"There's an illusion being created that all the world's knowledge is on the Web, but we haven't begun to glimpse what is out there in local archives and libraries. Material that is not digitized risks being neglected as it would not have been in the past, virtually lost to the great majority of potential users."

Edward L. Ayers
Historian
President, University of Richmond
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies

The Bush Administration and the AIDS Crisis

Since it was first mentioned in medical literature in 1981, AIDS has spread into nearly every nation on earth and has caused more widespread panic, fear, and concern than any other medical catastrophe in the twentieth century. This collection provides essential materials for understanding the response of the Bush Administration to the growing AIDS epidemic—the first time that large amounts of government funding and attention were given to the issue.

This microfilm collection contains correspondence from constituents concerning personal struggles with AIDS; AIDS and immigration; AIDS spending, research, and support groups; AIDS-related events; hemophilia and AIDS; reports and surveys on AIDS; and the development and implementation of the Bush Administration AIDS policy. In addition, there are Congressional and constituent correspondence and memoranda focusing on the mandate and personnel of the Presidential Commission on AIDS, the international AIDS situation, reforming the INS policy on immigration of people with AIDS, local and state AIDS policies, AIDS testing, funding AIDS research, International AIDS Conferences, and reports on the spread of AIDS and AIDS prevention. Of special note is file on the National Commission on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome which contains a great deal of information on Earvin Johnson and Mary Fisher, two appointees two the commission.

1385. 24 reels.


Founded in December 1969 by men and women dissatisfied with the Gay Liberation Front, the Gay Activists Alliance rapidly became the largest and most visible gay organization in New York. This publication contains the minutes of meetings, international and general correspondence of group members and a large selection of ephemera. The development of the “Zap” — the practice of confronting politicians, institutions and the media with unyielding demands for gay rights — infuriated many but also instilled a newfound confidence into thousands more.

1386. 21 reels.

Series 3: ACT UP: The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power

The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP) united a diverse, non-partisan group of individuals committed to direct action to end the AIDS crisis. The direct action consisted of vocal demonstrations and dramatic acts of civil disobedience. The focus of ACT UP was on speeding governmental approval of new, often experimental, anti-AIDS drugs and on forcing pharmaceutical firms to reduce the prices of AIDS-related medications. This collection was acquired by the New York Public Library and provides during the AIDS crisis. It consists of memoranda, correspondence, large amounts of ephemera, meeting minutes, clipping files, materials from other ACT UP chapters and an extensive collection of medical and pharmaceutical information. The collection is also of interest to those in medicine, pharmacology and epidemiology.

1387. 159 reels.

Gay Rights Movement

This important series includes essential tools in the study of the history of gay and lesbian politics and the Gay Rights movement. A full printed guide accompanies each Series, offering item-level listings to facilitate access and research.


The organizational papers of The Mattachine Society reflect the vigorous and, at times, acrimonious debate, which took place among its members from the time of its foundation in 1950. The first major gay organization in the United States, the society sponsored discussion groups, encouraged support for civil rights and opposed police entrapment for sexual acts. These papers offer a poignant portrayal of the gay rights movement, through correspondence with gay men and lesbians throughout the United States, as well as the minutes of meetings, memoranda and ephemera.

245331. 24 reels.


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1387. 159 reels.
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies

Series 4: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
Records, 1973–2000

This collection documents the activities over 25 years of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), founded in New York in 1973, and its achievements for the civil rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals in the United States. Documenting NGLTF’s pioneering work in changing the American Psychiatric Association’s classification of homosexuality as a mental illness, this collection, which consists of correspondence, press clippings, financial and administrative records, subject files, and photographs, also covers anti-gay discrimination, violence against gay men and lesbians, legal questions, and other topics.

1388.010. Part 1: Internal Files 70 reels.
1388.020. Part 2: Field Files 156 reels.
1388.030. Part 3: Policy, Institute, Subject Files, and Photographs 72 reels.
1388. Complete Collection. 298 reels.

Series 5: Gay Activism in Britain from 1958: The Hall-Carpenter Archives

The Hall-Carpenter archives are the largest and most important source for study of gay activism in modern Britain. They contain an extremely rich and varied assortment of organizational material, papers of prominent individuals, ephemera, publications and press cuttings dating from the publication of the Wolfenden Report in 1958 to present day.


The Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance (ALFA) was founded in 1972 by a group of radical lesbians who broke away from Atlanta’s Women’s Liberation Center and the Gay Liberation movement. The ALFA Archives and Periodicals Collections are an incredibly rich source of information about feminist and lesbian activism and communities, especially in the Southeast, from the early 1970s to the mid-1990s. This extensive collection of feminist, gay and lesbian, and activist periodicals, Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance Archives contains approximately 750 different grassroots newsletters and journals, many of which are now ephemeral and not found in libraries. ALFA will provide invaluable source materials to scholars interested in feminism, lesbian and gay studies, social movements and community activism, and cultural politics.

80001.620. Part 2: Subject Files. 42 reels.
80001.630. Part 3: Archives. 11 reels.

Series 7: Lesbian Herstory Archives: Subject Files

The Lesbian Herstory Archives houses the world’s largest collection of materials by and about lesbians and their communities. Among its many collections the Archive contains over 1,000 subject files which offer a wealth of information on all aspects of lesbian life, communities, and activism from the 1950s through the present. The subject files contain information on every conceivable aspect of lesbian life and concerns, including abortion, African-American lesbians, lesbian mothers, gay civil rights, women’s liberation movement, domestic partnership, older lesbians, and Native American lesbians, to name just a few of the important subjects. The materials consist of clippings, flyers, brochures, conference materials, reports, correspondence, and other printed ephemera not generally published so not available in other libraries. A strength of the collection is its vast scope and national coverage.

80002.701. Part 1: Abortion-Bookstores. 27 reels.
80002.702. Part 2: Breasts-Feminism. 24 reels.
80002.706. Part 6: Spinsters-Youth. 20 reels.

Series 8: Gay and Lesbian Politics and Social Activism: Selected Newsletters and Periodicals

The periodical and newsletter holdings of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society (GLBT Historical Society) are the largest in the United States and an excellent resource for the study of the history of the gay rights movement in post-World War II America. This collection of
periodicals focuses on newsletters issued by gay and lesbian political and social activist organizations throughout the country and on periodicals devoted to gay and lesbian political and social activist agendas. Although national and international publications are included, the collections strength lies in publications from the San Francisco Bay Area and greater Northern California, the cradle of the gay rights movement.

80003.820. Part 2: Denver Area Mattachine Newsletter-L word.  27 reels.

Series 9: Gay and Lesbian Community, Support, and Spirit: Selected Newsletters and Periodicals

This collection represents a wide range of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experience and thought. A strength of the collection is the newsletter and periodical collection from Northern California, which boasts the largest concentration of gay and lesbian organizations in the nation. But the collection is also strong in national and international publications as well. Holdings range from historical newsletters of the 1960s to current newsletters and periodicals. The collection is strong in rare materials, especially newsletters from defunct organizations from the formative years of the gay and lesbian movement. Where the first series dealt with the public face of gay and lesbian activism, this series concentrates on its private face, exploring the challenges and complexities of building gay and lesbian communities inside and outside of a straight world, the need for psychological reinforcement through support groups in an effort to combat an often hostile environment, and the yearning for spiritual confirmation of ones identity and life choices.

80004.920. Part 2: FTM (Female to Male) Newsletter to Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Newsletter, (San Francisco, CA).  22 reels.

Series 10: Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter Collection

Lesbian Herstory Archives Newsletter Collection provides a wealth of materials and information for scholars of lesbian history, gender and sexuality studies, women’s history, sociology, researchers investigating social change and social justice movements, and researchers seeking special materials on twentieth-century American organizational theory and practice.

80005.100.  69 reels.

Series 11: International Gay and Lesbian Periodicals and Newsletters

International Gay and Lesbian Periodicals and Newsletters features serials from 50 countries around the globe. These serials offer insight into the development of gay rights movements and gay and lesbian life, communities, and culture in every region of the world. The Canadian holdings are, of course, exceptionally strong. Europe is very well represented, with publications from virtually all western European countries, large and small. There is a very good representation from Eastern Europe, beginning with the 1980s, in a range of countries including Poland, Russia and Latvia. Latin America and southern Africa are relatively recent contributors to the gay and lesbian publishing scene, reflecting their recent (self-) incorporation into the global gay community. Titles from Asian nations include newsletters and periodicals from Japan from the 1960s, 70s, 80s, as well as ephemeral titles associated with the emergence of gay and lesbian politics in the 1980s and nineties in Thailand and India. Australia and New Zealand are particularly well represented with dozens of titles.

80006.111. Part 1: The Americas.  91 reels.
80006.112. Part 2: Europe.  87 reels.
80006.114. Part 4: Asia, Africa and the Middle East.  4 reels.
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Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Studies

Studies in Global Crises

The International AIDS/HIV Crisis

This microfilm collection documents the U.S. and worldwide response to the threat posed by HIV/AIDS. The research behind the studies, reports, and analyses represents an exhaustive review of the facts, causes, and political, social, and economic implications of a phenomenon that threatens every region of the world.

The International HIV/AIDS Crisis assembles research studies that analyze the goals and strategies of fighting this worldwide epidemic. Theses studies, reports, and analyses were conducted by governmental agencies, private organizations under contract with the Federal government, and international organizations—including the Centers for Disease Control; World Health Organization; U.S. Agency for International Development; Johns Hopkins University; Macro, International; and National Institutes of Health. They represent the most rigorous and authoritative research on HIV/AIDS.

The value of these materials is both immediate and historical. They provide up-to-date information on the global crisis, while documenting the manner in which HIV/AIDS has spread, efforts to control the epidemic, and its treatment methodology over more than two decades. These seminal studies are important now and will remain of value in the future.

1985-1999
249710. 17 reels.

2000-2010
Approx. 12 reels.

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