university archives have policies that enable the public to make use of the LGBT materials held. About 54% of the repositories surveyed had on-line databases by which LGBT items could be found.

**Use of LGBT collections.** For the 84 organizations with physical LGBT collections, 94% cite research as one of the primary ways items are used; 44% have provided items for use in interpretive exhibitions and displays.

**Interpretation of LGBT materials.** Of the 84 organizations with collections, nearly half (46%) did not engage in exhibition or interpretation of LGBT materials, and an additional 14% had a gallery space but did not show LGBT materials. Only 9% are engaged in an ongoing exhibitions program related to their LGBT collections.

## ASSESSMENT

**Need for Washington D.C.-based museum on LGBT history and culture:** Although the GLBT Historical Society, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, and Stonewall Library and Archives conduct activities similar to those proposed for a National Museum, none are located in proximity to Washington, D.C. or have any type of presence there. Thus, the proposed National Museum of LGBT History and Culture would serve a unique purpose and have a unique presence in the national capital.

**Need for expanded collections focus.** The number of items LGBT archives and collections in the United States is extensive; however, the Bisexual and Transgender communities are severely under-represented in collections today – a gap that collections activity by a National Museum could fill.

In addition, the dominant items held in LGBT archives today are two-dimensional items – books, magazines, photographs, personal papers, and organizational records. A proposed National Museum could play an important role in collecting the types of items

that are currently under-represented in collections -- historic artifacts, personal items, art, and other three-dimensional items related to LGBT history and culture.

**Need for collection and curatorial focus on LGBT community:** Among the 751,000 items identified for this study – only a fraction of the number of items held across the United States – nearly 36%, or about 263,000, are being maintained by organizations that either face uncertainty in their fiscal futures or are being maintained solely by dedicated volunteers. A well-funded National Museum with high curatorial standards could play a significant role in maintaining items important to preserving LGBT history and culture and draw attention to regional collections at a time when many grassroots LGBT archives are financially threatened.

**Need for interpretive exhibition presence:** A proposed National Museum in Washington, D.C. that provided a high-quality, large-scale, interpretive museum experience to a broader public would serve a unique role on the East Coast and could showcase a broad range of items from LGBT collections across the United States that might not otherwise be seen or appreciated.

**Need for on-line interpretive presence:** With so many important LGBT repositories hosting exhibitions and interpretive displays on line, an on-line interpretive presence for the National Museum would not fill an unmet need – rather, it would enable the proposed Museum to rank itself highly among the other prestigious institutions that host both on-line and physical exhibitions.

**Collaboration with existing LGBT collections:** Assuming that a National Museum was developed with very high curatorial standards, a majority of repositories – most with archival finding aids and extensive descriptions of their collections – would be willing to loan items to a Washington, D.C. exhibition and would welcome this type of exposure for items from their collections.

## 1. INTRODUCTION TO ASSESSMENT STUDY

The Velvet Foundation's mission is to envision and establish a National Museum of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) of History and Culture in Washington, D.C. The Foundation's vision is that this new institution will serve a forum for the identification, study, and dissemination of the social, historical, and cultural contributions of the LGBT community – and this community's relation with the larger society – through collections, exhibitions, research, publications, and public programs.

In 2010, the Foundation began the first phase of a multi-year comprehensive master planning process. As part of this process in January 2010, the Velvet Foundation commissioned a report to gather the facts regarding:

- Whether a National Museum devoted to LGBT history and culture currently exists in the United States
- The existence and nature of US collections documenting the LGBT community
- Whether items from these collections might be made available for exhibition in Washington, D.C.
- The extent to which physical exhibitions about the LGBT community are currently reaching a larger public audience.

### Scope of Work

The Velvet Foundation engaged Susan Bednarczyk, an independent research analyst, to carry out this two-month study. The scope of research was to:

- Identify all organizations with LGBT-related material in the United States, including artifacts, archives, and artwork
- Correspond with LGBT collections to ascertain the degree of willingness to loan material to the proposed museum
- Produce a detailed report on these findings.

### Methodology for Research

All of the research for this project was carried out during between January and March 2010. The approach taken centered upon the following:

**Finding LGBT-related collections and repositories.** The research began with a list of twenty organizations supplied by the Velvet Foundation. This list was expanded through an online search and by following web links posted on LGBT-oriented sites. Several on-line sources were particularly valuable:

- Links on web sites hosted by The Center in New York; The Rainbow History Project in Washington, D.C.; the LGBT Religious Archives Network in Berkeley, California; and The History Project in Boston.
- The *Lavender Legacies Guide*, initially published online in 1996 by the Society of American Archivists' Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable, whose details were used in cases where current information on collections were unavailable.

This research project collected contact information for each LGBT collection – typically the collections manager, chief archivist, or director of the organization -- and classified each organization's collection according to the:

- Type of organization holding the collection (e.g. LGBT community center, university library, historical society, volunteer archive)
- Whether the collection represented the all aspects of the LGBT community or only specific segments (e.g. gay, lesbian, bisexual)
- Nature of items in the collection
- Degree to which LGBT items are easily identified in cases where they reside within larger libraries and collections
- History of the collection and the year collecting began
- Number of items in the collections and number of linear feet of space devoted to it
- Accessibility of collections information on the organization's web site
- Degree to which items in the collection can be searched on line
- Presence of an exhibition space at the facility
- Frequency of LGBT exhibitions
- List of recent exhibitions (physical and on line).



The Velvet Foundation was provided with this database in electronic format as well as more complete written reports on approximately 70 of the organizations surveyed.

**Contacting collections.** Half of the organizations on this long list were contacted to gauge their willingness to lend items to a Washington, D.C.-based exhibition space that adhered to “Smithsonian standards” for the display, mounting, and care of the items. This smaller list included major institutions, leading university collections, and grass-roots organizations with significant holdings.

Each of these organizations was contacted via email mid-March 2010, emphasizing this was a very preliminary inquiry (i.e. no specific theme for an exhibition had been identified). The purpose was to gauge broad conditions under which established archives and collections would lend LGBT-related material for exhibition and to elicit general descriptions of items held in grass-roots repositories in cases where this information could not be found on line. Responses were gathered and documented for a two-week period.

The Velvet Foundation was provided with a list of contacts and responses for future reference.

**Analyzing the findings.** This report presents and interprets these findings as follows:

- Chapter 2 assesses the nature and quantity of LGBT-related items in collections throughout the United States and identifies the organizations engage in collection, preservation, and archival activities.
- Chapter 3 reports on the degree to which these items are being interpreted for the public through physical and on-line exhibitions.
- Chapter 4 assesses the implications of these findings. A gap analysis compares the status of collection and interpretation of LGBT-related materials in the United States with the role and activities through which the proposed National Museum of LGBT History and Culture could address unmet needs.

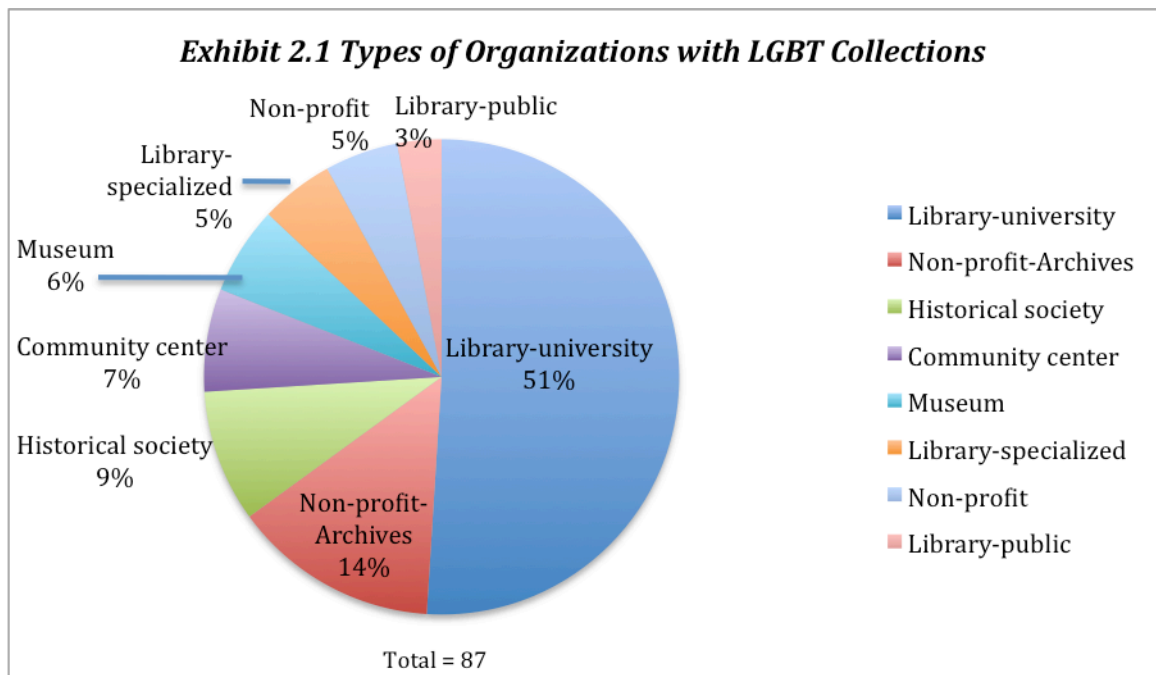
## 2. STATUS OF LGBT-RELATED ITEMS IN US REPOSITORIES

### 2.1 What Organizations Have LGBT-Related Collections?

This research project found 87 organizations and institutions housing collections and archives with LGBT-related materials. Each were classified into the following categories, as shown in Exhibit 2.1:

- **Museums and historical societies**
- **Libraries**, including public libraries in major cities, university libraries, and specialized libraries established specifically to serve the LGBT community
- **Community centers** serving the LGBT community
- **Nonprofit LGBT archives** formed by volunteers to collect materials and histories associated with the gay, lesbian, or LGBT community
- **Other nonprofit organizations.**

The names of all the organizations and institutions surveyed in this study are provided in Appendix 1.



**University libraries.** Exhibit 2.1 shows that half (51%) of collections on this list are housed in university libraries. Many university libraries have large collections of LGBT-related books, journals, and publications that are available to students; however, this study attempted to exclude counting widely available books and magazines and to focus primarily upon LGBT-related materials housed inside special collections and archive divisions of these university libraries – repositories that hold rare books, out-of-print LGBT magazines, and collections of historic newsletters and other ephemera.

Due to their affiliation with well-funded university operations, these collections typically reside within repositories having large, specialized staffs consisting of archivists, special collections managers, and librarians specializing in LGBT or gender-studies collections. In university libraries, LGBT-related materials are typically well documented. Many universities offer on-line finding aids (e.g. downloadable PDFs, web pages with links to special collections) to assist students in women's and gender studies programs in finding these materials. Nearly all university collection listed in Appendix 1 include extensive details about LGBT-related materials within the library's own database as well as larger university-wide or statewide academic search engines and databases.

**Nonprofit LGBT archives.** Our research found twelve non-profit archives, or 13% of this list, that were founded specifically to preserve the history of the local or regional LGBT community. These are typically volunteer-run repositories dedicated to documenting the LGBT history and culture of a specific city, state, or region.

The oldest, most famous, and most significant nonprofit LGBT archive is the ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles, established in 1971, with over 250,000 items in its collection. The most recently established is the Queer Zine Archive (Milwaukee), which began in 2003 as an on-line archive to make queer, independent, self-published works more widely available through downloadable digital copies.

Typically, the collections of nonprofit archives are quite extensive, containing photos, costumes, banners, T-shirts, video and audio oral histories, historic organizational documentation, and personal papers. The majority are underfunded and rely solely upon donated spaces and energetic volunteers to process, digitize, and post information about holdings.

In addition to the historic ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, the most active non-profit LGBT archive groups are The History Project (Boston), The Lesbian Herstory Archives (Brooklyn), Lambda Archives of San Diego, and The Rainbow Project (Washington, D.C.). Despite their activities and ambition, most of these organizations are short of funds. In the most extreme cases, collections are managed by a single individual out of a home or church, operate by appointment only, and have neither web presence nor published lists of their holdings.

Some LGBT archive organizations have begun to partner with either university libraries or historical societies to ensure that their collections, or at least portions of them, will be conserved in an appropriate, professional manner. Examples include:

- The History Project (Boston), which is working with Northeastern University to physically house and preserve its collection.
- The June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives (Los Angeles) and the University of California-Los Angeles Library, which have partnered successfully to raise funds for UCLA to document, digitize, post, and preserve a subset of the extensive Mazer collection.
- The Rainbow History Project, which is working with the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. to preserve a portion of the items in its extensive collection.

**Historical societies.** Our research found eight historical societies, or 13% of this list, actively maintaining and building LGBT-related archives within their collections.

The GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco is the only institution in this category whose collections and activities are fully devoted to preserving and celebrating the LGBT community. The collections of the other seven historical societies on this list hold LGBT-related items within much larger collections having either a city or state focus.

Several volunteer-run nonprofit archive groups have turned over their entire collections to historical societies for more professional documentation and preservation:

- The Pacific Northwest Lesbian Archives is incorporated within the larger archive of the Washington State Historical Society (Tacoma)
- The Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest (GLAPN) is now held within the archives of the Oregon Historical Society.
- The Northeast Ohio Lesbian/Gay Archives are in the collection of the Western Reserve Historical Society (Cincinnati).

**LGBT community centers.** Our research found six LGBT community centers, or 7% of this list, holding collections pertaining to LGBT history and culture in their city. Community centers provide space for social gatherings, referrals for social and health services, space for lectures or art exhibits, and youth programs. Archives are typically maintained in tandem with circulating libraries of commercially available books, magazines, and local LGBT newspapers.

The best-known archive operated by an LGBT community center is the National Archive of LGBT History, located at The LGBT Community Center (known as “The Center”) in

New York City. Begun in 1990, the archive was expanded from a single collection begun by The Center's current archivist, Rich Wandel, whose contents are now fully documented and posted on line.

LGBT community centers in Philadelphia, Sacramento, and Cambridge actively maintain archives and collections that document the history of their local LGBT communities. The archive in Dallas pertains exclusively to the history of HIV-related medical treatment. The community center in Fort Wayne, Indiana (Up the Stairs) has recently closed due to funding shortfalls, and the archive is currently in storage.

**Museums.** The work of many LGBT artists, writers, performers, designers, and historical figures are featured prominently throughout museum collections in the United States. Most museums do not typically classify works according to their maker's sexual orientation; thus, it was outside the scope of this research project to perform an exhaustive survey to find works, manuscripts, and personal items of LGBT individuals within each mainstream art, science, and historical museum collections.

Within this narrow scope, this research project included five museums, representing 6% of the LGBT collections list. The two museums with the greatest number of LGBT-related items are the Andy Warhol Museum (Pittsburgh), whose archives feature many iconic LGBT personalities in Warhol's extensive body of work – paintings, prints, drawings, film, video, and *Interview* magazine; and the Leather Archives and Museum (Chicago), whose holdings pertain to leather, fetishism, and alternative sexual practices.

Two museums in Washington, D.C. – the Smithsonian National Museum of American History and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum – have only a limited number of items within their collections associated with LGBT history.

**Special LGBT Libraries.** These organizations serve as important gathering places for the LGBT communities, offering extensive lending libraries and events, such as author readings, book clubs, and speaker programs. Of the four LGBT lending libraries identified in this project, two have archives of significant size and scope – The Henry Gerber-Pearl M. Hart Library (Chicago) and the Stonewall Library and Archives (Ft. Lauderdale), which has recently opened an expanded facility.

**Public Libraries.** The three public libraries identified in this project each have very important, significant LGBT collections:

- The New York Public Library, which has very extensive LGBT holdings across its many specialized libraries and divisions and a significant amount of this archival material digitized and posted on line.

- San Francisco Library, whose James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center houses an extensive LGBT archive, including the collections of the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California.
- Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.), which holds an extensive, historic archive of Frank Kameny's papers in its Manuscript Division.

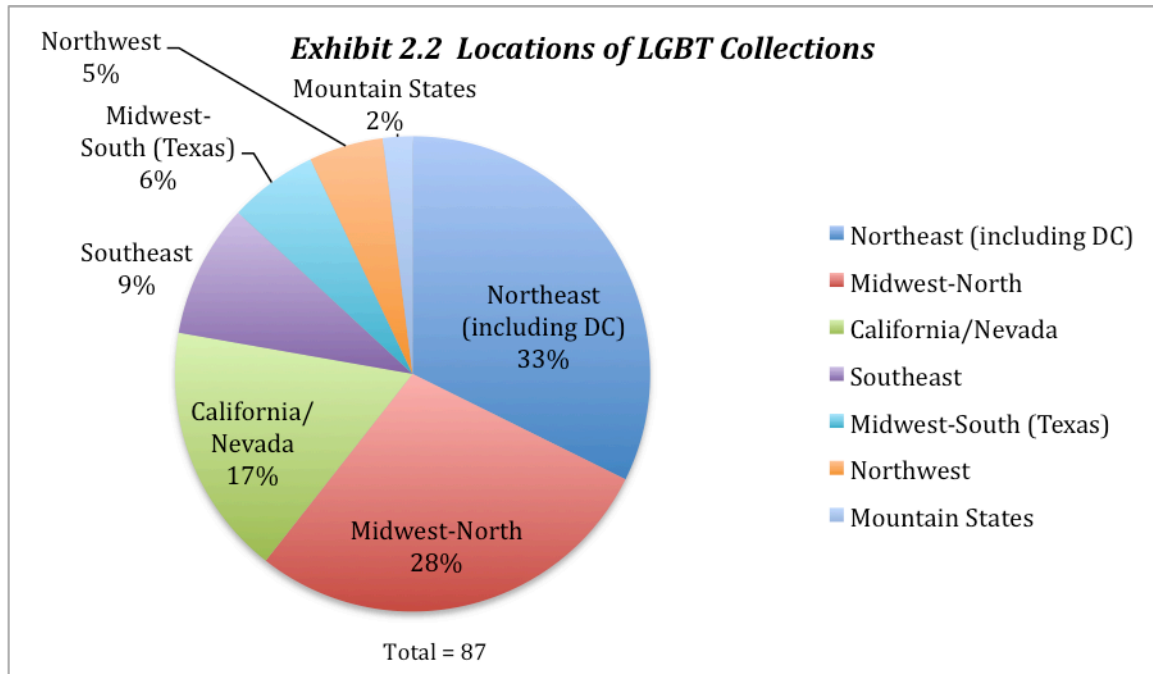
Each of these institutions is well funded and provides sophisticated on-line search engines through which researchers have access to details on each of the items. The New York Public Library is particularly devoted to wider dissemination of its holdings and has successfully undertaken major fund-raising initiatives to digitize its LGBT-related collections and post them on line.

**Other types of nonprofit organizations.** Five organizations, or about 5% of this list, fell outside the above categories:

- The Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation (New York), which operates a gallery in Soho to show its extensive collection of fine art and to showcase the work of gay artists.
- Albuquerque Pride, which focuses upon hosting the annual Pride Day rally in New Mexico, has a small, undocumented archive.
- The Archives of the Episcopal Church (Austin, Texas).
- The LGBT Religious Archives Network (LGBT-RAN), a web resource operated by the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry to point researchers to religion-oriented materials on the LGBT community within larger archives.
- Wisconsin GLBT History Project, which maintains an active web site featuring items from its collection, but has its physical collection housed and maintained by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

## 2.2 Where Are LGBT Collections Located?

Of the 87 organizations and institutions hosting collections and archives with LGBT-related materials, over half are located in the Northeast (including Washington, D.C.) and the Midwest, as shown in Exhibit 2.2.



The concentration of LGBT collections in these regions is due to the high number of university libraries listed as LGBT repositories, as shown in Exhibit 2.3.

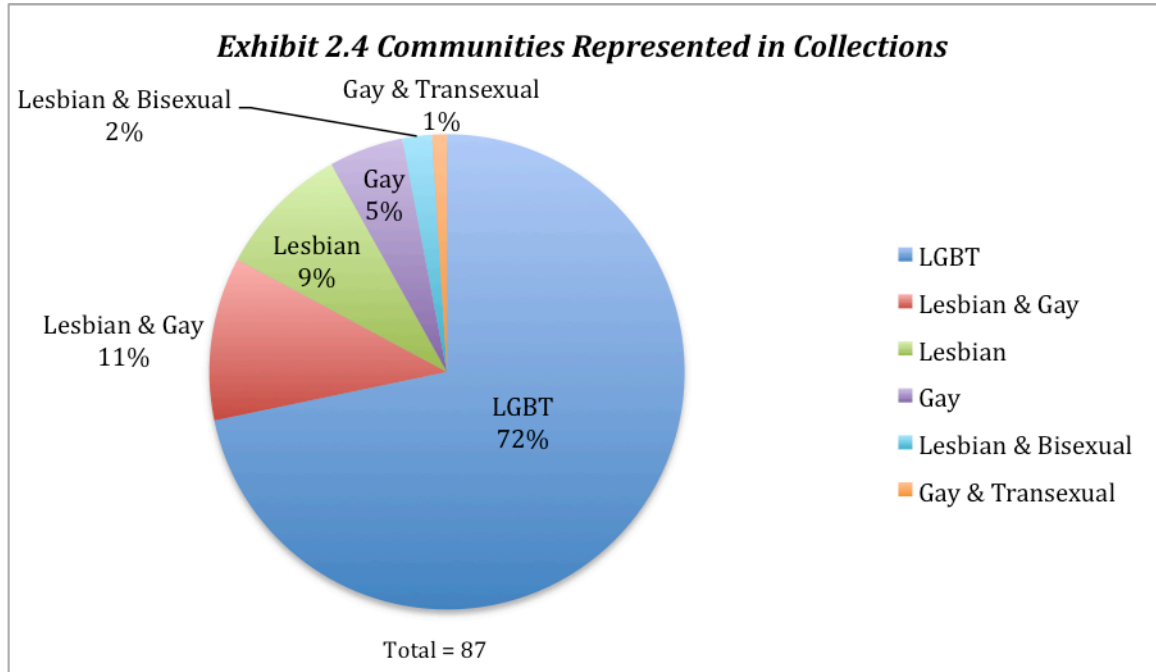
**Exhibit 2.3 LGBT Collections by Region**

	Museum	Non-profit Archive	Community Center	Library-Public	Library-University	Library-Specialized	Historical Society	Other
<b>Northeast (DC)</b>	3	4	2	2	14		1	1
<b>Southeast</b>					6	1	1	1
<b>Midwest</b>	1	3	1		13	2	3	3
<b>Texas</b>		2	1		2			
<b>Mountain</b>					1			
<b>California</b>	1	3	1	1	7	1	1	1
<b>Pacific Northwest</b>		1			1		2	2
<b>% of sample</b>	6%	14%	7%	3%	51%	5%	9%	9%

## 2.3 Which Collections Reflect Specific LGBT Communities?

For each collection identified, contents of the holdings were briefly analyzed to determine the degree to which lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities

were represented. Of the 87 organizations and institutions hosting collections and archives with LGBT-related materials, the vast majority (72%) identified themselves as repositories containing historical and cultural items associated with all four LGBT communities, as in Exhibit 2.4.



Quick scans of items and paper held within collections classified as “LGBT” revealed that the majority are historic and cultural items associated explicitly with gay and lesbian history; less so with the bisexual and transgender communities. Most organizations surveyed, however, have mission statements that stress the importance of “inclusive” collecting and collection policies that reflect intent to include items “regardless of sexual and gender identity.”

This report classifies collections that hold items associated with a specific community segment as “LGBT” if the collecting institution clearly states a broader, “inclusive” collections policy and holds a broader range of items. An example is the National Transgender Library and Archive, Labadie Collection, which resides in the Special Collections Library, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, Michigan). Although this transgender archive is prominent, the Labadie Collection has expanded its scope to include collecting from the broad range of gender identities; thus, Labadie is classified as an “LGBT” archive.

Many Women’s Studies programs, art collections, and archives often contain items associated with lesbian artists and activists. This research project did not search or



count all items held in these gender-associated collections; thus, collections containing lesbian material are likely under-represented in the list developed for this project.

Nine collections reflecting high concentrations of items related to lesbian culture and history are:

- Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, Radcliffe Institute (Cambridge, Massachusetts)
- Lesbian Herstory Archives (Brooklyn, New York)
- Women's Research and Resource Center Archives, Spelman College (Atlanta, Georgia)
- Ohio Lesbian Archives, Clifton United Methodist Church (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- Women's Collection, Blagg/Huey Library, Texas Women's College (Denton, Texas)
- The June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives (West Hollywood, California)
- Special Collections and University Archives, Cecil H Green Library, Stanford University (Stanford, California)
- Pacific Northwest Lesbian Archives, Washington State Historical Society (Tacoma, Washington)

The two collections reflecting high concentrations of items related to lesbian and female bisexual culture and history are:

- Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College (Northampton, Massachusetts)
- Women's Movement Archives and Library, The Women's Center (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

The one collection classified as "gay and transsexual" is the Vern and Bonnie Bullough Collection on Sex and Gender, Special Collections/Archives, Oviatt Library, California State University – Northridge.

In conclusion, this study's classification by community type is more reflective of the organization's collecting policy and cannot be interpreted to represent the percentage of items held in collections associated with either the bisexual or transgender communities.

## 2.4 How Many Items are in LGBT Collections?

From looking at information provided on LGBT material in these 87 collections, it is impossible to provide an accurate estimate of items specifically devoted to LGBT history and culture for the following reasons:

- Some collections publish the size and scope of their collection on their web site; others do not.
- Most collections do not have an accurate count of items, particularly smaller, volunteer-run LGBT archives.
- Often LGBT-related items are scattered within larger collections and not identified as a single collection.
- Methods of estimating size vary – some collections count items; others estimate size in cubic feet (or linear feet) of archival space; others do both.
- Some specialized LGBT libraries do not distinguish between the number of books and periodicals in their circulating library from the number of similar items of an historical nature in their archive.

Nevertheless, this research study attempted to gather as much information as possible about the scope of these collections from the organizations themselves, from their web sites, and from the most recent *Lavender Legacies Guide*, published online by the Society of American Archivists' Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable. *Lavender Legacies Guide* was particularly useful in estimating the number of items in collections housed among other, larger collections, since the archivists themselves provided the information. While very useful in filling gaps in from web site research, some of the *Lavender Legacies* entries appear to be somewhat out of date.

In compiling the statistics below, this project used the best available information on the size and scope of the physical archive.

**Number of items.** Only 43% of the collections examined reported on the number of items that they held. The 37 repositories that reported in this manner collectively hold 751,000 items. Exhibit 2.5 lists the collections with the highest number of items.

***Exhibit 2.5 Repositories by Number of LGBT-Related Items***

<b>No.</b>	<b>Repository</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number of Items</b>
1	ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives (Los Angeles)	Non-profit archive	250,000
2	New York Public Library	Library-public	120,000
3	GLBT Historical Society (San Francisco)	Historical society	100,000
4	The Kinsey Institute, Indiana University (Bloomington)	Library-university	100,000
5	Library of Congress, Frank Kameny papers	Library-public	50,000
6	The John Hay Library, Brown University (Providence, RI)	Library-university	38,000
7	Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection, University of Minnesota (Minneapolis)	Library-university	30,000
8	Phil Johnson Historic Archives & Research Library, John Thomas Gay & Lesbian Community Center, Resource Center of Dallas	Community center	8,200
9	Human Sexuality Collection, Cornell University (Ithaca)	Library-university	7,000
10	Chris Gonzalez Library and Archives (Indianapolis)	Library-specialized	6,000
11	Sexual Minorities Archive (Florence, Massachusetts)	Non-profit archive	6,000
	All others reporting on numbers of items (26)		35,740
	<b>Total</b>		<b>750,940</b>

The ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives is by far the largest collection in the United States devoted exclusively to LGBT history. The New York Public Library has the second-largest collection, although the number cited here could easily be interpreted as low due to the magnitude of holdings within its performing-arts library, which contains significant numbers of items associated with LGBT dance, music, and theatrical professionals extending back decades.

Brown University's Hay Library holds an extensive collection of gay and lesbian pulp novels (30,000 items alone). Most of the items in the Phil Johnson Library in Dallas are primarily health-related publications, including an extensive archive of HIV-related papers and studies – a collection bias that is in keeping with this Library's history and mission and that differs from the other collections surveyed for this study.

In the "all others" category, the number of items reported range from 5,000 to 40, with about half reporting less than 100.

**Archival space.** Of the 54 repositories reporting the number of feet of archival space devoted to LGBT-related items, these collectively represent 21,820 feet of space; however, only a few repositories comprise the majority, as shown in Exhibit 2.6. In the “all other” category, 33 report 100 feet devoted to holding LGBT items.

### ***Exhibit 2.6 Repositories by Number of Linear Feet of LGBT-Related Archives***

<b>No.</b>	<b>Repository</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Feet</b>
1	Andy Warhol Museum	Museum	8,000
2	ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives (Los Angeles)	Non-profit archive	2,300
3	James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center, San Francisco Public Library	Library-public	1,100
4	New York Public Library	Library-public	1,000
5	The Henry Gerber–Pearl M. Hart Library (Chicago)	Library-specialized	1,000
6	GLBT Historical Society (San Francisco)	Historical society	800
7	Fales and Tamiment Libraries, New York University	Library-university	697
8	Human Sexuality Collection, Cornell University (Ithaca)	Library-university	637
9	Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California-Los Angeles	Library-university	550
10	Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections Library, Duke University	Library-university	429
	Archive space by all others (26)		3,307
	Total		19,820

In conclusion, this study’s efforts to gauge the extent of LGBT-related items held in collections in the United States is imperfect, but appears to be well over 1 million items (including papers, photographs, rare publications, and objects) held in repositories operated by many different types of organizations.

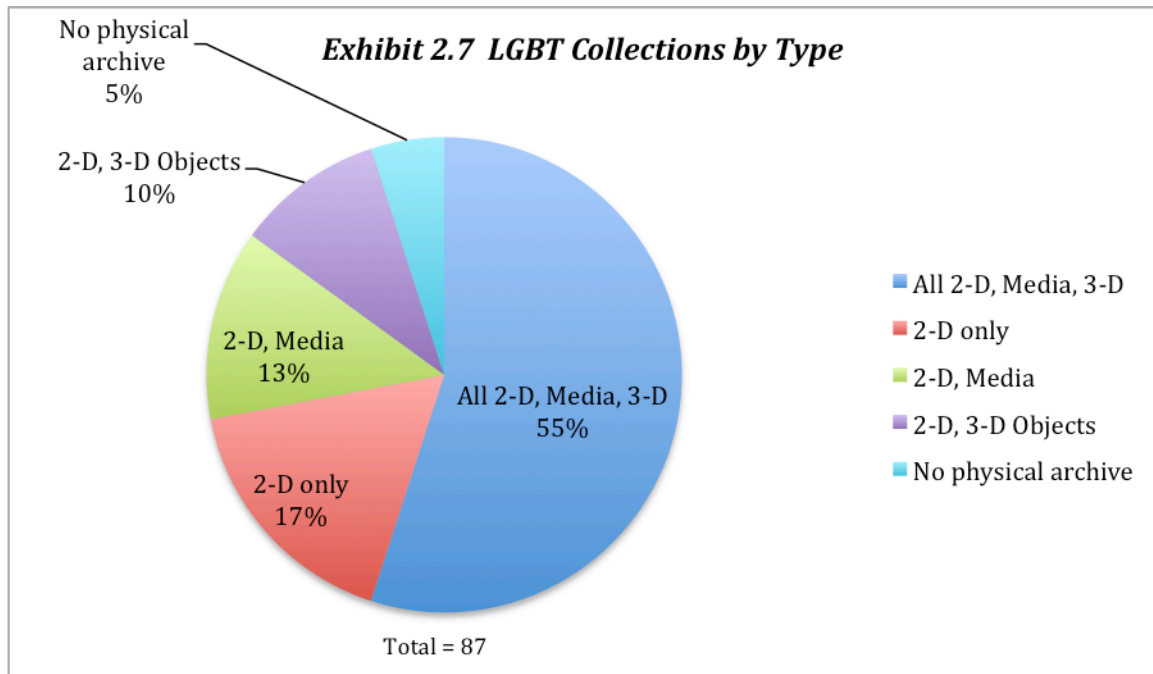
### **2.5 What Types of Items are in LGBT Collections?**

The holdings in these repositories were classified into two-dimensional items, three-dimensional objects, and media. The following chart summarizes the types of items associated with each of these three categories:

<b>2-D Items</b>	<b>Media</b>	<b>3-D Objects</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal papers</li> <li>• Organization papers</li> <li>• Historic documents</li> <li>• Photographs</li> <li>• Interviews/oral histories</li> <li>• Letters</li> <li>• Books</li> <li>• Periodicals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Film</li> <li>• Video</li> <li>• Music</li> <li>• Audio interviews</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine art</li> <li>• Memorabilia</li> <li>• Historical artifacts</li> <li>• Personal items</li> <li>• T-shirts and clothing</li> <li>• Costumes</li> <li>• Banners</li> <li>• Buttons</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Magazines/newspapers</li> <li>• Posters</li> </ul>		
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As shown in Exhibit 2.7, the majority of the 87 organizations have LGBT-related items in all three categories.



The 17% of collections holding only two-dimensional items are principally libraries that house personal papers and historic papers related to LGBT organizations in their archives and special collections.

Note that several of the organizations surveyed had no physical archive – they operate in a “virtual” manner, pointing users to other physical LGBT collections or hosting virtual (i.e. on-line) exhibitions from their collections that are physically housed within libraries or historical societies.

Since these organizations are listed on many LGBT-related web sites as important to the preservation of LGBT collections, history, and culture, this study includes them in its analysis.

Of the organizations with physical collections, the following lists the number of collections holding the following types of LGBT-related items:

2-D Items	Media	3-D Objects
• Historic organization	• Film (20)	• Fine art (22)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>records (58)</li> <li>• Photographs (71)</li> <li>• Interview transcripts (33)</li> <li>• Personal letters (52)</li> <li>• Publications (75)</li> <li>• Posters (41)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Video (51)</li> <li>• Music (14)</li> <li>• Audio interviews (42)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorabilia (55)</li> <li>• Historic artifacts (14)</li> <li>• Personal items (12)</li> <li>• Clothing and costumes (29)</li> </ul>
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The Velvet Foundation has been provided with a database of the organizations reporting holdings in each of these categories.

### 3. INTERPRETATION OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL LGBT MATERIAL

As documented in the previous section, thousands of LGBT-related materials are held in repositories across the United States. This section investigates the degree to which these items are accessible and interpreted to a wider public.

#### 3.1 How Easily Are LGBT Items Located?

As noted in Section 1, the list of LGBT repositories was created from an extensive search that relied upon following links cited on better-known LGBT web sites<sup>1</sup> and the *Lavender Legacies Guide*, assembled by the Society of American Archivists' Lesbian and Gay Archives Roundtable.

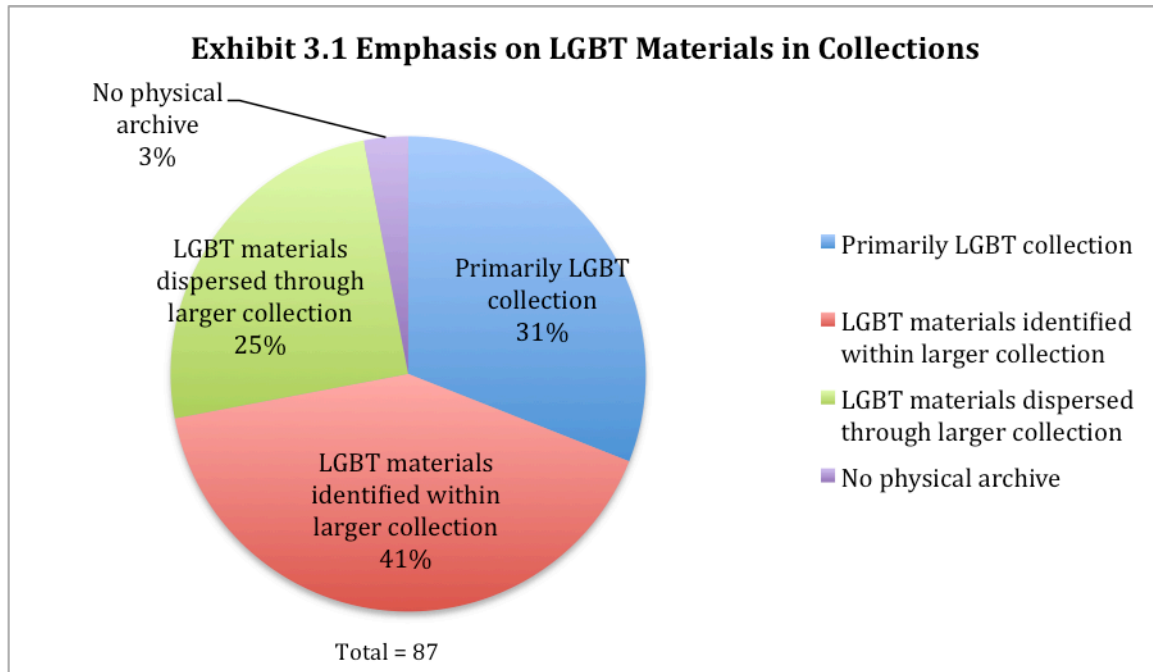
Finding repositories and learning about the LGBT holdings within them was a significant undertaking – no up-to-date master list of archives and repositories currently exists.

Moreover, not all organizations identify their LGBT materials as “collections”. Holdings within nonprofit organizations dedicated to the LGBT community (e.g. LGBT archives, LGBT libraries, LGBT community centers) are easily identifiable; however, finding LGBT materials in many other repositories (i.e. university libraries, museums, historical societies) posed a challenge.

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<sup>1</sup> Primarily those of The Center in New York; The Rainbow History Project in Washington, D.C.; the LGBR Religious Archives Network in Berkeley, California; and The History Project in Boston.





This study classified each of these 87 collections according to the LGBT material's apparent visibility on line to gauge the difficulty or ease with which LGBT materials can be found. As shown in Exhibit 3.1, the vast majority of collections are clearly identified; however, 25% of the institutions housing LGBT materials do not distinguish them in any way – a researcher or exhibitions curator would have to know in advance what they were seeking or contact the archivist for specific help.

Note that several of the organizations surveyed had no physical archive – they operate in a “virtual” manner:

- Center for Gay & Lesbian Studies (CLAGS), City University of New York – hosts the OutHistory web site, which posts on-line exhibitions of LGBT materials and interpretation for LGBT repositories and gender-studies historic projects
- LGBT Religious Archives Network (LGBT-RAN), Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry (Austin, Texas) – hosts a web site that serves as a finding aid to materials in collections on religion and the LGBT community.
- The History Project (Boston) – posts exhibitions on its web site using items from its collection, which are physically housed within Northeastern University's library.

Since these organizations are listed on many LGBT-related web sites as important to the preservation of LGBT collections, history, and culture, this study has chosen to include them in its analysis.

### 3.2 How Easily Are LGBT Items Accessed?

Exhibit 3.2 provides further detail of the types of organizations that clearly identify their LGBT holdings as “collections”. As shown, museums, historical societies, public libraries, and university libraries often simply hold LGBT-related items within larger, general collections and do not provide relevant guides or links that would identify them as “LGBT” to a typical researcher. The researcher would have to perform key word searches on databases, for example, and scrutinize the individual records for clues that would identify the items as LGBT materials.

This study revealed that about 54% of all of the repositories surveyed had on-line databases through which LGBT items could be located and identified. The New York Public Library and large universities had sophisticated on-line search capabilities that enabled researches not only to perform key-word searches for materials but also displayed some digital copies of documents and provided meta-data searches. At minimum, larger non-profit archives, such as those of ONE Archives and The Center (New York) provided researchers with detailed on-line listings of the papers and items contained within their collections.

***Exhibit 3.2 Identification of LGBT Materials by Type of Repository***

	<b>Primarily LGBT</b>	<b>LGBT Collection Identified among Other Collections</b>	<b>LGBT Materials Dispersed among Holdings</b>	<b>No Physical Archive</b>
<b>Community center</b>	6			
<b>Historical society</b>	1	3	4	
<b>Library-public</b>		2	1	
<b>Library-specialized</b>	4			
<b>Library-university</b>	1	29	13	1
<b>Museum</b>	1	1	3	
<b>Nonprofit</b>	1			1
<b>Nonprofit archives</b>	12			
<b>Nonprofit-art collection</b>	1			
<b>Nonprofit-religious</b>			1	1
<b>% of sample</b>	31%	40%	25%	3%

Some of the most significant, best known archives, such as The Lesbian Herstory Archives (Brooklyn) and The June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives had no on-line finding aid to their collections. These as well as smaller, regional non-profit LGBT collections require researchers either to fax, email, or personally visit to find out more about the specific components of the collections.

Although university libraries serve principally as sources for faculty and student work, most of the special collections and university archives had policies that enabled the public to make use of the LGBT materials they held. Only one organization – the Doe Memorial Library at the University of California-Berkeley – had a policy of restricting access to faculty and students.

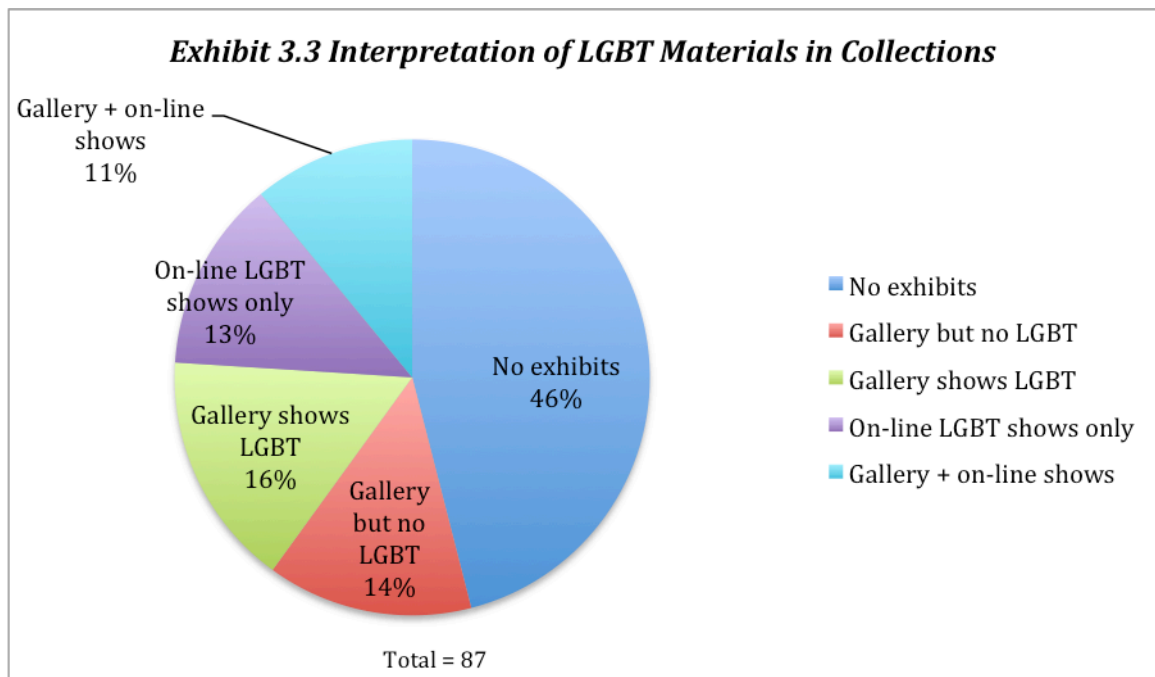
Most of the larger university and public libraries cautioned that many of their archival materials were stored off-site and would require researchers to let them know in advance of the materials they were seeking so staff could retrieve items in advance of their visit to the library. Also, many repositories, such as the Library of Congress or some departments within the New York Public Library, had high-level security procedures for accessing and handling rare documents and photographs.

LGBT libraries, community centers, and nonprofit archives typically posted hours that their archives were open to the public for drop-in service.

### 3.3 How are LGBT Items Used and Interpreted?

For the 84 organizations with physical LGBT collections, this study assessed how the items in these collections were used in general terms:

- 94% cite research -- either by professionals, students, or the public -- as one of the primary ways collections are used
- 44% have provided items for use in physical exhibitions
- 21% have provided items for on-line exhibitions.



This study also examined the degree to which these organizations were providing interpretation of their own materials to the larger public. Each organization was classified as to whether it had a physical exhibition space available, whether it had ever mounted an exhibition with LGBT materials, and whether it designed and posted exhibitions on line.

Exhibit 3.3 shows that nearly half (46%) did not engage in exhibition or interpretation of LGBT materials, and an additional 14% had a gallery space but did not show LGBT materials. The majority of these were university libraries and historical societies.

As shown, 27% of these organizations had shown LGBT materials from their collections in a physical space at least once, and an additional 13% provided interpretation of these items on-line only.

### 3.4 How Frequently are LGBT Items Being Physically Displayed and Interpreted?

A closer look at the activities of the organizations engaged in interpreting their materials to the public show that only a very small number provide interpretation of their LGBT materials in an ongoing manner (i.e. a continuing series of exhibitions on site).

Of the organizations in this study, only 9% are engaged in continuing, ongoing exhibitions programs. As shown in Exhibit 3.4, only half of these host traveling exhibitions and interpret their LGBT materials on line.

***Exhibit 3.4 Organizations with Ongoing Exhibitions Programs for LGBT Items***

<b>LGBT Repository with Ongoing Exhibitions Program</b>	<b>Traveling Exhibitions</b>	<b>On-line Exhibitions</b>
Stonewall Library and Archives (Fort Lauderdale)	●	●
The Leather Archives and Museum (Chicago)	●	●
Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Radcliffe (Cambridge)		●
GLBT Historical Society (San Francisco)		●
Andy Warhol Museum (Pittsburgh)		
John J. Wilcox, Jr. Library and Archive, William Way Community Center (Philadelphia)		
ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives (West Hollywood)		
The Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation (New York)		

Of the organizations in this study, 20% have contributed items from their LGBT collections to at least one exhibition either at their location or at another exhibition space. As shown in Exhibit 3.5, only a few of these “occasional” exhibitors actively participate in traveling exhibitions and/or interpret their LGBT materials on line.

About 8% of the organizations surveyed interpret their LGBT items on line exclusively:

- Albuquerque Pride
- Doe Memorial Library, UC-Berkeley
- The History Project
- Oregon Historical Society
- Queer Zine Archive Project
- The Rainbow History Project
- Perkins Library, Duke University
- Wisconsin GLBT History Project

Appendix 2 provides descriptions of physical and on-line exhibitions mounted by these organizations using LGBT items from their collections.

***Exhibit 3.5 Organizations with Occasional Exhibitions of LGBT Items***

<b>LGBT Repository with Occasional Exhibitions</b>	<b>Traveling Exhibitions</b>	<b>On-line Exhibitions</b>
San Francisco Public Library	●	●
US Holocaust Memorial Museum	●	●
The Lesbian Herstory Archives	●	●
Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in GLBT Studies, University of Minnesota (Minneapolis)	●	
The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction, Indiana University		●
Sterling Memorial Library, Yale University		●
New York Public Library		●
Fales Library, New York University		
Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History (Houston)		
Blagg/Huey Library, Texas Woman's University (Denton, Texas)		
The Elihu Burritt Library, Central Connecticut State University		
Smithsonian National Museum of American History		
Gelman Library, George Washington University		
Atlanta History Center		
Lavender Library, Archives and Cultural Exchange of Sacramento		
Archibald S. Alexander Library, Rutgers University		
Sexual Minorities Archive		

## 4. ASSESSMENT: PROPOSED NATIONAL MUSEUM OF LGBT HISTORY AND CULTURE

The results of this research have important implications for the establishment of a National Museum devoted to LGBT history and culture in Washington, D.C. – a place located in the political center of the United States devoted to education, scholarship, inclusiveness, dialog, preservation, and display of items associated with the LGBT community’s experience and issues.

### 4.1 Is the Proposed Mission and Location Unique?

Two key questions that this research project set out to address were:

- Does a national museum of LGBT history and culture already exist in the United States?
- Are any organizations across the United States duplicating the mission of this proposed Washington, D.C. museum?

This study assessed the degree to which:

- A museum or other organization in the United States had exhibition space, collections, research, and public hours that were devoted exclusively to LGBT history and culture
- A museum or other organization had a presence in or near Washington, D.C.
- A museum or other organization had a comprehensive, national focus to its activities.

Based on the research of 87 organizations with LGBT collections, this study found 15% of these organizations to be classified as either museums or historical societies. All had exhibition space, collections, materials available to researchers, and regular schedules for public visitation; however, the study found that:

- The two museums with the greatest number of LGBT items are the Andy Warhol Museum (Pittsburgh) and the Leather Archives and Museum (Chicago) – neither of which focuses on the totality of the LGBT community and experience in the United States.

- The GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco is the historical society whose collections and activities are fully devoted to preserving and celebrating the LGBT community. The other seven have only a city or state focus to their activities – not a national focus.

Several other organizations -- particularly independent, non-profit archives and special libraries – embrace a “national” mission in their exhibitions and collections. The two LGBT organizations having activities and missions with the greatest similarity to the proposed museum are the historic ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles and the Stonewall Library and Archives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**Key finding:** Although the GLBT Historical Society, ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives, and Stonewall Library and Archives conduct activities similar to those proposed for a National Museum, none are located in proximity to Washington, D.C. or have any type of presence there. Thus, the proposed National Museum of LGBT History and Culture would serve a unique purpose and have a unique presence in the national capital.

#### 4.2 Is There a Need for Additional Collections and Curatorial Focus?

Additional questions that this research project set out to answer were:

- Is there a role for a national museum to play in further collecting and preserving LGBT-related items in the United States?
- Is there a gap to fill in what is being collected today?
- Is there a preservation role that a National Museum could fill?

This study assessed the degree to which:

- Various aspects of the LGBT community were being represented in collections today
- Different categories of items are being collected
- Whether collection care and upkeep are well funded or under-funded.

**Collections focus: gap analysis.** Based on the research of 87 organizations with LGBT collections, this study found a significant gap that collections activity by a National Museum could fill: The number of items LGBT archives and collections in the United States is extensive; however, the Bisexual and Transgender communities are severely under-represented in collections today. Finding archival material related to these groups remains difficult and the presence of these gender identities in archives and collections



remains largely hidden despite the ubiquitous use of the “LGBT” descriptor for 72% of the collections assessed.

**Item-collecting focus: gap analysis.** Of the 84 organizations with physical collections, the Exhibit 4.1 shows the types of items that are most commonly represented in collections and those that are the least represented.

The magnitude of LGBT-related items held in collections and archives today is significant, but the left side of Exhibit 4.1 demonstrates that the dominant items held are two-dimensional items – books, magazines, photographs, personal papers, and organizational records.

**Key finding:** The right side of Exhibit 4.1 demonstrates which types of items are under-represented in collections today – suggesting that a proposed National Museum could play an important a role in collecting historic artifacts, personal items, art, and other three-dimensional items related to LGBT history and culture.

***Exhibit 4.1. Percentage of LGBT Collections Holding Types of Items***

<b>Highest Representation in Collections</b>	<b>Lowest Representation in Collections</b>
89% Publications	39% Interview transcripts
85% Photographs	35% Clothing and costumes
69% Historic organization records	26% Fine art
65% Memorabilia	24% Film
62% Personal letters	17% Music
61% Video	
50% Audio interviews	
49% Posters	

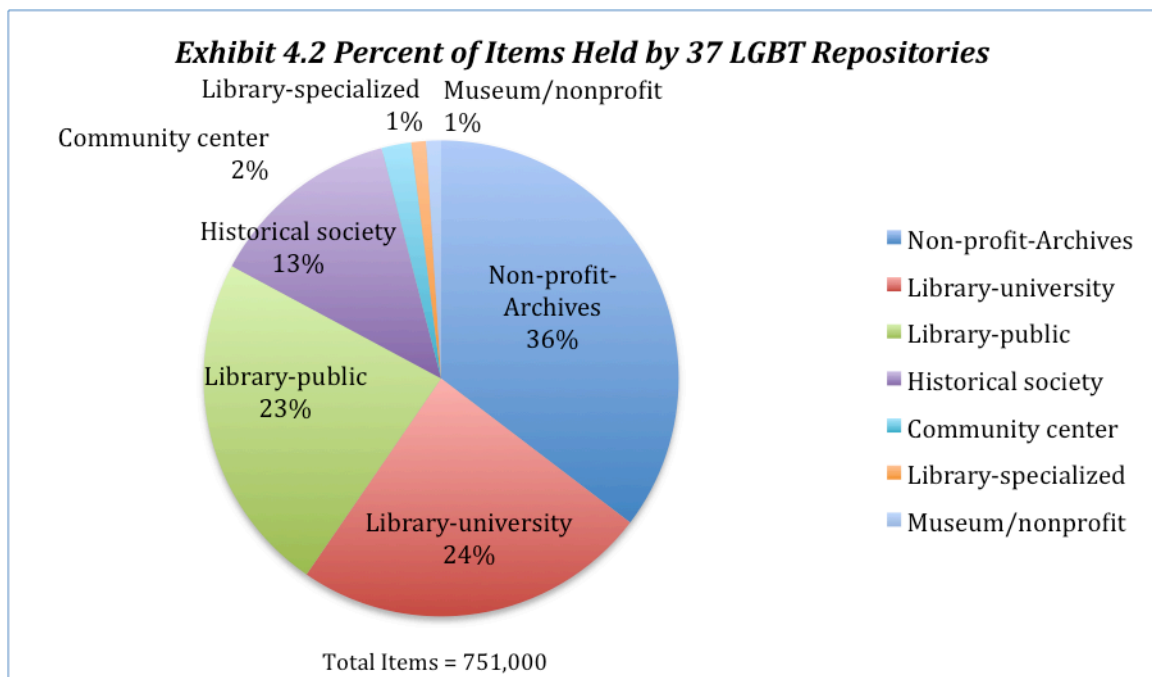
**Preservation focus: gap analysis.** In profiling each of the LGBT repositories in this collection, each was classified according to the general health of the sponsoring institution. This was only a general assessment, taking into account the magnitude of the overall repository, whether the organization was well funded or run on a shoestring. Classifications were as applied as follows:

- **Well funded** – if the organization benefitted as being part of a large, continuing national, state, or university-system budget process or being part of a significant cultural institution.
- **Expanding** – if organization web sites suggested expansion of physical facilities.
- **Secure** – if organization web sites and newsletters suggested a vigorous schedule of activity with no suggestion of financial difficulty.

- **Volunteer** – volunteer-run organizations whose financial status was unknown.
- **Underfunded** – if organizations cited financial difficulty (i.e. staff cuts, difficulties making rent payments).

No extensive financial analysis or research was undertaken in the preparation of this report; but a revealing pattern emerged in the analysis for Exhibit 2.4, which documented the number of items in 37 LGBT repositories in the United States.

Exhibit 4.2 classifies the number of items held in these 37 repositories by type of organization:



All of the public and university libraries in this analysis, representing 47% of the items counted, are classified as “well funded” and include the significant holdings of the New York Public Library and the Kameny Papers held in the Library of Congress Manuscript Division.

The historical society segment, representing 13% or 100,500 of the items counted, are primarily comprised of the 100,000 items held by the GLBT Historical Society (San Francisco), which is classified as “secure”. A professional archivist, who works on a part-time basis, manages this collection.

The LGBT archive segment, representing 36% of the items in this analysis, are classified either as “volunteer” or “under funded”. According to the ONE Archives December 2009 newsletter, the organization was under pressure to lay off its only paid archivist

(overseeing 250,000 items) if sufficient funding was not secured by Q1 2010. Other organizations in this category whose web sites and other communications suggest financial stress included the Sexual Minorities Archive (Florence, Massachusetts), the Ohio Lesbian Archives, and the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History (Houston). In the two latter cases, lack of donated space has caused the volunteer organizations to either close exhibition space or move to temporary facilities that have only limited public access.

**Key finding:** Among the 751,000 items identified for this study – only a fraction of the number of items held across the United States – nearly 36%, or about 263,000, are being maintained by organizations that either face uncertainty in their fiscal futures or are being maintained solely by dedicated volunteers. This report does not claim that these organizations are on the verge of collapse, but simply points out that a significant share of the identified LGBT items could be in danger if these organizations do not obtain sufficient funding and volunteer effort over the long term.

This finding suggests that a well-funded National Museum with high curatorial standards could play a significant role in maintaining items important to preserving LGBT history and culture and drawing attention to regional collections at a time when many grass-roots LGBT archives are financially threatened.

#### **4.3 Is There a Need for Additional High-Quality Exhibitions on LGBT History and Culture?**

Considering the vast number of LGBT items in over 85 repositories across the United States, only 9% of these organizations engage in ongoing exhibitions programs for the public (see Exhibit 3.4), and only half of these focus their exhibitions on the broad spectrum of LGBT history and culture.

As shown in Exhibit 4.3, only four organizations with ongoing exhibitions programs have an exclusive focus upon LGBT history and culture.

As noted earlier, the three repositories with major spaces interpreting LGBT history with their collections – the Stonewall Library, GLBT Historical Society, and ONE Archives – are not located in the geographic vicinity of Washington, D.C. The Wilcox Library in Philadelphia mounts changing exhibits from its archives, but these are confined to several small exhibition cases in the community center – not a major space.

**Key finding:** A proposed National Museum in Washington, D.C. that provided a high-quality, large-scale, interpretive museum experience to a broader public would serve a unique role on the East Coast and could showcase a broad range of items from LGBT collections across the United States that might not otherwise be seen or appreciated.

***Exhibit 4.3 Organizations with Ongoing Exhibitions  
Focusing on LGBT History & Culture***

<b>LGBT Repository with Ongoing Exhibitions Program</b>	<b>LGBT History &amp; Culture Focus</b>	<b>Other Focus</b>
Stonewall Library and Archives (Fort Lauderdale)	●	●
The Leather Archives and Museum (Chicago)		●
Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America at Radcliffe (Cambridge)		●
GLBT Historical Society (San Francisco)	●	
Andy Warhol Museum (Pittsburgh)		●
John J. Wilcox, Jr. Library and Archive, William Way Community Center (Philadelphia)	●	
ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives (West Hollywood)	●	
The Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation (New York)		●

#### **4.4 Is There a Need for Additional On-Line Presence Interpreting LGBT History and Culture?**

Research revealed that twice as many organizations carry out interpretive activities on LGBT history and culture on line rather than in a physical exhibition space. Also, a few organizations maintain on-line presence only and no longer manage their own physical archive. Overall, 24% of the repositories (physical and virtual) interpret LGBT history and culture on line.

**Key finding:** With so many important LGBT repositories hosting exhibitions and interpretive displays on line, an on-line interpretive presence for the National Museum would not fill an unmet need – rather, it would enable the proposed Museum to rank itself highly among the other prestigious institutions (see Exhibits 3.4 and 3.5) that host both on-line and physical exhibitions.

#### **4.5 Would Existing LGBT Archives and Collections Collaborate with a National Museum?**

This research project contacted collections managers and archivists at 41 repositories holding LGBT items during March 2010. Major collections, historical societies, grass-roots archives, and libraries were included. They were asked whether they would be open to a loan of items from their collections to a Washington, D.C. exhibition if “Smithsonian standards” were maintained for the care, preservation, and exhibition of these items.

Responses were received from 26 organizations, with the great majority very receptive to the idea:

- 22 (85%) indicated that they would be willing to loan objects or other materials; many had standard procedures in place for this and some required Board approval.
- 2 indicated that they had a “no loan” policy, but might consider making a loan if more details about the exhibition and curators were known.
- 1 said that their institution (Yale University) had a “no loan” policy, but offered to provide high-quality digital reproductions of their archival material and to work with the curators.
- 1 said that their collection was only beginning to be documented and were not ready to be considered by professional curators.

The general theme running through nearly every response was the need for very high-quality curatorial standards as a condition to considering a loan, both from volunteer archives and large academic institutions.

Among the more significant collections that were interested in cooperation and potential loans were:

- Andy Warhol Museum
- The Center (National Archive of LGBT History)
- GLBT Historical Society
- Leslie Lohman Gay Art Foundation
- Sophia Smith Collection (Smith College)
- Schlesinger Library (Radcliffe),
- Tretter Collection, University of Minnesota
- William-Nichols Archive and Library, University of Louisville

Others include:

- Nonprofit archives – Sexual Minorities Archive, Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History
- LGBT Libraries – Chris Gonzalez Library, Lavender Library
- Historical societies – Minnesota, Oregon, Washington
- University libraries – Equality Archive (Central Connecticut State University), Fales Library (New York University), Perkins Library (Duke), Woodruff Library (Emory), University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- Public libraries – San Francisco Public Library, Library of Congress

Many collections managers expressed great interest in collaborating with a Washington, D.C.-based effort to bring interpretation of LGBT culture to a broader audience:

- Frost Library at Amherst College: “We are always happy to raise awareness of our holdings through loans to exhibitions. Please do keep the Bloom [Alternative Press Collection] in mind for your project – it is an overlooked gold mine for GLBT research.”
- Sophia Smith Collection, Neilson Library, Smith College: “We would be very pleased to have some of our lesbian collections showcased in a setting that gets the level of traffic possible in Washington. Let us know if/when this idea gains legs. That would be wonderful on oh so many levels.”
- Lavender Library (Sacramento): “I think that what you are thinking about doing is an exciting adventure. LGBT culture is one of the groups that needs more exposure in mainstream culture: knowledge brings understanding...”

Several large repositories did not respond to the March email, such as the Stonewall Library, ONE Archives, the New York Public Library, and Cornell University; however, no follow-up attempts or telephone calls were made, which would have most likely resulted in a response from these larger organizations.

Responses were also not received from smaller grass-roots archives, such as the Ohio Lesbian Archives, Up the Stairs Community Archive, and Lambda Archives of San Diego, but this is attributed to the nature of these volunteer-run operations.

**Key finding:** Assuming that a National Museum was developed with very high curatorial standards, a majority of repositories – most with archival finding aids and extensive descriptions of their collections – would be willing to loan items to a Washington, D.C. exhibition and would welcome this type of exposure for items from their collections.

## APPENDIX 1 - LGBT REPOSITORIES IN THE UNITED STATES

### MUSEUMS

#### Andy Warhol Museum

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania – As one of the most influential artists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Warhol's art, film, video, writings, and publications (*Interview* magazine) document and feature many of the most iconic LGBT personalities of his time.

#### Leather Archives and Museum

Chicago, Illinois – A library, museum and archives pertaining to leather, fetishism, sadomasochism, and alternative sexual practices.

#### Oakland Museum

Oakland, California – A local museum with a small collection of art and costumes from Bay Area artists

#### Smithsonian National Museum of American History

Washington, D.C. – Within its vast Archive Center, the Museum has a single, small LGBT collection, which gathers together the Museum's holdings associated with the GLBT community; on-line search capability.

#### US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Washington, D.C. –The Museum has a web page directing researchers to objects within its collection related to persecution of gays and lesbians during the Nazi regime.

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### HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

#### Atlanta History Center

Atlanta, Georgia – Kenan Research Center: The Lesbian and Gay History Thing

#### GLBT Historical Society

San Francisco, California – Extensive collection (established 1985), focused primarily upon LGBT history in Northern California with an emphasis on San Francisco

#### Minnesota Historical Society

St. Paul, Minnesota - Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Movement Collection and Manuscripts

Oregon Historical Society  
Portland, Oregon - Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest (GLAPN)

The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.  
Kiplinger Research Library: Rainbow History Project Archives

Washington State Historical Society Archives  
Tacoma, Washington - Pacific Northwest Lesbian Archives

Western Reserve Historical Society  
Cleveland, Ohio - Northeast Ohio Lesbian/Gay Archives

Wisconsin Historical Society  
Madison, Wisconsin - Manuscript and Social Action Collection

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## **LGBT COMMUNITY CENTERS**

The Center (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center)  
New York, New York - National Archive of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender History

John Thomas Gay & Lesbian Community Center, Resource Center of Dallas  
Dallas, Texas - Phil Johnson Historic Archives & Research Library

Lavender Library, Archives and Cultural Exchange of Sacramento  
Sacramento, California

Up the Stairs Community Archives and Resource Library  
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

William Way Community Center  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - John J. Wilcox, Jr. Library and Archive: GLBT Archives of Philadelphia

The Women's Center  
Cambridge, Massachusetts - Women's Movement Archives and Library

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## **NONPROFIT LGBT ARCHIVES**

Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of GLBT History



Houston, Texas – Regional, membership-based LGBT archive (established 2000) that closed its museum in 2005 due to financial constraints

#### The Happy Foundation

San Antonio, Texas – Archive (established 1988) housed in an historic nightclub, based upon an extensive collection begun by its founder; collection currently being documented; minimal on-line presence

#### The History Project

Boston, Massachusetts – Active volunteer-run organization (established 1981) with extensive on-line use of LGBT-related materials for historic interpretation; collaborating with Northeastern University archives to physically house and preserve its collection of LGBT-related items; participates in and produces eight to twelve events or projects annually

#### The June L. Mazer Lesbian Archives

West Hollywood, California – Extensive, volunteer-run archive of lesbian history (established 1981) that is working with the UCLA Library to document, digitize, and preserve materials within several of its collections; under-developed web site

#### Lambda Archives of San Diego

San Diego, California – Active, volunteer-run community-based organization (established 1987) with monthly events; extensive local archive, incorporating Tijuana and Northern Baja, Mexico, which includes the Bisexual Archive (established 1996); detailed on-line historic timelines of local and national LGBT history; active student volunteer program with San Diego State University

#### The Lesbian Herstory Archives

Brooklyn, New York – Largest, best-known US archive devoted to lesbian history (established 1974); active community organization participating in the on-line LGBT project of the City University of New York's Center for Gay and Lesbian Studies; no published email address (mail, phone and fax only); documentation of full collection available on-site only

#### Northwest Lesbian and Gay History Museum Project

Seattle, Washington – Small, volunteer group documenting oral histories of the regional LGBT community; no museum or archive

#### Ohio Lesbian Archives

Cincinnati, Ohio – Small, volunteer-run feminist archive (established 1978); housed within the Clifton United Methodist Church since 2006; minimal public access; no active web site

#### ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives

Los Angeles and West Hollywood, California – Largest, best-known LGBT archive in the United States (established 1971); primarily a regional focus, but contains items of national and international importance; active, community-based organization using space donated by University of Southern California; detailed on-line documentation of collections; funding shortfall has resulted in layoff of part-time archivist

#### Queer Zine Archive Project (QZAP)

Milwaukee, Wisconsin – On-line, volunteer-run archive (established 2003) devoted to archiving, digitizing, and providing downloadable access to its expanding queer zine collection; mission is to encourage continued creation of this form of publication

#### The Rainbow History Project

Washington, D.C. – Well-known volunteer-run archive (established 2000) with significant number of digitized materials accessible on line; working with the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. to preserve some of the physical items in its collection; limited in-person access to archived materials

#### Sexual Minorities Archive

Florence, Massachusetts – Collection that expanded from its feminist focus (established 1974) to a broader archive; little financial support; limited access and no web presence; maintained by sole curator

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### OTHER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

#### Albuquerque Pride

Albuquerque, New Mexico – a pride organization with a small archive

#### Archives of the Episcopal Church

Austin, Texas – a small collection of materials documenting the LGBT experience within the Episcopal Church

#### Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry

Berkeley, California – LGBT Religious Archives Network (LGBT-RAN), a web site with links to archives containing material about the LGBT community and religion

#### Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation

New York, New York – an art gallery and fine arts collection

#### Wisconsin GLBT History Project

Milwaukee, Wisconsin – an organization that partnered with the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee Library to house and care for its physical collection and that maintains display of its collection and interpretive history on line

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### LIBRARIES – PUBLIC

#### Library of Congress

Washington, D.C. – Manuscript Division: Frank Kameny papers

#### New York Public Library

New York, New York – Research Library: LGBT collections in General Research Division, Berg Collection of English and American Literature, the Photography Collection, the Rare Books Division, Manuscripts and Archives Division (International Gay Information Center Collection); Schaumburg Center for Research in Black Culture; NY Public Library for Performing Arts: Dance Division and Billy Rose Theatre Division; extensive holdings across many libraries and divisions; significant amount of archival material has been digitized and posted on line

#### San Francisco Library

San Francisco, California – James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center; extensive archive includes the collections of the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California

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### LIBRARIES – SPECIALIZED

#### Chris Gonzalez Library and Archives

Indianapolis, Indiana – Primarily a lending library; small archives has collection focused on Indiana and the region

#### The Henry Gerber–Pearl M. Hart Library

Chicago, Illinois – Largest LGBT library in the Midwest with substantial archives and special collections pertaining to Chicago and Midwestern LGBT history and culture; primarily volunteer-run

#### Quatrefoil Library

St. Paul, Minnesota – Primarily an LGBT lending library; small collection of historic periodicals (non-circulating)

#### Stonewall Library and Archives

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida – Largest independent LGBT lending library in the world (established 1973); the archives, special collections, and oral histories focus upon the southeastern United States; new building opened April 2009

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## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Amherst College

Frost Library - Bloom Alternative Press Collection

Appalachian State University

Carol G. Belk Library – Special Collections: W.L. Eury Appalachian Collection

Boise State University

Albertsons Library – Gay Life Collection

Brown University

The John Hay Library – Special Collections

California State University – Northridge

Oviatt Library – Special Collections/Archives: Bullough Collection on Sex and Gender

Central Connecticut State University

Burritt Library - Equity Archive Collection (George W. Henry Foundation Library)

Cornell University

Cornell Library - Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections: Human Sexuality Collection

Drew University

United Methodist Archives and History Center

Duke University

William R. Perkins Library - Rare Book, Manuscript and Special Collections Library

Emory University

Pitts Theology Library

Emory University

Robert W. Woodruff Library - Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library (MARBL)

George Washington University

Gelman Library - Special Collections and University Archives

Indiana University  
The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction

Michigan State University  
MSU Library – Special Collections Division

Missouri State University  
Meyer Library - Special Collections (Minorities): Ozarks Lesbian and Gay Archives

New York University  
Bobst Library – Fales Library and Tamiment Library: Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives

Northeastern University  
Snell Library - Archives and Special Collections Department

Northern Illinois University  
Founders Memorial Library – Rare Books and Special Collections: Gender Studies

Northwestern University  
Charles Deering McCormick Library of Special Collections - GLBT Periodicals Collection

Radcliffe Institute  
Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America

Rutgers University  
Archibald S. Alexander Library – Special Collections and University Archives

Smith College  
Sophia Smith Collection

Spellman College  
Women’s Research and Resource Center Archives

Stanford University  
Cecil H. Green Library - Special Collections and University Archives

Temple University  
Temple University Libraries – Special Collections: Contemporary Culture Collection

University of California-San Francisco  
Archives and Special Collections – AIDS History Project

University of California – Berkeley  
Doe Memorial Library - Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Collection

University of California – Los Angeles  
Young Library – Special Collections: Mazer Lesbian Archives/LGBT Studies  
Materials

University of California – Santa Barbara  
Ethnic and Gender Studies Library – Andelson Collection

University of Iowa  
Iowa Women's Archives - Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Materials

University of Louisville  
Ekstrom Library - William-Nichols Archive and Library

University of Michigan  
Special Collections – Labadie Collection: National Transgender Library and  
Archive

University of Minnesota  
Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender  
Studies

University of Missouri-St. Louis  
Thomas Jefferson Library - Western Historical Manuscript Collection: Lesbian and  
Gay Collection

University of Nevada-Las Vegas  
Special Collections

University of North Dakota  
Special Collections - Orin G. Libby Manuscript Collection: Thom Higgins Papers

University of Texas at San Antonio  
Archives and Special Collections - Archives for Research on Women and Gender

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Golda Meir Library – Special Collections: LGBT Studies, LGBT Archives (includes  
the Wisconsin GLBT History Project)

Virginia Commonwealth University

James Branch Cabell Library - Special Collections and Archives

Wayne State University

Walter P. Reuther Library of Labor and Urban Affairs - Ernest L. Horne Papers

Yale University

Sterling Memorial Library – Manuscripts and archives on sexuality and gender

## APPENDIX 2 – EXHIBITIONS BY LGBT REPOSITORIES

The descriptive examples of the exhibitions are from the organizations' web sites.

### MUSEUMS

#### Smithsonian Museum of American History

National Mall, at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024-2126  
(202) 488-0400

##### Past Exhibit

*Claiming a Public Place: Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Pride, 1969–1994*, (1994)

##### 2009 Exhibit

One of the first Smithsonian efforts dedicated to gay and lesbian Americans is tucked away on the first floor of the National Museum of American History. The small show, located outside of the Archives Center, denotes the beginning of the modern gay civil rights movement.

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#### The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

100 Raoul Wallenberg Place, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20024-2126  
(202) 488-0400

##### Museum exhibit

The story of what happened to homosexuals in Nazi Germany is the subject of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's 2002 exhibition, *Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945*. More than two years in development, it was the first major exhibition on the subject for English-speaking audiences and draws on materials from more than 40 archives and other repositories in eight countries.<sup>2</sup>

##### Traveling Exhibit

The *Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals 1933-1945* exhibition has circulated to over 30 cities across the country since 2003.

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<sup>2</sup> The William Way Community Center in Philadelphia -- home of the new John J. Wilcox, Jr. Library and Archive -- noted in 2009 that it launched a nationally recognized archive exhibition with the United States Holocaust Museum



On Line Exhibits (currently on the web site)

*Homosexuals: Victims of the Nazi Era*

<http://www.ushmm.org/education/resource/hms/homosx.php>

*Lesbians in the Third Reich*

*Persecution of Homosexuals in the Third Reich*

[http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/media\\_ph.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005261&MediaId=3163](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/media_ph.php?lang=en&ModuleId=10005261&MediaId=3163)

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**Leather Archives and Museum**

6418 North Greenview Avenue

Chicago, IL 60626-5006

(773) 761-9200

The Museum has eight exhibit galleries on the fetish/leather subculture, a Leather Bar exhibition area, an Oral History Lounge, Guest Artist Gallery, and screening room.

On line

Our online exhibit pages host a verity of subjects pertaining to the fetish lifestyle. View video clips from our Multi Media collection. View a sampling from our vast collection of original art. Read up on Kris Studios and Target Studios and see some vintage gay male erotica

Touring exhibition

The Leather Archives & Museum Road Show brings the rich fetish history available at the LA&M out of Chicago to your hometown. The Road Show includes multiple exhibits that display the history of leather, fetishism, BDSM, D/s and kink through text, photographs and artifacts. The Road Show is uniquely designed for each event, and exhibits history from a local perspective. Erotic artifacts and kinky books are on display at Road Show exhibitions, allowing participants to touch and feel their history.

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**HISTORICAL SOCIETIES**

**Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Transgender Historical Society (GLBTHS)**

657 Mission Street #300

San Francisco, California 94105

(415) 777-5455

We sponsor exhibits and programs on an on-going basis, along with on-line exhibitions in cooperation with other archives.

Exhibition space: 657 Mission St, Suite 300

Our exhibit galleries are open Tuesday through Saturday, 1 to 5 p.m.

Temporary exhibit space (closed; relocated to Mission Street):

499 Castro St

(between 17th St & Market St)

San Francisco, CA 94114

(415) 621-1107

The Castro exhibit *Passionate Struggle* was always meant to be a one-year exhibit, organized in part to coincide with the release of the film *Milk*. Chase Bank and many other supporters made it possible with extraordinarily generous donations, but the storefront lease is now over.

Over 25,000 people have seen the exhibit. The space has seen dozens of events, including many guided tours. Public and media reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. We even have a five-star rating on Yelp.com.

Given the first exhibit's success, we would like to open another Castro exhibit if it is feasible. The City of San Francisco has committed some funding, but we will need more, as well as a suitable new space. We are searching for both. For now, the exhibit has been refreshed and moved to the Mission Street location.

Note: Current gallery exhibition mounted in cooperation with Brooklyn's Lesbian Herstory Archives; on-line exhibition presented with LGBT Religious Archives Network.

Current exhibit, Gallery 1:

*Passionate Struggle: Dynamics of San Francisco's GLBT History*

"Passionate Struggle" traces elements of our communities' affinities and differences. It takes you from the bedrooms and back rooms to the bookstores and bars, from Harvey Milk's victories to transgender sex workers' riots, from social movements to secret fantasies.

Through four lenses—Places, Politics, Pleasures, and People—the show invites you to take a peek into the world-renowned archives of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society.

Note: The exhibit is also promoted with an historic walking tour, the HARVEY MILK AUDIO TOUR. As part of the exhibit “Passionate Struggle,” the GLBT Historical Society presents a free audio walking tour about the rise of gay power in San Francisco. Download the audio file and map, and listen on your portable audio player as you walk the route from the Castro to City Hall.

Current Exhibit, Gallery 2:

*African American Lesbian Publications and Keepin' On: Images from African American Lesbians  
from the Brooklyn Lesbian Herstory Archives*

Curated by Morgan Gwenwald, Paula Grant and Georgia Brooks. This is the Bay Area debut of a special exhibit created in 1991 by Brooklyn’s Lesbian Herstory Archives. From our earliest images, Keepin’ On is an intimate look at Black Lesbian culture—at work and at play. Bay Area African American Lesbian Publication covers and display copies of Onyx: The Black Lesbian Newsletter; (1982 to 1984) and Aché (1989 to 1993) with text by Marlene Bonner and Lisbet Tellefsen.

On-line exhibits:

*DYKES ON BIKES®: 30 Years at the Forefront*

Co-curator Glenne McElhinney leads you on a fast and informative video tour of the 2008 Historical Society exhibit.

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KZ3alostOhQ>]

*Capturing the Moment: The Photojournalism of Rick Gerharter*

View the inaugural exhibit on our Flickr site: “Capturing the Moment: The Photojournalism of Rick Gerharter,” an encore version of a gallery exhibit held in 2006.

[<http://www.flickr.com/photos/12264250@N07/sets/72157601933952990/>]

*Council on Religion and the Homosexual*

The LGBT Religious Archives Network and the GLBT Historical Society present this special exhibit, which portrays the early years (1964-1968) of this groundbreaking coalition of religious and homosexual activists.

[<http://www.lgbtran.org/Exhibits/CRH/Exhibit.aspx?P=I>]

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## **Atlanta History Center**

Kenan Research Center  
130 West Paces Ferry Road  
Atlanta, GA 30305  
(404) 814-4000

*The Unspoken Past: Atlanta Lesbian and Gay History, 1940–1970*, a 2005 exhibition

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**The Gay & Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest**  
and  
**The Oregon Historical Society**

Oregon Historical Society  
1200 SW Park Avenue  
Portland, OR 97205  
(503) 222-1741  
orhist@ohs.org

On Line History

The GLAPN web site features five stories from the LGBTQ history of Oregon based upon materials and research from the Archive, including:

- *Oregon Gay History Timeline*
- *A Woman of Consequence: Dr. Marie Equi*
- *The Vice Clique Scandal of 1912-1913*
- *Sodomy Law: Laws and Court Decisions*
- *The Louvre Restaurant*

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**LGBT COMMUNITY CENTERS**

**GLBT Archives of Philadelphia, The**  
William Way Community Center

1315 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107  
(215) 732-2220  
info@waygay.org

Exhibition activity

The Archives has an ongoing exhibit in the lobby that changes periodically. In addition, regular exhibitions in William Way's lobby showcase the work of local LGBT artists and historical and cultural retrospectives.

Accomplishments during 2009 included launching a nationally recognized archive exhibition with the United States Holocaust Museum

The Center has a new exhibition space for its Archives. The first exhibit is:

### *Into the Streets!*

*Into the Streets!* is the first in a series of quarterly archival exhibitions that will be featured throughout 2010, funded in part by the William Penn Foundation.

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## **LGBT ARCHIVES**

### **ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archive**

909 West Adams Boulevard  
Los Angeles, California 90007  
(213) 741-0094

Operates:  
ONE Archives Gallery & Museum (West Hollywood)

ONE Archives Gallery & Museum  
626 North Robertson Avenue  
West Hollywood, California 90069

The gallery space on Robertson Blvd is generously donated by the City of West Hollywood.

ONE creates its own exhibits. Recent exhibitions include:

- The Works of Tom Ellis
- A.J. Epstein's Queer Culture: Friends, Lovers, & Other Assignments
- Our Struggle for Marriage Equality
- Pat Rocco: Enlightened Enthusiast

“Our Struggle for Marriage Equality” was mounted in the lobby of the West Los Angeles Municipal Building (Summer 2009).

Museum activities: Last year, we opened the ONE Archives Gallery and Museum and since then we've showcased a series of great exhibits including: a look back at Christopher Street West and the exciting paintings of Wolfgang Bauer. We hosted a GenderPlay exhibition about women and cross-dressing. The Enlightened Enthusiast: Pat Rocco came all the way from Hawaii. Currently we are showcasing the exciting photography of A.J. Epstein and Queer Culture on display till the end of the year. In the coming year we have great exhibits to look forward to: Starting with the paintings of Tom Ellis, and the work of Israeli lesbian Dwora Fried. Then, in cooperation with the Center for Political Graphics we'll have an exhibition of LGBT posters, and then the glamorous work of photographer Mark Vieira. (From December 2009 newsletter)

Monthly Culture Series: We also continue to hold our monthly Culture Series and over the past year we've hosted exciting guests like: The 30th year Anniversary of the Radical Faeries with Mark Thompson and Don Kilhefner, the exciting new film *Two Spirits* about the murder of Fred Martinez; a Native American transgender youth. Ivy Bottini told us everything you want to know about an Old Dyke. Shiela Rowbotham introduced us to her new biography of the early radical Edward Carpenter. Long-time friend of ONE Rita Gonzales played us some of the groundbreaking interviews from KPFFK, Jeff Samudio talked about History and Preservation in the U.S. John O'Brien spoke about his involvement with the Stonewall Riots and early New York activism and in August we helped Jeanne Cordova and Judy Grahn celebrate the installation of the Lesbian Wall of publications at ONE. (From December 2009 newsletter)

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### **The History Project**

29 Stanhope Street  
Boston, MA 02116-5111  
(617) 266-7733

The History Project mounts its exhibits on line and offers them to other institutions as panel exhibits.

#### On line exhibits

The History Project's exhibits represent the most groundbreaking and compelling displays of Boston GLBT history ever assembled. They range from *Public Faces/Private Lives*, which drew tens of thousands of visitors to the Boston Public Library, to smaller-scale exhibits focusing on Boston's under-documented communities. Highlights of our projects include:

- *ABOVE + BEYOND - Our community responds to HIV/AIDS*
  - *The Queer East*, the world's first exhibit focused on Asian LGBT history (2009)
  - *Public Faces/Private Lives* (1996)
  - *Black and Gay in Black and White* (1997)
  - *¡Aquí Estamos!* (1998)
  - *Millennium Rainbow* (2000)
  - *Windows On Our Community* -- mounted in Provincetown, Boston, and Danvers, Mass. during 2002 and 2003, as well as at Salem State College
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## **The Lesbian Herstory Archive**

484 14th Street  
Brooklyn, New York  
(718) 768-3953

### Exhibitions

In an effort to share the materials of the Lesbian Herstory Archives with those who cannot travel to New York City, several exhibits have been created that suggest the depth and breadth of our holdings. *Queer Covers*, *Keepin' On*, and *Audre Lorde* are traveling exhibits that have been shared with communities through out the USA and Europe.

The most recent addition to the traveling exhibits is a donated exhibit from ILGO, which is a brief history of the work of the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization.

Exhibits of Lesbian History and treasures continue to travel out of the Archives and onto the walls of community organizations around the world.

To request a traveling exhibit for your community, please contact the Exhibit Coordinator at our P.O. Box, or call us at 718-768-3953. You can also fax a request to 718-778-4663. We ask that if you request an exhibit for a fee- based event that you pay us as you do for any other presentations.

[On Line Exhibit \(currently on the Outhistory.org web site operated by CLAGS\)](#)

### *The Lesbian Herstory Archives Button Collection*

This exhibit features a sample of over 50 lesbian political buttons from the Lesbian Herstory Archives' Collection.

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## **OTHER NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Leslie-Lohman Gay Art Foundation**

26 Wooster Street  
New York, NY 10013  
(212) 431-2609

The Foundation's Leslie/Lohman Gallery mounts exhibitions of work in all media by gay and lesbian artists.

An extensive listing of art exhibitions from 1969 to 2009 is found at:

<http://www.leslielohman.org/MainPgs/ExhHist.html>

Current exhibition calendar:

- *Drawn Together* -- works on paper (Feb 17 - Apr 3, 2010); drawings OF men together & drawings BY men drawing together and Big Wall of Little Drawings ; curated by Rob Hugh Rosen
- *When Girls were Boys and Boys were Girls* -- paintings and drawings by Grace Moon and Jen P. Harris (Feb 19 - Apr 10, 2010)
- *Revealed: The Tradition of Homosexual Art* (May 11 - 29, 2010)
- *The Second Great Gay Photo Show* – a large group photography show; open to all GLBT artists (June 15 - July 24, 2010)

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### **LGBT Religious Archives Network (LGBT-RAN)**

Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry (CLGS)  
1798 Scenic Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94709  
(773) 728-8274

LGBT-RAN is a "virtual" archive. It is not a physical repository that collects and preserves papers and records.

On-Line Exhibitions present artifacts from LGBT religious collections in digital format and organized as you might see in a museum or library. Each exhibition explores a particular subject of LGBT religious history and includes diverse artifacts, such as photos, articles, correspondence, documents and audio or video clips that have been found in archives.

On-line only. Current on-line exhibitions done in collaboration:

#### *Maranatha: Riversiders for LGBT Concerns*

Explores the history and life of one of the first LGBT ministries within a church in the United States. Created in collaboration with The Riverside Church.

#### *Congregation Beth Simchat Torah*

Explores the early history of the world's largest LGBT synagogue located in New York City. Created in collaboration with Congregation Beth Simchat Torah.

#### *Council on Religion and the Homosexual*



Portrays the formative years (1964-68) of this groundbreaking coalition of clergy and lesbian & gay activists in San Francisco. Created in collaboration with the GLBT Historical Society.

#### *Shower of Stoles*

Presents pictures and stories of over 1,000 stoles and other liturgical items that comprise the Shower of Stoles Project and that depict the ministries of LGBT persons. Created in collaboration with the Institute of Welcoming Resources.

#### *Sampler of Early Documents*

Shows a dozen early (1964-81) newsletters or articles that document the formation of a diversity of LGBT religious groups or movements.

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## **PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

### **New York Public Library – Research Libraries**

The New York Public Library  
Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10018-2788  
(212) 930-0830

Extensive array of exhibit spaces throughout New York City facilities of NYPL, with the primary exhibition space at the Main Library, Fifth Avenue and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.

#### Gallery exhibition:

In 2009, to mark the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, the Library mounted an exhibition, “1969: The Year of Gay Liberation” at the Main Library. The exhibition followed the developing vision of a gay movement from the riots to the First LGBT Pride March—Christopher Street Liberation Day 1970—held to commemorate the one year anniversary of Stonewall.

The exhibit displayed artifacts from groups that pre-dated Stonewall (the Mattachine Society, the Daughters of Bilitis) or grew out of it (the Gay Liberation Front, Radicalesbians, Street Transvestites Action Revolutionaries), and from the next wave of LGBT activism—including groups like ACT-UP. The displays featured period photographs, examples of the early gay press, mimeographed bulletins, letters and other documents, all drawn exclusively on the Library’s rich LGBT holdings.<sup>3</sup>

#### Traveling panel exhibit

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<sup>3</sup> Particular use was made of the archives of the International Gay Information Center (IGIC), donated in 1988, and other materials from the Manuscripts and Archives collection.

A panel version of the above exhibit will be traveling to many of the NYPL's sites throughout the year. NYPL is also encouraging libraries, schools, hospitals, and other organizations to request this panel exhibit be brought at their site.

#### On-line exhibit

After a great run in the NYPL main library, the "1969: The Year of Gay Liberation" exhibition is now available online. The online exhibition includes selected images from the show, a complete checklist of the items that were on view, the full-text of the panels, and suggested reading.

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## **LGBT LIBRARIES**

### **Stonewall Library and Archives**

1300 East Sunrise Boulevard  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304  
(954) 763-8565

On-site art exhibitions are in the George Hester Gallery; historical exhibits are shown at the Broward Public Library.

#### Recent exhibit (Broward Library)

*The Harlem Renaissance: As Gay as it was Black*  
Broward Main Library  
100 South Andrews Avenue  
Ft. Lauderdale

#### Art exhibitions

Art Exhibitions On the First Monday of each month, in conjunction with ArtsUnited, Stonewall hosts the opening of an exhibition by a South Florida GLBT artist. These exhibitions are on view through the month and include didactic information about the artist.

#### On-line exhibitions

Stonewall's on-line museum also contains three of our groundbreaking history exhibits, which are also available as touring shows.

*Out of the Shadows: Gay America from Kinsey to Stonewall*

*Days without Sunshine: Anita Bryant's Anti-Gay Crusade*

*Party or Protest: A Retrospective of Pride Celebrations in South Florida*  
[Presented by Stonewall Library, One in Ten<sup>4</sup>, and the Rainbow History Project]

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## UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

### University of California – Berkeley

Berkeley, CA 94720-6000

The University Archives, The Bancroft Library  
Gay Bears! Collection  
benemann@law.berkeley.edu  
510-642-6481

#### On Line Exhibit

*Gay Bears!: The Hidden History of the Berkeley Campus* – an on-line exhibit of the University of California History Digital Archives, which provides access to digitized historical documents, images and materials, along with past and current analysis on the history of the UC.

<http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/gaybears/>

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### Central Connecticut State University

The Elihu Burritt Library  
Central Connecticut State University  
1615 Stanley Street  
New Britain, Connecticut  
(860) 832-2055

Gender Equity Collections

Exhibits on GLBT topics have been mounted in other spaces on campus.

#### Past exhibits

##### *True Colors – 2004*

This exhibition was created for the 11th annual True Colors Conference on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) youth issues. The exhibition showcased some of the materials from the Burritt Library's Gender Equity Collection. Also on view were a

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<sup>4</sup> One in Ten is a Washington, D.C. producer of arts events, such as Reel Affirmations, the nation's premiere LGBT film festival.

Walt Whitman and postcard collection courtesy of Ed Centeno, a case set up by members of the Pride Group at CCSU, another case by The Pride Group from New Britain High School, and selections from the Gender Equity T-Shirt Collection.

*Be Well, Be Yourself - 2003*

The Hartford Gay & Lesbian Health Collective recently celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a retrospective exhibit in its honor. "Be Well, Be Yourself" evolved out of a project orchestrated by members of CCSU's History Department, the Burritt Library and HGLHC. Participants developed an oral history of Connecticut's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, as told through filmed interviews with prominent community leaders.

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**The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS)  
City University of New York**

The Graduate Center, The City University of New York  
365 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10016-430970

Web site:

In 2005, a grant of \$5,000 from the Zebra Fund via the Funding Exchange, through the generosity of the late Joan R. Heller and her partner, Dr. L. Diane Bernard, encouraged Jonathan Ned Katz to investigate how to go about funding and establishing a complex LGBTQ history site and supporting it over the long run.

The development of OutHistory.org by CLAGS was funded by a two-year grant (2007-2008: \$50,000 a year) from the Arcus Foundation. The Arcus Foundation agreed to support OutHistory's "Since Stonewall Local Histories Contest" from March 1, 2009 through December 31, 2010, with a grant of \$55,000 for those 22 months.

On Line Exhibits (currently on the web site)

*Anthony Gonzales: Subway Sex Idols; New York City, 2008*  
21 Works by An Emerging Artist

*"A View From My Window: The Christopher Street Liberation Day March, 1970-1985"*  
Explore fifteen years of the New York City Pride Parade through Suzanne Poli's exceptional photographs.

*Blog on History*

Joan Nestle, co-founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives offers a series of musings on lesbian history in these pages.

*Campaign for a New York City Transgender Rights Law*

Read about the campaign for a transgender rights law in New York City between 2000 and 2002. Created by the co-chair and co-founder of the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy (NYAGRA).

*Colonial America: The Age of Sodomitical Sin, 1607-1776*

Learn about sexual activity and its punishment in the founding era of what became the United States.

*Come Out! Magazine*

Archive of PDF files of *Come Out!* magazine, a gay liberation-era publication.

*Coming Out Into Come Out!*

Read about the coming out experience of Gay Liberationist Perry Brass.

*Edward Field: 1924-present*

Learn about the life of gay poet Edward Field.

*Faith S. Holsaert: "Chosen Girl," 2003*

A long short story set in 1950s Greenwich Village, about the love between two women, one white, one black, as observed by the white woman's daughter.

*Gender-Crossing Women, 1782-1920*

Examine primary documents reprinted from Jonathan Ned Katz's *Gay American History* about the lives of women who lived as men.

*John D'Emilio: History and Me, 1950-2008*

D'Emilio's series of articles for the *Windy City Times* about Chicago's gay history and about his own career as an historian of sexuality.

*Jonathan Ned Katz, Recalling My Play "Coming Out!" June 1972*

Contemporary reflections on Katz's 1972 play.

*The Lesbian Herstory Archives Button Collection*

This exhibit features a sample of over 50 lesbian political buttons from the Lesbian Herstory Archives' Collection.

*The Lesbian in Literature*

This page features a searchable edition of Barbara Grier's bibliography *The Lesbian in Literature*.

*Lesbians in the Twentieth Century: 1900-1999*

Scholar Esther Newton and her graduate students explore the history of lesbian identity from 1900 to 1999 in this exhibit.

*Native Americans/Gay Americans; 1528-1976*

Look through this collection of primary documents describing homosexuality among Native Americans.

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**New York University -- The Elmer Holmes Bobst Library**

70 Washington Square South  
New York, NY 10012  
(212) 998-2500

The Fales Library has mounted the following LGBT-related exhibition on site and at the Grey Art Gallery on the NYU campus:

**On-site Exhibition**

***You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real): The Work of Robert Blanchon***

Curated by Sasha Archibald, Tania Duvergne + Bethany Martin-Breen  
November 19 - February 26, 2010

This exhibition presents the work of the late conceptual artist Robert Blanchon (1965-1999). For the first time, Blanchon's photographic work, mail art, video, and sculpture will be shown alongside a selection of archival ephemera and source materials. This material, drawn from the Robert Blanchon Estate, which was recently acquired by the Fales Library, occasions a new appraisal of Blanchon's artwork and pedagogy—its witty and insightful treatment of love, memory, and mortality, set within the context of the 1980s and 1990s art world. Blanchon's rich and varied corpus speaks to the history of conceptualism and appropriation, the relationship between politics and art, and his own identity as a queer, HIV-positive artist. An exemplar of his time, Blanchon's work continues to resonate in our contemporary context.

**Campus Exhibition**

***Downtown Pix: Mining the Fales Archives, 1961-1991***

Grey Art Gallery  
100 Washington Square East  
January 12 to April 3, 2010

Downtown Pix will feature over 300 photographs and printed materials from the Fales Library, including documentation of performances, portraits of friends and lovers, and one-off experiments, blurring the distinction between fine-art photography, photojournalism, and snapshots.

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**Sophia Smith Collection**

Smith College  
7 Neilson Drive  
Northampton, MA 01063  
(413) 585-2970

The Sophia Smith Collection serves as a resource for exhibitions; however, there is no evidence that exhibitions related specifically to LGBT topics have been mounted by the College.

**On line*****Voices of Feminism Oral History Project***

The on-line presence for this featured collection in the archives. It includes oral histories pertaining to lesbian issues. Over fifty in-depth interviews document the persistence and diversity of organizing for women in the United States. Narrators include labor, peace, and anti-racism activists; singers, filmmakers and writers; lesbian rights advocates; grassroots anti-violence and anti-poverty organizers; and women of color reproductive justice leaders. Includes full transcripts for most interviews and selected video clips.

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**Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America**

Schlesinger Library  
Radcliffe Institute  
10 Garden Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
Phone 617-495-8647

The Library has an active exhibitions program, both in its gallery and on line. None are specifically on LGBT topics, but lesbian artists, authors, and activists whose papers and works are part of the collections are featured.

See web site featuring recent exhibitions:

<http://www.radcliffe.edu/schles/exhibits.aspx>

Current exhibitions:

*To Know the Whole World": Women's Travel Writings from the Schlesinger Library, 1819–1972 (October 2009–February 2010)*

Recognizing a growing demand for sources for the study of travel and life writing, Adam Matthew Digital and the Schlesinger Library have collaborated to digitize a selection of the library's travel diaries and correspondence. These digitized sources will be published in *Travel Writing, Spectacle and World History*, a new on-line resource available to students and scholars. This exhibit highlights just a few of the many travel diaries and related correspondence, selected from over 50 of the library's collections, that were included in the project.

*Until That Last Breath! Women with HIV/AIDS (September 2008-May 2009)*

An exhibit of photographs by Ann P. Meredith. Her papers and images were acquired by the Radcliffe Institute's Schlesinger Library in the spring of 2008 and document her career as artist, writer, filmmaker, community organizer, performance/installation artist, and, most comprehensively, photographer.

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**The Tretter Collection**

Collections and Rare Books

University of Minnesota Libraries

111 Elmer L. Andersen Library, University of Minnesota  
222 21st Avenue South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455  
612-625-9825

The mission of the Tretter Collection is research, teaching, and outreach through traveling exhibitions.

World History Display originated with the Minnesota Pride Festival over 20 years ago. In 2008, this display was being updated and offered for exhibition in the United States and abroad.

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**Rutgers University**

Special Collections and University Archives  
Rutgers University Libraries  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
**Archibald S. Alexander Library**  
169 College Avenue  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1163

(732) 932-7006



The exhibition space is used for artist gallery shows; LGBT exhibition in 2000:

*Celebrating the Tradition: Thirty Years of Lesbian and Gay Activism at Rutgers* (April 2000) – documents the development, organization, and increased visibility of the gay and lesbian community at Rutgers. The exhibit coverage ranges from the first organizational meeting to the most recent advocacy for health and insurance benefits for same sex partners.

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## **Yale University**

Sterling Memorial Library  
128 Wall Street  
P.O. BOX 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520  
(203) 432-1735

Manuscripts and Archives on Sexuality and Gender

### Past exhibitions:

#### In 2006

"These Stories Too Shall Be Told" was organized by the Manuscripts and Archives department to highlight its holdings on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender culture and history. It featured materials from collections that document a person's entire life, as well as single items recording events, political philosophies, cultural milieu and lifestyles.

Among the items on view are the correspondence of Annie Beecher Scoville and Elizabeth Page Harris, each documenting their intimate relationships with other women; the diaries of Albert Dodd, Edward Chase Sheffield, John William Sterling and Donald Crossley Vining that detail their personal lives while students at Yale; and the papers of activists David Mixner and Candida Scott Piel, which provide insight into the gay rights movement and AIDS epidemic.

Selections from a recently acquired archive of works by American photographer Robert Giard will be featured in an exhibition opening on Thursday, Sept. 28, in the Jonathan Edwards College (JE) master's house, 70 High St.

Over 60 works drawn from the Giard archives acquired last spring by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library are featured in "The Photography of Robert Giard: Portraits, Landscapes, Still Lifes and Figurative Work."

In 2004, the Larry Kramer Initiative presented the exhibit, “The Pink and the Blue: Lesbian and Gay Life at Yale and in Connecticut, 1642-2004”. This drew upon items in the University archive.

Two years of exhaustive research by pioneering historian Jonathan Ned Katz in concert with graduate student Brad Walters have produced a revealing portrait of lesbian and gay life both within an historic elite institution and the often very different social worlds surrounding it. It includes the life story of John William Sterling, an 1864 graduate who, after almost half century with the same man, left Yale what was then the largest bequest ever to an American institution; of Alan Hart, the Yale-trained director of Connecticut's tuberculosis program who, born a woman, lived his life as a man; of Addie Brown and Rebecca Primus, a domestic and a teacher respectively, an intimate relationship between two 19th Century African-American women. From the music of Cole Porter to the journalism of Sarah Pettit, to the work of pioneering academics like John Boswell, Judith Butler, George Chauncey, and Eve Sedgwick, Yale alumni's contributions have helped define lesbian and gay life in America today.

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