

ADDRESSING VISIBILITY ISSUES WITH LGBTQ+ GOV DOCS

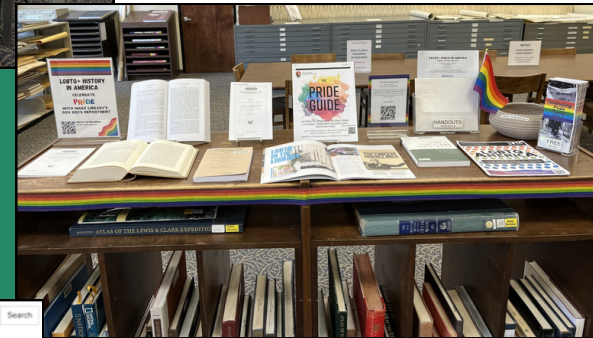
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UTILIZING TRADITIONAL LIBRARY PROMOTION

There are a variety of ways to shine a light on digital documents within physical displays.

LIBRARY DISPLAYS

- Provide “printed previews” of substantial electronic resources.
- Provide direct access w/ QR codes.
- Use those resources to develop supplemental handouts to better mobilize stagnant displays.



INTRODUCTION While the FDLP’s mission is to ensure open access to government information, the federal government has not always been open towards LGBTQ+ material. Along with a fundamental switch towards digital resources, visibility issues arise when tangibles are lacking and the majority of (recent) queer publications are digital-born and/or online-only. A question to ask, then, is how can FDLs make these web-based resources more visible and ensure that patrons are aware of what gov doc departments have to offer?

IMPORTANCE OF WEB RESOURCES

The purview of gov doc collections should not be limited to cataloged publications only. There is a plethora of resources available through agency websites, and three in particular offer some wonderful LGBTQ+ historical material: National Park Service, Smithsonian Institute, and the Library of Congress. All three agencies have LGBTQ+ collections that libraries can and should pull from.

VISIBILITY OF DIGITAL DOCUMENTS

Due to the individuality of item selection profiles, relevant LGBTQ+ material can sometimes slip through a library’s purview. And while searching CGP is certainly helpful in creating blanket searches for resources that might not be available through a library’s own OPAC, there is still a fairly sizable lack of LGBTQ+ resources in the Catalog of Government Publications. Additionally, the resources discoverable through CGP are either heavily data-driven or legislative focused. There is generally an inadequate collection of historical LGBTQ+ perspectives and stories.

This presents two consecutive problems: finding materials that close the gap between types of resources, then finding ways to ensure patrons know those materials exist.

Gov Docs: LGBTQ+ Resources : Home

Check out some of the Gov Doc Department's informative and commemorative resources on the LGBTQ+ community in America.

Home Health Resources Legislative Resources Historical Resources

FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY

The University of South Alabama (USA)
Libraries have been a Federal Depository since 1958.

DOCUMENTS LINKS

- USA Government Documents Home Page
- Finding Government Documents
- Gov Docs Quick Reference
- Gov Docs Government Databases, Data Sets & Registers
- Gov Docs Topic Guides & Bibliographies
- Gov Docs Course Guides
- Gov Docs Guides, Manuals & Handbooks
- Alabama Government Documents Online

GOV DOCS RESOURCES

- Federal
- Alabama
- Local Government: Mobile, AL, & Surrounding Areas

The LGBTQ+ Community in America

Photographer: Brian Kie

The LGBTQ+ community in America is rich with a history of activism and courage. While there were certainly many precursor moments, many view the 1969 Stonewall Riots as the impetus for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States, a movement that gave its all to create a more equal and just society for everyone, no matter their sexuality or gender identity. On June 28, 1970, only a year after the first Stonewall demonstrations, the first pride parade took place during the Christopher Street Liberation Day celebration. Hundreds of queer Americans took to the streets to commemorate those who had fought for their community, and while Pride has certainly grown in the years that have followed, it will always remain a holiday to honor those who have come before and continue after.

Government Documents & Serials LTA II

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ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

- USA Government Documents Home Page
- Our FDLP Collection
- Gov Docs Dept Staff & Location
- Gov Docs Map Collections
- Gov Docs Training Resources
- Gov Docs Needs & Offers

LIBRARY LINKS

- Marx Library Homepage
- SOUTHcal (USA Librarians Catalog)
- SOUTHcal is the catalog for the libraries at the University of South Alabama. Use this to find records for books, electronic books, media items, and government documents in our collection.
- Databases & E-Reference
- The list of electronic databases and reference sources subscribed to by the

Online pathfinding tools are especially great for promoting primarily digital collections and can be approached in a variety of ways.

LIBRARY GUIDES

- Offers patrons more discretion.
- Can build off previous displays or reference questions (general vs. specific topics).
- Not always necessary to reinvent the wheel ([FDLP Community Guides](#) and [USA Guide](#)).

CONCLUSION While the rising importance of digital publications might present visibility issues to library’s with limited resources, there are still many ways to address a lack of queer material in gov doc collections. Ideas presented here will be further discussed in a forthcoming publication (see abstract).