

LGBTQ+

Collections in Context

Digital Commonwealth Conference

April 7th, 2020

Stephanie Yuhl

Andrew Elder

Laura Peimer

K.J. Rawson

What does LGBTQ+ collection-building, outreach, and digitization look like at your institution?



Stephanie Yuhl, PhD
Co-curator, *LGBTQ+*
Worcester For The Record



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PRIMER PINPON INVITACIONAL

gallo 93.

*DOMINGOS: 4, 11, 18 DE ABRIL *
ELIMINATORIAS*

*DOMINGO, 2 DE MAYO
SEMIFINALES*

*SÁBADO, 8 DE MAYO
CAMPEONATO*

*Auspiciado por Jesús, Chip y Bob
19 Dixfield Street, Worcester
852-3014
4:00pm*

* Eliminaciones por draw

**SHARED AUTHORITY - COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
WHM, AREA SCHOLARS (HC, WPI, CLARK), OUTREACH
PARTNERSHIPS - APW, LGBT ASYLUM TASK FORCE, ETC.**



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**1993 - GLCCCM DONATION
DISCOVERY DAYS/PROGRAMMING**



FOR THE
RECORD
■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■
LGBTQ+
Worcester

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WHM EXHIBIT & CATALOG (2019)
ONGOING DIGITIZATION/ARCHIVIST

What does LGBTQ+ collection-building, outreach, and digitization look like at your institution?



Andrew Elder

Chair, Board of Directors

Volunteer Archivist

The History Project: Documenting LGBTQ Boston

historyproject.org | andrew.elder@historyproject.org



The mission of The History Project is to document and preserve the history of Boston's LGBTQ communities and to share that information with LGBTQ individuals, organizations, allies, and the public.

Photograph: Members of The History Project in the Boston Pride March, June 1980



*Photograph: Members of the Combahee River Collective, late 1979 or early 1980
Photograph by Susan Fleischmann, Gay Community News Photograph Collection*

Volunteer-driven

- Volunteers donate thousands of hours annually
- Board of Directors, Advisory Committee, and committee structure

Executive Director

- 2-year, full-time position (thanks to Support for Community Archives grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation)

Photograph: Boston Pride March, 1979



LOVE
LOVE IS
LOVE IS ALL
LOVE IS ALL YOU
LOVE IS ALL YOU NEED

One year ago this week members of New York's gay community threw off the yoke of oppression, stood up, and fought back. It was Christopher Street Liberation.

This event marked a new trend in the fight for civil rights for homosexuals – not just in New York, but throughout the nation.

No more do we hide behind masks and fears – ours and yours.

Come out. Meet publicly with us at any or all of the following special events:

The New Homosexual – Dialogue With A Straight World. A seminar on Saturday 27 June at 12 noon, St. John the Evangelist Church (Episcopal), 33 Bowdoin Street on Beacon Hill.

Why Can't We Have A Dance in Boston, or Does the Cradle of Liberty Rock Only One Way? A Panel Discussion sponsored by the Gay Liberation Front, Saturday 27 June, 2:00 pm at the Charles Street Meeting House (Unitarian Universalist Church), 100 Charles Street, Boston.

Collection-building and processing

Digitization

Flyer (detail) from June 1970 for events in Boston to commemorate first anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising in New York City



**Outreach and
community engagement**

**Organizational development
and fundraising**

*Photograph:
Patron at Playland Cafe, circa 1959
Jim McGrath Collection*



#QueerArchivesAtHome
Add your story to history!

*Photograph (edited): Eddie Bernier (center) and acquaintances
in costumes in a Provincetown bar or restaurant, circa 1950s.
George Chapin Scott and Edward F. Bernier Collection*

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Laura Peimer

Archivist, Schlesinger Library on the History of
Women in America, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard
University



Transgender group meeting “Dream ‘73,” 1973

Ari Kane Papers

**Lesbian Avengers printed
materials, 1990s**
Kelly Cogswell Papers

Hey you **pervert, freak, bulldagger, unfit, sicko, lesbian, bitch!**

UPSTANDING, FAMILY-VALUED, GOD-FEARING AMERICA WANTS YOU GONE.

The Christian Right is on our homosexual heels and it's time we started kicking. OUT IS NOT ENOUGH.

From the schools and city councils, to the courts and the Congress, they're coming after us with millions of dollars, thousands of prayers.

Anti-lesbian, transsexual, transgender, bisexual and gay initiatives are pending in 8 states. **RIGHT-WING ATTACKS ARE OCCURRING IN ALL 50.**

THERE'S NOWHERE LEFT TO HIDE.



THEY'RE REACHING DEEP INTO OUR SAFEST CLOSETS with legislation that will get us at our jobs, in the streets—even in our homes.

There is no minding your own business.

The majority of American voters think our lives are immoral and wrong.

FUCK LESBIAN CHIC.

OUT AGAINST THE RIGHT **THE DYKE MANIFESTO**

NO ONE IS SAFE.
WE HAVE TO RESPOND—NOT ON THEIR TERMS BUT ON OURS.

Butch, femme and androgynous dykes, leather queers, drag kings and queens, transsexuals and trans-genders will not be thrown to the wolves so that straight-acting "gay people" can beg for acceptance at our expense.

Lesbian and gay people of color will not be forced into partial identities that deny the complexity of our lives.



Lesbian and gay youth, people with AIDS and low-income QUEERS WILL NOT BE DENIED FULL ACCESS, support and participation in our struggles for justice.

We have no desire to win a battle if it means losing the war.

NOW'S THE TIME TO FIGHT BACK AND FIGHT FORWARD.

GIVE US A CALL. GIVE US YOUR MONEY. GIVE US YOUR VISION, YOUR PASSION. JOIN THE STRUGGLE. TAKE THE STREETS...

1,000s OF ANGRY DYKES
CAN'T BE WRONG—AND WON'T GIVE IN. EVER.



Lesbian Herstory historians and archivists, January 27, 1979

Photographer: Bettye Lane

Bettye Lane Photograph Collection



Pat Parker and Audre Lorde at a lesbian poetry reading, 1981

Photographer: Susan D. Fleischmann
Pat Parker Papers

What does LGBTQ+ collection-building, outreach, and digitization look like at your institution?



K.J. Rawson

Associate Prof., College of the Holy Cross

Director, Digital Transgender Archive

@digitaltransarc



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TRANS HISTORY, LINKED

MAP

INSTITUTION

COLLECTION

TOPIC

GENRE

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Search the Archive

SEARCH

- www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net
- Launched January 2016
- 61 contributing institutions from 9 countries
- Digitization occurs on-site, off-site, and in lab
- 8,425 total items available online
- Materials date from 1587–present; majority are 1950s–1990s

Scope

The DTA uses the term *transgender* to refer to a broad and inclusive range of non-normative gender practices. We treat *transgender* as a practice rather than an identity category in order to bring together a *trans*-historical and *trans*-cultural collection of materials related to *trans*-ing gender. We collect materials from anywhere in the world with a focus on materials created before the year 2000.

A portrait of Marie Høeg with a hat and cigarette.
Held by the Preus Museum

<https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/jq085k18x>



Panel Discussion Questions

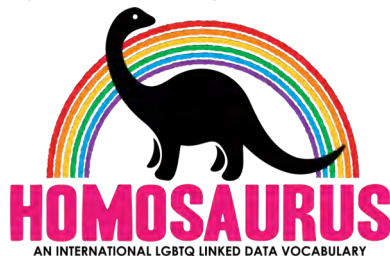
1. How does your archive connect with the LGBTQ+ community?

Panel Discussion Questions

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2. How does inclusion in online archival resources, such as DPLA and Digital Commonwealth, affect accessibility and context for LGBTQ+ records?

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2. How does inclusion in online archival resources, such as DPLA and Digital Commonwealth, affect accessibility and context for LGBTQ+ records?
3. “The creation of metadata requires interpretation and labeling and it can be a highly subjective and political act” (DTA website). How have you navigated the complexities of metadata creation in LGBTQ+ records?



Questions from Chat



Triangular pink pin with blue transgender symbol. Held by Schlesinger Library, available via the Digital Transgender Archive.

<https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/1g05fb71z>