



# **Discussion of Access and Usage of LGBTQ Archival Material**

Led by Kestrel Ward and Evie Giaconia

# Land Acknowledgment

We both live in the Gainesville FL area and work at the University of Florida, We recognize that the main campus of the University of Florida is located on the ancestral territory of the Potano and of the Seminole peoples.

We further acknowledge that today here in Tallahassee we sit on the ancestral and traditional homelands of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, the Apalachee, Seminole and Muscogee Nations, the ancient Calusa, Uzita and Tocobaga, and others.

## Disclaimer

Information learned during this session may be used to inform an upcoming book chapter on the subject of LGBTQ+ material access in archives. Any information used will be anonymized.

# Positionality Statements

Kestrel (they/them) is a White, queer, nonbinary, neurodivergent, disabled, educated librarian. They are a recent graduate of FSU's MSI program and are new to the field of both libraries and archives. Their research focuses are ancient history, queer history, DEIJA issues, and archival practices.

Website: [onequeerlibrarian.com](http://onequeerlibrarian.com)

Evie (she/her) is a White, queer librarian. She recently graduated from the Museum Studies MA program at UF, where her research focused on ethical questions regarding Indigenous materials in archives.

Website: [ethicalarchives.wordpress.com](http://ethicalarchives.wordpress.com)

# Background

- Archives, Neutrality, and Bias
- Barriers to access:
  - Active exclusion from collections
  - “Soft censorship” of extant material
- Queer archives are critical!
- But what about LGBTQ+ materials in *mainstream* archives?

**What's happening  
to LGBTQ+ archival  
material in Florida?**

# Survey of Usage and Accessibility of LGBTQ+ Archival Materials

**Please read this document carefully before you decide to participate in this research study. Your participation is voluntary, and you can decline to participate or withdraw consent at any time with no consequences.**

**Study Title:** Survey of Usage and Accessibility of LGBTQ+ Archival Materials

**Researchers:** Kestrel S. Ward and Evangeline Giaconnia

The purpose of this research study is to evaluate how archives around the United States collect, catalog, use, and make accessible their LGBTQ+ archival materials. This study will look at how non-LGBTQ+ focused institutions are dealing with these materials, as well as what LGBTQ+ specific institutions are doing differently. The survey is less than 20 questions and should take less than half an hour to complete. Your answers will be anonymous, and the survey is administered through Qualtrics which will protect all the data gathered. All personally identifiable information will be securely retained by researchers for up to 3 years; participant responses will be kept confidential to the fullest extent of the law. Only the researchers will have access to the information we collect online. There is a minimal risk that security of any online data may be breached; the online host (Qualtrics) uses several forms of encryption and other protections, it is unlikely that a security breach of the online data will result in any adverse consequence for you.

Your participation is completely voluntary, and you can withdraw from the study at any time without consequence, and without completing any question you do not want to answer.

There are no direct benefits to the participants of this study. There is no direct compensation for participating in this study. The researchers may benefit professionally if the results of the study are presented at meetings or in scientific journals.

What institution are you representing? This question will not be used for identification purposes, and will not be included in any published data.

What kind of institution do you represent?

Academic Library Archive

State Archive

National Archive

LGBTQ+ Archive

Other (please describe)

What is the approximate size of your institution's archival collection in terms of number of items?

**93 %**

Archival institutions in SE with  
LGBTQ+ materials

**80 %**

Institutions using community terms  
for metadata

**50 %**

Institutions with a dedicated LGBTQ+  
collection

## Some Current FL Laws & Bills Restricting LGBTQ+ content in education

### **HB 1557 “Don’t Say Gay Law”**

Restricts the discussion of gender or sexuality in K-3 classrooms (soon to be expanded to all school ages)

### **SB 1320/HB 1223**

Restricting teachers from being required to refer to students by their chosen pronouns

### **HB 1069**

Directing that sex ed can only teach about “biological sex” and heterosexual intercourse between “biologically male and female” people

### **HB 999**

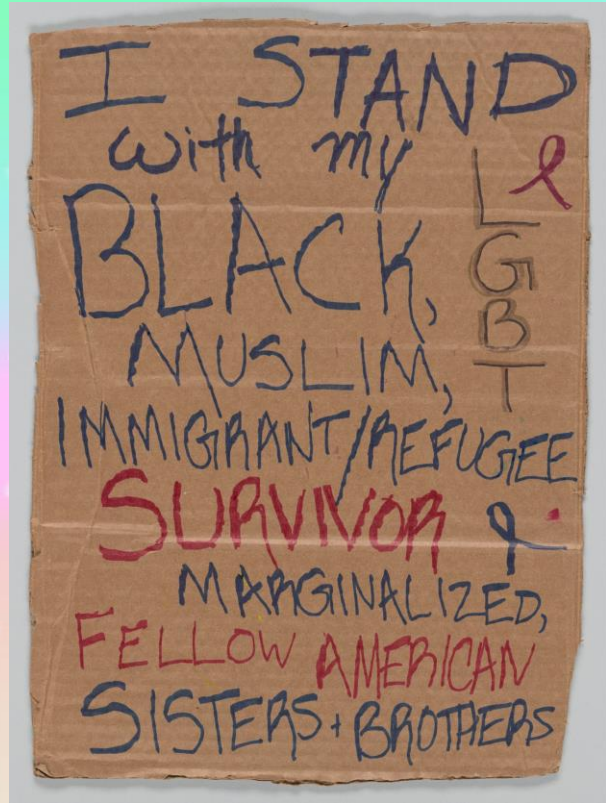
Prohibits the teaching of gender studies, queer theory, & other related disciplines at SUS institutions



# Discussion Questions

# How many folks have a dedicated LGBTQ collection?

Can be any type of collection with primarily LGBTQ materials.



Handwritten poster from the 2017 Women's March on Washington - Smithsonian

How has current legislation  
been affecting your acquisition  
and metadata decisions at your  
institution?

**copyright**

**pushback**

**accessibility**

What barriers have you or your patrons faced in using your institution's LGBT materials?

**metadata**

**funding**

**support**

What can we do to make lgbtq materials more easily findable in our institutions?

Active Filters



















Type: Gay press publications ✖

Filter By:

- Mediatype ▼
- Subjects ▼
- Type ▼
- Language ▼
- Publisher ▼
- Collections ▼
- Title ▼

468 Results

[◀ Prev](#) Showing items 73 - 96 of 468 [Next ▶](#) Sort ▾ ☰

 Wire magazine 05-24-2012	 Wire magazine 05-31-2012	 Wire magazine 06-07-2012	 Wire magazine 06-14-2012	 Wire magazine 06-21-2012	 Wire magazine 06-28-2012
 Wire magazine 07-05-2012	 Wire magazine 07-12-2012	 Wire magazine 07-19-2012	 Wire magazine 07-26-2012	 Wire magazine 08-02-2012	 Wire magazine 08-09-2012
 Wire magazine 08-16-2012	 Wire magazine 08-23-2012	 Wire magazine 08-30-2012	 Wire magazine 09-06-2012	 Wire magazine 09-13-2012	 Wire magazine 09-20-2012

Open discussion: concerns,  
questions, comments, ideas!

Take the LGBTQ  
Archives Survey for your  
institution!!



