Join us for a conversation with queer librarians about librarianship and the queer community.

Tuesday
June 23rd
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm EST

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leverage
lev-er-age
/ˈlev(e)rɪdʒ, ˈlēv(e)rɪdʒ/
verb
2. use (something) to maximum advantage.
- Oxford via Google
How can we use archival resources to our maximum or greatest advantage?

What is unique about archival materials that allows us to achieve this goal of maximum use?
ACRL Frameworks for Information Literacy

Authority Is Constructed and Contextual
Information Creation as a Process
Information Has Value
Research as Inquiry
Scholarship as Conversation
Searching as Strategic Exploration
Authority is Constructed and Contextual

Dispositions

- motivates learners to find authoritative sources
- develops awareness of assessing content with a skeptical stance and with a self-awareness of their own biases and worldview;
- question traditional notions of granting authority
- recognizes the value of diverse ideas and worldviews;
Grabbing Tea: Queer Conversations in Librarianship Book Project Themes

- Highlights conversations as scholarship
- Queer & library collaborations and engagement
- Inclusive of both library, archival, and cultural workers in the queer community
Grabbing Tea: Queer Conversations in Librarianship Book Project **Themes**

- The Archive and reclamation narratives
- Boundary shifting when working with other queer colleagues
- Centering queerness in librarianship and community
- Dating and queerness in the library
- Historicizing LGBTQ librarians, librarianship & collections of color
- Intersectional considerations of race, class and gender as they interoperate with sexuality
- Issues of harassment, adversity or microaggressions
- Lessons learned from commingling
- Masculinities as a disposition
- Performing Gender in Libraries
- Professionalism and queer identity
- Queer connections with other staff/colleagues/collaborators
- Queer intersections with BIPOC narratives in Libraries
- Queering library leadership
- Re-feminizing the profession
- Risks of pinkwashing or queerbaiting for “diversity” work
- Cultural heritage workers and professionals
Grabbing Tea: Queer Conversations in Librarianship Book Project **Respondents**

- 90+ Queer Library professionals
- 40 interviews at 90-120 minutes
- 3600 - 4800 minutes of audio
- 3000 - 4000 pages of transcript
- 2 editors
- 1 (small) grant (Pratt faculty development)
Grabbing Tea: Queer Conversations in Librarianship Book Project *Themes on the Archive*

- Queer creations
- Queer memory projects
- Taxonomies of queer language
- Recalling of interpersonal connections
- Locating queer history in time and space
- Untold histories, herstories, and queer narratives
Grabbing Tea: Queer Conversations in Librarianship Book Project Questions on the Archive

- What is a queer archive?
- How are queer archives different than places and sources of queer memory?
- Does a queer archive have to be community run?
- How do institutional archives, and namely, institutional queer archives shift the content of what is held within the collections?
- What of archival material pre-gay liberation, how do we grapple with the tension of consent?
- How are queer experiences represented in queer archives, and how are they not?
- How does art and ephemeral material play out in a queer context?
- Who are the names of those for whom the archive does not represent?
- Who are the fallen of us for whom we pay homage, despite their inability to name themselves as queer?
- Who does the queer community name or proclaim as their forebearers, community of ancestors?
Grabbing Tea: Queer Conversations in Librarianship Book Project Conversations on the Archive

As queer memory workers, we understand justice work as entangled with and reliant upon memory work. We believe in archives not only for historical reference, but also as sites for constant dialogue with the practices of worldmaking for queers and all people who have been marginalized.

- Shannon O’Neill-Archivist, Curator & Jehan Roberson-Independent Scholar

The presence of personal identity in queer archives, and how that personal presence affects researchers, information professionals, and viewers who interact with that material later through Christopher Nealon’s concept of “historical emotion” (2007) and Ann Cvetkovich’s theory of “an archive of feeling” (2003).

- Donna Langille Academic Librarian & Xena Becker Special Collections Librarian
Grabbing Tea: Queer Conversations in Librarianship Book Project Conversations on the Archive

Historically archives as collections and institutions, and also a profession have systematically discriminated against both BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals.... What does it mean to be Black, queer, and free in the archives?

- Steven D. Booth - Archivist, Independent Scholar & Tracy S. Drake - Archivist, Librarian

Searching for the histories of Black queer people in libraries and archives until very recently was difficult and sometimes impossible. However, research centers like the Auburn Avenue Research Library on African American Culture and History and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and community archives like the Black Lesbian Archives and the Black Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Cultural Archive, all hold significant collections of primary and secondary resources on the Black LGBTQIA+ experience.

- Zakiya Collier-Digital Archivist & Steven G. Fullwood - Archivist
Gale Archives of Sexuality and Gender

- 4 collections
  - International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture (28/82)
  - LGBTQ History and Culture Since 1940, Part I (19/82)
  - LGBTQ History and Culture Since 1940, Part II (32/82)
  - Sex and Sexuality, Sixteenth to Twentieth Century (3/82)

- 6,381,853 documents
- 82 sub-collections
- 20 Source Institutions
Applying a Queer Context to Archives

- **Timeline** - What is the scope of coverage in relation to the queer timeline?
- **Provenance** - How was this material collected?
- **Authority** - Who is named and whose work are we viewing?
- **Narrative Storytelling** - What is the story of the donor and the institution?
- **Absences** - Who is not named here?
Timeline

What is the scope of coverage in relation to a queer timeline?
Timeline

What is the scope of coverage in relation to a queer timeline?
Term Frequency in Gale Resources

Number of Documents By Year, 1520–2019

Click and drag in the plot area to zoom in
Thank You!
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