Breaking Out of the Library Bubble

University of Toronto Libraries
Collaborative Outreach to LGBTQ+ Communities

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Agenda

I. Starting the LGBTQ+ Outreach Initiative
II. LGBTQ+ outreach activities 2014-2016
III. Benefits and lessons.
IV. Activity: what are you doing/want to do?
Starting the LGBTQ+ Initiative

Building on existing structures and initiatives

Don McLeod, liaison librarian

Library collections

Participation of LGBTQ library staff and allies
Starting the LGBTQ+ Initiative

Why?

- safety
- being oneself
- visibility
- difference
- connection
LGBTQ+ Outreach Activities 2014-16

Partner Libraries and Organizations:

- Robarts Library
- Media Commons
- Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library
- Inforum & the Faculty of Information
- Sexual and Gender Diversity Office (SGDO)
- Department of History
- Department of Geography
- LGBTOUT
- First Nations House
- Equity Studies Student Union
- Women and Gender Studies Student Union
- Anti-Racism & Cultural Diversity Office
- Ecumenical Chaplaincy at the University of Toronto
LGBTQ+ Outreach Activities 2014-15

1. Relationship building
2. Research guide revamp
3. Tours
4. Film series
5. Instruction
6. Social Media
LGBTQ+ Outreach Activities 2014-15

RELATIONSHIP BUILDING

Sexual Representation Collection

“I developed the collection in order to chronicle the production and evolution of various styles and strategies of sexual representation, and to document the attendant legal and social struggles. Historically there have been a number of interconnected debates regarding issues of freedom of expression, sexuality, and the connection between explicit sexual representation and criminal behavior. The records of these debates are readily available but are meaningless without access to the materials at issue.”

-Max Allen, quote by Michele Wilder and Allison Larsh, in “The Sexual Representation Collection: Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, University of Toronto,” for FIS 1328, August 2007
LGBTQ+ Outreach Activities 2014-15

RESEARCH GUIDE

Sexual and Gender Diversity Studies

On this page
- Find articles
- Find books
- Find films
- Searching the catalogue with subject headings
- Questions?

Find articles
To find more article databases select Subjects A to Z on the library home page, and choose a discipline such as ‘Sexual Diversity Studies,’ or consult Popular Databases.
- LGBT Life with Full Text
- Gender Studies Database
  Provides interdisciplinary coverage of gender-related topics including women's studies, men's studies, ethnic studies, health issues, and sexual diversity.
- Alternative Press Index Archive
- Alternative Press Index
  Provides access to the emerging theories and practices of radical social change.
- JSTOR
  Excellent interdisciplinary full-text database, but coverage often lags by three to five years.
- Summon
  The search box on the library home page accesses a major interdisciplinary database.

Welcome!

Don McLeod

http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/sexualdiversitystudies
LGBTQ+ Outreach Activities 2014-15

TOURS

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

Special Collections
LGBTQ+ Outreach Activities 2014-15

LGBT FILM SERIES

**Tuesday, January 27, 2015**

- **Dances of the Heart: Two Spirit Film Night**
  - First Stories: Two-Spirited (Sharon A. Desjarlais)
  - Dance to Miss Chief (Kent Monkman)
  - Byron Chief Moon: Grey Horse Rider (Philip Szporer & Marlene Millar)
- Doors open at 6:00 pm & the event starts at 6:30 pm

**Tuesday, February 24, 2015**

- **LGBT Classic Film Night**
  - *Paris is Burning* (Jennie Livingston)
- Doors open at 6:30 pm & the event starts at 7:00 pm

**Tuesday, March 31, 2015**

- **Queer Women of Colour Film Night**
  - *World Unseen* (Shamim Sharif)
- Doors open at 6:00 pm & the event starts at 6:30 pm

Media Commons Theatre, Robarts Library (3rd floor), 130 St. George
http://uoft.me/LGBT-film-series

**QUEER MOVIE NIGHT**

**Monday, September 29, 2014, 6-9pm**

Media Commons Theatre, Robarts Library (3rd floor), 130 St. George

**QUEER ORIENTATION 2014**

http://ego.utoronto.ca/programs/queer-orientation/
LGBTQ+ Outreach Activities 2014-15

INSTRUCTION

Lead with PRIDE
February 6th & 7th, 2015
LGBTQ+ Outreach Activities 2014-15

SOCIAL MEDIA

Somebody, your father or mine, should have told us that not many people have ever died of love. But multitudes have perished...for the lack of it.

James Baldwin
Collaborative Equity Programming

The SGDO develops partnerships to build supportive learning and working communities at the University of Toronto by working towards equity and challenging discrimination. The Office provides innovative education, programming, resources and advocacy on sexual and gender diversity for students, staff and faculty across the University’s three campuses.
Collaborative Equity Programming

Student Organizations:

- LGBTOUT
- WGSSU
- EQUITY STUDIES STUDENT UNION
- WiNC
Collaborative Equity Programming

Key indicators for success:

- Open to listening and learning
- Prioritize meaningful student engagement
- Clear roles that reflect strengths
- Willingness to experiment
- Organizational support & resources
Collaborative Equity Programming

Recommendations based on the UTL collaboration:

- Work closely with students and equity offices
- Demonstrate commitment
- Utilize the library's strengths and resources
- Expand the limits of Library programming
Benefits and Lessons

Three key benefits for LGBTQ communities at U of T:

1) Breaking down barriers

2) Demonstrating alternative avenues to connect with library services

3) Highlighting how libraries can play a key role in student self development, provide avenues for diverse areas of learning and co-curricular programming
Benefits and Lessons

Opportunities to:

● Promote library as a positive space
● Improve LGBT student engagement
● Engage with faculty and departments
● Instruct
● Raise awareness about library resources, services, and spaces
● Collaborate with other campus offices
Benefits and Lessons

LESSONS:

- Use available resources
- Collaborate! Collaborate! Collaborate!
- Take into account intersectionality
- Draw on your campus equity offices
Case study: Paris is Burning & Tongues Untied

A tale of two films
Case Study: First Nations House
Activity: Discuss in small groups

1. How is your library currently engaging with the LGBTQ+ or other underrepresented communities?

2. What new initiatives would you like to explore?

3. Who could you collaborate with on campus, or in your community?

4. Are there questions that you would like to ask the workshop participants here today, or ways that you would like to develop ongoing connections?
Questions?
Thank you!

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