Unlocking the Digital Closet:
Internet Filters and LGBTTIQ Information

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OLA Super Conference
January 31, 2013
THE NORMAL HEART

by Larry Kramer

directed by Joel Greenberg

“Irresistibly passionate and defiant.”
NEW YORK TIMES

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From the company that brought you
OUR CLASS and STUFF HAPPENS
“Rick’s Rant – Bullying – It Gets Better,”
by Rick Mercer, Nov. 2007

youtube.com/watch?v=t1Y7qpiu2RQ&feature=related
- “It Gets Better” Campaign, created by Dan Savage

“You Can Play” Project,
by Brian & Patrick Burke http://youcanplayproject.org
The health of the LGBTQ community is a barometer of the entire community.

- Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel, Mayor’s Pride Brunch, June 2007
Every Class in Every School: The First National Climate Survey of Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia in Canadian Schools

- Taylor & Peter, 2011 [Egale Canada]

http://egale.ca/index.asp?lang=E&menu=4&item=1489#top
tracks usage on Twitter of 4 terms:

- Faggot
- NoHomo
- So Gay
- Dyke
terms used in 6 months* of tweets:

- *Faggot* – 6.6 million times
- *NoHomo* – 2.4
- *So Gay* – 2.2
- *Dyke* – 0.8

* July2012 - Jan2013
School Libraries Count 2012!
Supplemental Report on Filtering
- American Association of School Librarians, 2012
  ala.org/aasl/filtering-schools

More than 2/3 block:

- social networking sites - 88%
- IM/online chatting - 74%
- gaming - 69%
- video services - 66%
School Libraries Count 2012!

Over half said filtering…

→ impedes student research
→ discounts the social aspects of learning
→ goes beyond CIPA requirements
Position Statement on Diversity and Inclusion

- adopted by CLA Executive Council, May 2008
“Don’t Filter Me” (ACLU)

- Day of Silence
- It Gets Better Project
- The Trevor Project
- GSA Network
- Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network [GLSEN]

- National Association for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality
- People Can Change
- Parents and Friends of Ex-Gays & Gays
Leading Filtering Companies in U.S. Schools

- Blue Coat Systems
- Fortiguard
- Lightspeed Systems
- M86 Solutions
- URL Blacklist
- Websense
Banned Websites Awareness Day
September 28th
The Pentagon’s Blue Coat Filter

Bans:
• The Advocate Magazine
• Human Rights Campaign
• good.as.you.org
• bilerico.com
• pamshouseblend.com
• AMERICAblog Gay
• glsen.org
• towelroad.com
• GLAAD
• joshseefried.com
  [OutServe cofounder]

Allows:
• National Org for Marriage
• Glenn Beck
• American Family Assn
• Red State (blog)
• Breitbart (blog)
• Family Research Council
• Ann Coulter (blog)
Blue Coat LGBT Category

“Websites that provide reference materials, news, legal information, anti-bullying and suicide prevention information, and other resources for LGBT people or that relate to LGBT civil rights....

[They] do not contain sexually explicit content and are generally suitable for viewing by all age groups.”
Internet Filters Tested for Teen Health Information Access*

- AOL Parental Controls
- BESS N2H2
- CyberPatrol
- 8e6
- Symantec
- SmartFilter
- Websense

* 2002
Percent of health sites blocked by filters at the most restrictive setting, by topic

- Breast cancer: 7%
- Depression: 11%
- Diabetic diet: 14%
- Herpes: 23%
- Pregnancy: 32%
- Birth control: 35%
- Abortion: 45%
- Safe sex: 50%
- Condoms: 55%
- Gay health sites: 60%
Selected Teen Health Sites Blocked by Filters

www.femalehealth.com [female condom site]
www.gayhealth.com
www.goaskalice.columbia.edu/
www.hivchannel.com/prevention/safesex/
www.teenwire.com [Planned Parenthood teen site]
www.youngwomenshealth.org/spherpes
Discriminatory Filtering Categories

- education.lifestyles (Lightspeed)
- Lifestyle and Culture (M86 Security)
- Sexuality (URL Blacklist)
- Lifestyle (Bsafe American Family Filter)
- Sex Education (CyberPatrol)
- Sexual Materials (Bess)
- Sex Education/Sexuality (Symantec/I-Gear)
- LGBT (Blue Coat)
- Gay or Lesbian or Bisexual Interest (Websense)
- Homosexuality (Fortinet)
- Gay/Lesbian Topics (CyberSitter)
CyberSitter:

“We filter anything that has to do with sex. Sexual orientation is about sex by virtue of the fact that it has sex in the name.”
Netsweeper classified Little Sisters Book & Art Emporium website as pornography
Bodies of Thought in Librarianship

- indexing and retrieval (classification) theory
- reader response theory
- intellectual freedom
Typical Errors with Exact-Match Character Recognition

alt.sexy.bald.captain
.marsexpl
sexymusclecars
xxxchurch.com
This is the internet Gladys... if you want to find the Buckingham Palace web site, you'll have to be more specific than just keying in 'The Queen'.

Wanda the Whip Queen
Limitations of Internet Content Filters (1)

- “size” of the Internet – new websites, old websites
- text-based
- new terms, old terms
- new issues – new subjects, old subjects
- imprecise category & descriptor terms – synonyms, homographs, homonyms
420
WACKY WORDS FOR WEEDS


HighNotes
NON SEQUITUR

OOPS... SORRY.
WRONG CURSE
DEPENDENCY WORKSHOP

TH chErapy GROUP
Censored Sites & Search Terms:

breast
couple
Super Bowl XXXI
groin injury
The Beaver
Dick
SurfWatch blocked the entire library website of...

The Archie R. Dykes Medical Library
Limitations of Internet Content Filters (2)

- Variable interpretations of legal terms – e.g., obscenity, harmful to minors, age of consent, community standards
- Variable perceptions of offensiveness
- Variable perceptions of age-appropriateness – rigid conformity of one-size-fits-all, age of majority differences
- Variable region or culture-specific terms – values, beliefs, norms, and coded language
- Sites in languages other than English
- “Teenspeak”
- New services, new technologies – e.g., Facebook, YouTube, MySpace, Google, blogging, Twitter
ONE-UPMANSHP IN THE NINETIES...

I AM OFFENDED BY MEDIA

I AM OFFENDED BY YOUR OFFENSE

I AM OFFENDED THAT I'M NOT OFFENDED
“This is called ‘Reclining Nude.’ I don’t think the children should be looking at it.”
We have discovered that virtually all school books have words in them that, when rearranged in a different order, can be made obscene.

BAN ALL BOOKS

NO MORE SMUT

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THE MOST CHALLENGED BOOK FOR SEVERAL YEARS IN A ROW.

DOESN'T THE OTHER ONE TEACH YOU HOW TO MAKE BOMBS?

YES. DO THE PENGUINS EXPLODE OR SOMETHING.
Merde

Excursions into Scientific, Cultural and Socio-Historical Coprology

RALPH A. LEWIN
The Complete Merde!
The REAL French
You Were Never Taught in School

- Geneviève Edis (1984)
Does Madonna's Sex belong in the library?

For Sex, See Librarian

Madonna, 1959-
  Sex / Madonna ; photographed by
  Steven Meisel ; art directed by
  Fabien Baron ; edited by Glenn
  O'Brien. — New York : Warner Books,
  1 v (unpaged) : ill. (some col.) ;
  35 cm. + 1 sound disc (ca. 5 min. :

PLUS

• The flap over Daddy's Roommate
• Northern exposure, library-style
• A library takes to the waves
Canadian language landscape in flux, census reveals.

...so, I'm like...Yo, ICQ me that mega-huge J-Lo MP3 download...

Way cool, I'm like, so up with that...
OK, DAD, SO YOU'VE LOADED THE DISK.

NOW TRANSFER THE FILE TO HERE.

NOW DOUBLE-CLICK ON "OPEN".

THAT'S HOW YOU INSTALL AN INTERNET PORN FILTER.

IT'S SAFE FOR HIM TO USE IT NOW, MOM!
Unintended Consequences:
The Many Prices of Filtering

• illusion, false sense of security
• overconfidence in technology
• diminished sense of personal responsibility
• critical thinking skills, media skills, literacy skills
• poor model of citizenship, intellectual freedom, respect for diversity, debate, choice, democracy
• silenced LGBTQ voices, invisible communities, continuing marginalization
Stereotypes aren’t bad because they are false or wrong but because they are incomplete.
Internet Access (CLA)

- fewest possible restrictions
- acceptable Internet use principles, policies, & postings
- trust
- intellectual freedom principles & policies
- shared responsibilities
- library leadership

(Canadian Library Association Executive Council, November 8, 1997; Revised February 2000)
CLA believes that the best and most reliable filter is a child’s parent or guardian.*

The filtering of terminals in children’s areas can coexist with full access elsewhere in the [public] library and preserve a range of choice consistent with public library principles.*

Offering only filtered Internet workstations to the public would not meet the spirit of the OLA Statement on the Rights of the Individual or the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

- OLA Intellectual Freedom Committee's Report on Internet Access
The worst part of LGBTQ digital censorship is.....
References – Schrader


pnla.org/quarterly/Fall2007/PNLA_Fall07.pdf
Other Resources (1)

- **The Advocate** [online & paper magazine]
- **ALA GLBTRT** (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgendered Round Table)
  - GLBTRT Newsletter; Blog [ala.org/glbtrt/news](ala.org/glbtrt/news)
  - “Out in the Library: Materials, Displays and Services for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Community” [ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/iftoolkits/glbttoolkit/glbttoolkit.cfm](ala.org/ala/aboutala/offices/oif/iftoolkits/glbttoolkit/glbttoolkit.cfm)
- **ATA Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity** (Alberta Teachers’ Assn.)
- “Bully Free Alberta” – Gov’t of Alberta [b-free.ca/home/index.html](b-free.ca/home/index.html)
- Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives
- Canadian Rainbow Health Coalition
- **The Canadian War on Queers**: *National Security as Sexual Regulation*, by Gary Kinsman & Patrizia Gentile. UBC Press, 2010
- “Don’t Filter Me!” Project, American Civil Liberties Union
Other Resources (2)

- Egale Canada  [egale.ca](egale.ca)
- EPL “Rainbow Reading” (search ‘lesbian gay trans’ at [epl.ca](epl.ca))
  - “Lindy Reads and Reviews”  [http://lindypratch.blogspot.com](http://lindypratch.blogspot.com)
- **Every Class in Every School:** *The First National Climate Survey on Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia in Canadian Schools.* Catherine Taylor et al.
  Egale Canada Human Rights Trust, 2011
- Facebook: Gay Librarians Group
- **The Gay and Lesbian Review**
- Gay Canada  [gaycanada.com](gaycanada.com)
- “Gay/Lesbian Materials for Young Children,” by Sarah Eccleston. Alberta Teachers’ Association, 2005 (search “gay lesbian”)
Other Resources (3)

- Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Librarians Network  owner-GAY-LIBN@usc.edu
- GLAAD (Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation)
- GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network)
- “Google Alerts”
- HRC (Human Rights Campaign)
- HuffPost LGBT  huffingtonpost.com/news/lgbt
Other Resources (4)

- ILGA (International Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Assn)
- International Day Against Homophobia (Fondation Emergence)
- ISMSS, UofA (Institute for Sexual Minority Studies and Services)
  – Inside/OUT Speakers’ Series ismss.ualberta.ca/speakers.htm
  – NoHomophobes.com – Tracks usage on Twitter of Faggot, Dyke, NoHomo, and So Gay nohomophobes.com
  – OUTreach ualberta.ca/~outreach
- “It Gets Better,” created by Dan Savage youtube.com
  – “Rick’s Rant – Bullying – It Gets Better,” by Rick Mercer, Nov. 2007 youtube.com/watch?v=t1Y7qpiu2RQ&feature=related
- Lambda Literary Foundation
- LGBT Life with Fulltext (UAL catalogue)
- LGBTQ Interest Group, BCLA (British Columbia Library Association) lgbtq-list@lists.bclibrary.ca
Other Resources (5)


- NoHomphobes.com


- Outlooks: Canada’s National Gay Magazine

- Perceptions: The Gay and Lesbian Newsmagazine of the Prairies

- PFLAG Canada (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)


- Pink Shirt Day  pinkshirtday.ca/

- Pride at Work Canada

- Pride Centre of Edmonton

Other Resources (6)

- “Reaching Out: Library Services for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Youth.” Film by Lynne Barnes, 2004 (16 mins) lynneword@hotmail.com
- Saskatchewan Resources for Sexual Diversity, U of Saskatchewan
- See No Evil: How Internet Filters Affect the Search for Online Health Information. Kaiser Family Foundation, 2002 kff.org/entmedia
Other Resources (7)

- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity: Recommended Fiction and Nonfiction Resources for K-12 Schools. Edmonton Public Schools and EPL ismss.ualberta.ca/documents/people/kriswells/SOGI%20Recommended%20Fiction%20&%20Nonfiction%20Resources%20(EPS%20&%20EPL%202011).pdf
- Stonewall National Museum & Archives stonewallnationalmuseumorg
- The Trevor Project thetrevorproject.org
- University of Alberta Libraries – LGBTQ webpage (English Language & Literature subject guide) http://guides.library.ualberta.ca/content.php?pid=95998&sid=774244
- Vancouver Men’s Chorus www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4sRC8gzvBc
- Xtra! Canada’s Gay and Lesbian News
- “You Can Play” Project, by Brian & Patrick Burke http://youcanplayproject.org
- Youth Line youthline.ca
Other Resources: Trans-identified

- **Conundrum**, by Jan Morris. Faber and Faber, 1974 [paperback with new introduction 2002].


- **Transgender Explained for Those Who Are Not**, by Joanne Herman. AuthorHouse, 2009

- “**TransGeneration.**” Documentary, DVD, 2006