

*The Last Taboo:
Intellectual Freedom, Social Responsibility, and Law in Canadian Libraries*

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Ontario Library Association Superconference
Toronto, February 2007

In an age when even mainstream television programming includes lesbians and gays and when equal marriage is the talk — and now the law! — of the land, what are the professional, ethical, and legal obligations of librarians and schools in Canada to address changing realities? This session explores public and school library policy issues of services and access to print and Web resources for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, and questioning young people and adults, especially youth with limited resources.

Handouts:

- LGBTTQ checklist studies and service issues in Canadian public and school libraries
- Canadian policy framework: non-discrimination, inclusion, safety, duty of care
- Recent LGBTQ fiction for teens in Canadian urban public libraries (from Boon and Howard, *Collection Building* 2004).
- Books for LGBTQ teens and children in Alberta public libraries: Large urban centres, 2006
- Books for LGBTQ teens and children in Alberta public libraries: A Checklist study, 2006
- Chart 3: Percent of health sites blocked by filters at the most restrictive setting, by topic (from Kaiser Family Foundation 2002, at <http://www.kff.org/entmedia/upload/Chart-Pack.pdf>)
- Major LGBTQ filtering studies — Recommended references. (from “From movie codes to web filters — ‘Same old, same old’: Technologies to suppress, distort, manipulate, marginalize, and silence LGBTQ diversity”)
- Why we don’t have any LGBTQ-related materials in our library.... (from Gough, *Gay and Lesbian Library Service* 1990, and Gough and Greenblatt, *Library Journal* 1992)
- Library services and collection strategies for supporting LGBTQ communities
- “Top court denies cash for store’s legal fight,” *Globe and Mail*, January 20, 2007, A9 (reference only)

Canadian Policy Framework: *non-discrimination, inclusion, safety, duty of care*

- **constitutional & legislative – int’l, national, local**

Universal Declaration of Human Rights
Convention on the Rights of the Child
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms
Canadian Human Rights Act
Criminal Code of Canada

- **administration of justice**

Hate and Bias Crimes Unit, Edmonton Police Service

- **public schooling**

Alberta School Act: *“A board shall ensure each student is provided with a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviors”*

- **teachers’ associations**

Canadian Teachers’ Federation

Alberta Teachers’ Association: *“The teacher teaches in a manner that respects the dignity and rights of all persons without prejudice as to race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical characteristics, disability, marital status, family status, age, ancestry, place of origin, place of residence, socioeconomic background or linguistic background.”*

- ATA Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Committee; website at

www.teachers.ab.ca/Issues+In+Education/Diversity+and+Human+Rights/Sexual+Orientation

- **library associations – int’l, national, local**

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions: IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto; Statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom; IFLA/UNESCO School Library Manifesto; IFLA/UNESCO School Library Guidelines; Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom; IFLA Internet Manifesto; IFLA Position on Internet Governance

Canadian Library Association: Code of Ethics; Statement on Intellectual Freedom; Young Adult Services in Public Libraries; Information and Telecommunication Access Principles; Statement on Internet Access; Statement on Effective School Library Programs in Canada Students’ Bill of Information Rights / Charte des droits de l’élève à l’ère de l’information: *“We believe that all students should have the right to: access a wide range of print, non-print and electronic learning resources at an appropriate level; explore materials expressing a variety of opinions and perspectives; and freely choose reading, viewing and listening materials for recreational and study purposes.”*

American Library Association: Library Bill of Rights; Labels and Rating Systems; Free Access to Libraries for Minors; Evaluating library Collections; Restricted Access to Library Materials; Diversity in Collection Development: An Interpretation of the Library Bill of Rights; Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Media Program; Access for Children and Young Adults to Nonprint Materials; Universal Right to Free Expression; Access to Library Resources and Services Regardless of Sex, Gender Identity, or Sexual Orientation; Code of Ethics; Libraries: An American Value; Core Values of Librarianship; Resolution on Threats to Library Materials Related to Sex, Gender Identity, or Sexual Orientation

- Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table (GLBTRT)

American Association of Law Libraries: Standing Committee for Lesbian and Gay Issues

LGBTQ Checklist Studies and Service Issues in Canadian Public and School Libraries

- Boon, M. H., & Howard, V. 2004. Recent lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender fiction for teens: Are Canadian public libraries providing adequate collections? *Collection Building* 23(3), 133-138.
- Curry, Ann. 2005. If I ask, will they answer? Evaluating public library reference service to gay and lesbian youth. *Reference and User Services Quarterly* 45(1), 65-75.
- Downey, J. 2005. Public library collection development issues regarding the information needs of GLBT patrons. *Progressive Librarian* 25, 86-95.
- Eccleston, Sarah. 2005. Gay/Lesbian materials for young children. Alberta Teachers' Association, Edmonton, Alberta. PowerPoint slides at URL <http://www.teachers.ab.ca/Search.htm?srch=1&allwords=gay%2flesbian&page=1>
- Gough, Cal and Ellen Greenblatt. 1998. Gay and lesbian library materials: A Book selector's toolkit. *Acquisitions Librarian* 20, 151-170.
- Howard, V. 2005. Out of the closet...but not on the shelves? An Analysis of Canadian public libraries' holdings of gay-themed picture books. *Progressive Librarian* 25, 62-75.
- Pecoskie, Jennifer L. and Pamela J. McKenzie. 2004. Canadian census data as a tool for evaluating public library holdings of award-winning lesbian fiction. *Canadian Journal of Information and Library Science* 28(2), 3-23.
- Reaching out: Library services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth*. 2004. Film by Lynne Barnes. Order from lynneword@hotmail.com (\$20 US, DVD or VHS). 16 minutes.
- Rothbauer, Paulette M. 2002. Reading mainstream possibilities: Canadian young adult fiction with lesbian and gay characters. *Canadian Children's Literature* 108, 10-26.
- Rothbauer, Paulette M. and L.E.F. McKechnie. 1999. Gay and lesbian fiction for young adults: A survey of holdings in Canadian public libraries. *Collection Building* 18(1), 32-39.
- . 2000. The Treatment of gay and lesbian fiction for young adults in selected prominent reviewing media. *Collection Building* 19(1), 5-16.
- Schrader, Alvin M. 2006. The Last taboo: Diversity, equity, inclusivity, and law in Canadian libraries. Ottawa: Canadian Library Association, Ottawa. Handouts at http://www.cla.ca/resources/cla2006/Presentations/Schrader_Last_Taboo.pdf
- Schrader, Alvin M. and Kristopher Wells. 2004. Queer perspectives on social responsibility in Canadian schools and libraries: Analysis and resources. *School Libraries in Canada Online (SLIC Online)* 24(4). URL <http://www.schoollibraries.ca/issues/9.aspx>
- Schrader, Alvin M. and Kristopher Wells. 2007 [forthcoming]. *Challenging silence, challenging censorship: Inclusive resources, strategies and policy directives for addressing bisexual, gay, lesbian, trans-identified and two-spirited realities in school and public Libraries*. Ottawa: Canadian Teachers Federation.
- Spence, A. 1999. Gay young adult fiction in the public library: A comparative survey. *Public Libraries* 38(4), 224-9+.
- . 2000. Controversial books in the public library: A comparative survey of holdings of gay-related children's picture books. *Library Quarterly* 70(3), 335-379.
- Camp fYrefly: youth leadership retreat www.fyrefly.ualberta.ca/**

Canadian Policy Framework: *non-discrimination, inclusion, safety, duty of care*

- **constitutional & legislative – int’l, national, local**

Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Convention on the Rights of the Child; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; Canadian Human Rights Act; Criminal Code of Canada

- **administration of justice**

Hate and Bias Crimes Unit, Edmonton Police Service

- **public schooling**

Alberta School Act: “*A board shall ensure that each student... is provided with a safe and caring environment that fosters and maintains respectful and responsible behaviors*” (s. 45(8) School Boards – Responsibilities to Students). “*All education programs offered and instructional materials used in schools must reflect the diverse nature and heritage of society in Alberta, promote understanding and respect for others and honour and respect common values and beliefs of Albertans*”(s. 3(1) Diversity of Shared Values).

- **teachers’ associations**

Canadian Teachers’ Federation: “*CTF advocates for educational systems that are safe, welcoming, inclusive, and affirming for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.*”

Alberta Teachers’ Association: “*The teacher teaches in a manner that respects the dignity and rights of all persons without prejudice as to race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical characteristics, disability, marital status, family status, age, ancestry, place of origin, place of residence, socioeconomic background or linguistic background.*”

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www.teachers.ab.ca/Issues+In+Education/Diversity+and+Human+Rights/Sexual+Orientation

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- ALA Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table (GLBTRT)

American Association of Law Libraries: Standing Committee for Lesbian and Gay Issues

Recent LGBTQ Fiction for Teens in Canadian Urban Public Libraries*

| | LGBTQ Teen Fiction Titles | |
|------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| | <i>Number (/35)</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| Edmonton | 32 | 91% |
| Vancouver | 32 | 91 |
| Toronto | 30 | 86 |
| Ottawa | 28 | 80 |
| Saskatoon | 28 | 80 |
| Halifax | 23 | 66 |
| Regina | 22 | 63 |
| Winnipeg | 22 | 63 |
| Victoria | 21 | 60 |
| <i>Average</i> | <i>26</i> | <i>76%</i> |

* *Titles from 1998-2002 used by Boon and Howard, Collection Building 2004, 133-138.*

Books for LGBTQ Teens and Children in Alberta Public Libraries: A Checklist Study, 2006

| Table 1. Holdings by Title | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | <i>Titles Held Number (/52)</i> | <i>Titles Held Percent</i> | <i>Municipal Pop'n*</i> | <i>Titles per 1000 capita</i> |
| Calgary Public Library | 38 | 73 | 956,078 | 0.04 |
| Edmonton Public Library | 38 | 73 | 712,391 | 0.05 |
| Grande Prairie Public Library | 34 | 65 | 44,631 | 0.76 |
| Medicine Hat Public Library | 27 | 52 | 56,048 | 0.48 |
| Lethbridge Public Library | 26 | 50 | 77,202 | 0.33 |
| Red Deer Public Library | 25 | 48 | 79,082 | 0.31 |
| St. Albert Public Library | 25 | 48 | 56,310 | 0.45 |
| Strathcona County Library | 23 | 44 | 55,063 | 0.48 |
| Camrose Public Library | 20 | 39 | 15,669 | 1.33 |
| Fort McMurray Public Library | 19 | 37 | 60,983 | 0.31 |
| Spruce Grove Public Library | 16 | 31 | 18,405 | 0.89 |
| Averages | 26 | 51% | | 0.5 |

| Table 2. Holdings Per Capita | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | <i>Titles per 1000 capita</i> | <i>Municipal Pop'n*</i> | <i>Titles Held Number (/52)</i> | <i>Titles Held Percent</i> |
| Camrose Public Library | 1.33 | 15,669 | 20 | 39 |
| Spruce Grove Public Library | 0.89 | 18,405 | 16 | 31 |
| Grande Prairie Public Library | 0.76 | 44,631 | 34 | 65 |
| Medicine Hat Public Library | 0.48 | 56,048 | 27 | 52 |
| Strathcona County Library | 0.48 | 55,063 | 23 | 44 |
| St. Albert Public Library | 0.45 | 56,310 | 25 | 48 |
| Lethbridge Public Library | 0.33 | 77,202 | 26 | 50 |
| Red Deer Public Library | 0.31 | 79,082 | 25 | 48 |
| Fort McMurray Public Library | 0.31 | 60,983 | 19 | 37 |
| Edmonton Public Library | 0.05 | 712,391 | 38 | 73 |
| Calgary Public Library | 0.04 | 956,078 | 38 | 73 |
| Averages | 0.5 | | 26 | 51% |

* 2005 figures

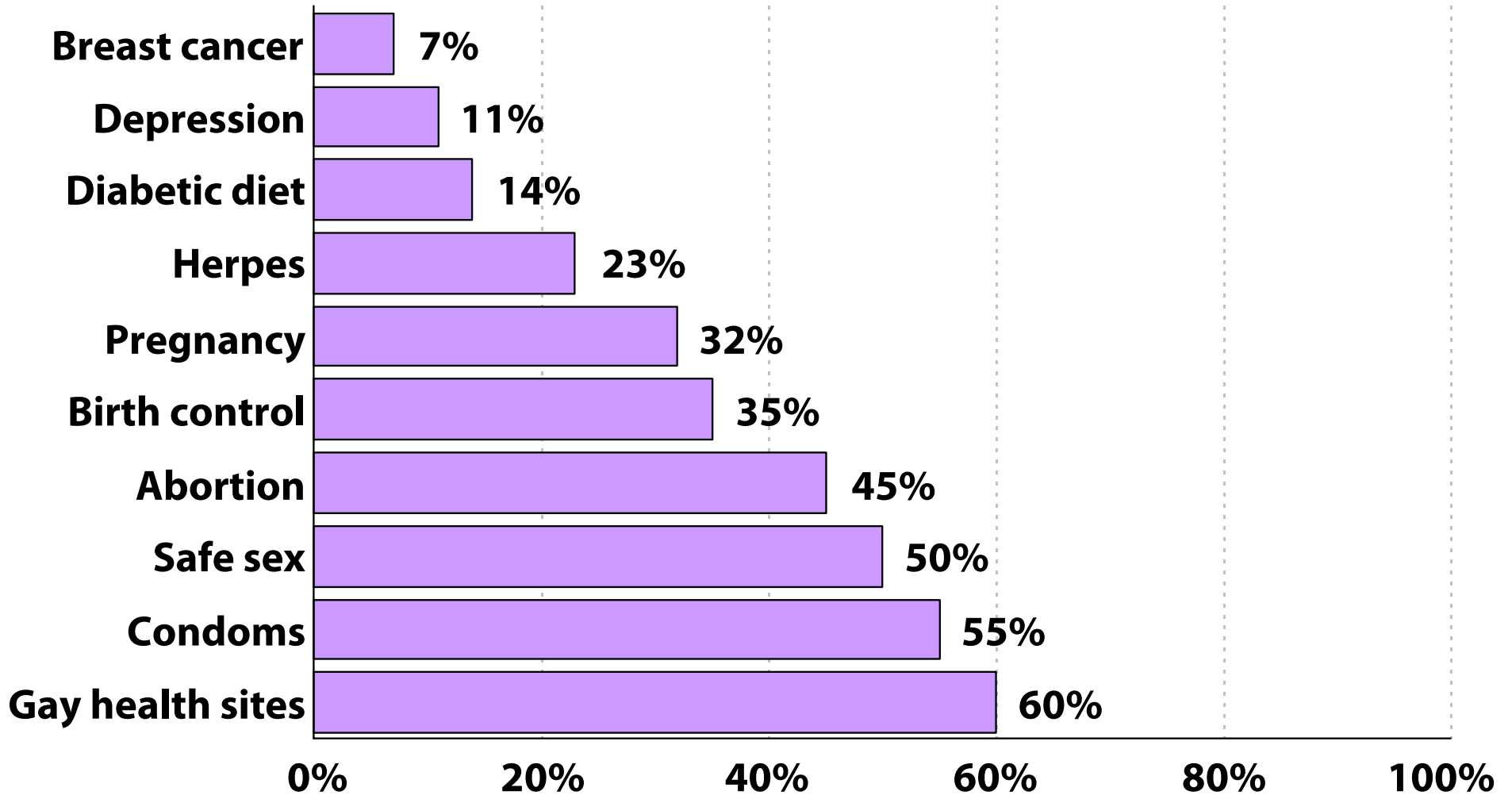
Schrader, A.M. 2006. "Opening the Library Closet: Diversity, Equity, and Social Responsibility in Alberta Libraries." Presented at the Alberta Library Conference, Jasper, Alberta, 28 April 2006

Books for LGBTQ Teens and Children in Alberta Public Libraries: A Checklist Study, 2006

| At least one copy of title held at: (in descending order of total title holdings within Alberta) | | | Library systems serving the 11 largest urban centres in Alberta | | | | | | | | | | | Sub-total (/11) | Total Alberta public libraries holding this title: | |
|---|---|----------------------------|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|--|----|
| | | | CPL | EPL | RDPL | LPL | SAPL | FMPL | SCL* | MHPL | GPPL | SGPL | CamPL | | | |
| Title | Author | Date | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | True Believer | Wolff, V. 2001 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 11 | 63 |
| 2 | Bad Boy | Wieler, D. 1989 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 9 | 58 |
| 3 | Touch of the Clown | Huser, G. 1999 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 10 | 53 |
| 4 | The Game | Toten, T. 2001 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 11 | 44 |
| 5 | The Misfits | Howe, J. 2001 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 10 | 31 |
| 6 | Postcards from No Man's Land | Chambers, A. 1999 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 9 | 31 |
| 7 | The Perks of Being a Wallflower | Chbosky, S. Freymann- 1998 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 8 | 30 |
| 8 | My Heartbeat | Weyr, G. 2002 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 10 | 29 |
| 9 | Telling | Matas, C. 1998 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 8 | 29 |
| 10 | Box Girl | Withrow, S. 2001 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 8 | 27 |
| 11 | Hard Love | Wittlinger, E. 1999 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 7 | 25 |
| 12 | Deliver Us from Evie | Kerr, M.E. 1994 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 11 | 24 |
| 13 | Eight Seconds | Ferris, J. 2000 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 9 | 22 |
| 14 | Odder than Ever | Coville, B. 1999 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 9 | 21 |
| 15 | I Was a Teenage Fairy | Block, F.L. 1998 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 7 | 20 |
| 16 | One Hot Second: Stories about Desire | Young, C. (ed.) 2002 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 8 | 18 |
| 17 | Empress of the World | Ryan, S. 2001 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 9 | 17 |
| 18 | What's in a Name? | Wittlinger, E. 2000 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 7 | 15 |
| 19 | Keeping You A Secret | Peters, J.A. 2003 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 8 | 14 |
| 20 | Rainbow Boys | Sanchez, A. 2001 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 7 | 14 |
| 21 | Kissing Kate | Myracle, L. 2003 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 7 | 12 |
| 22 | Love & Sex: 10 Stories of Truth | Cart, M.(ed.) 2001 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 7 | 12 |
| 23 | Geography Club | Hartner, B. 2003 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 7 | 11 |
| 24 | Out of the Shadows | Hines, S. 1998 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 5 | 11 |
| 25 | From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun | Woodson, J. 1995 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 8 | 10 |
| 26 | The Year They Burned the Books | Garden, N. 1999 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 4 | 10 |
| 27 | Dare Truth or Promise | Boock, P. 1999 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 6 | 9 |
| 28 | Good Moon Rising | Garden, N. 1996 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 6 | 7 |
| 29 | Name Me Nobody | Yamanaka, L. 1999 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 6 | 7 |
| 30 | If It Doesn't Kill You | Bechard, M. 1999 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 4 | 6 |
| 31 | Jack | Homes, A.M. 1989 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 5 | 6 |
| 32 | The Blue Lawn | Taylor, W. 1999 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 5 | 5 |
| 33 | Love Rules | Reynolds, M. 2001 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 4 | 5 |
| 34 | Finding H.F. | Watts, J. 2001 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 2 | 3 |
| 35 | Flamboyant | Swados, E. 1998 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 3 | 3 |
| 36 | Gravel Queen | Benduhn, T. 2003 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 3 | 3 |
| 37 | Jerome | Taylor, W. 1999 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 2 | 2 |
| 38 | Just Like Beauty | Lerner, L. 2002 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 2 | 2 |
| 39 | November Ever After | Torres, L. 1999 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 2 | 2 |
| 40 | Rumors and Whispers | Levy, M. 1990 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 1 | 2 |
| 41 | SP Likes AD | Brett, C. 1989 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 0 | 2 |
| 42 | Tomorrow Wendy: A Love Story | Stoehr, S. 1998 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 2 | 2 |
| 43 | When Heroes Die | Durant, P.R. 1992 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 1 | 2 |
| 44 | Calendar Boy | Quan, A. 2001 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 1 | 1 |
| 45 | War Boy | Hillsbury, K. 2000 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 1 | 1 |
| 46 | The World of Normal Boys | Soehnlein, K.M. 2000 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 1 | 1 |
| 47 | Girl Walking Backwards | Williams, B. 1998 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 0 | 0 |
| PICTURE BOOKS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Losing Uncle Tim | Jordan, M.K. 1989 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 4 | 11 |
| 2 | Heather Has Two Mommies | Newman, L. 1989 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 8 | 10 |
| 3 | Asha's Mums | Elwin, R. 1990 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 5 | 7 |
| 4 | Daddy's Roommate | Willhoite, M. 1990 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | The Duke Who Outlawed Jelly Beans and Other Stories | Valentine, J. 1991 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL HOLDINGS BY LIBRARY | | | 38 | 38 | 25 | 26 | 25 | 19 | 23 | 27 | 34 | 16 | 20 | | | |

Chart 3

Percent of health sites blocked by filters at the most restrictive setting, by topic



Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, *See No Evil: How Internet Filters Affect the Search for Online Health Information*, December 2002.

***From Movie Codes to Web Filters—“Same Old, Same Old”:
Technologies to Suppress, Distort, Manipulate, Marginalize, and Silence LGBTQ Diversity***
(a presentation to the Inside/Out Speakers’ Series, Faculty of Education, University of Alberta (rev. June 2006))

Web filtering software is one contemporary strategy for imposing cultural conformity where LGBTQ diversity would otherwise flourish and quite possibly frighten the horses on Canadian streets. Among categories of objectionable content and images most frequently targeted by filtering products are lesbian and gay Web sites — not surprising given the conservative bias of most of the U.S. software producers. Critics of filtering software often focus on its current technological limitations, because filters both overblock and underblock. But a more persuasive critical approach is grounded in the very nature of human language itself and its indexing. Continuing examination is needed of the censorware phenomenon and its cultural limitations if we are to maintain even guarded optimism about access to LGBTQ content and images on the Web.

Major LGBTQ Filtering Studies — Recommended References

Censorware Project. *Passing Porn, Banning the Bible: N2H2's Bess in Public Schools.* 2000.
<http://censorware.net/reports/bess/>

Edelman, Benjamin. *Empirical Analysis of Google SafeSearch.* 2003.
<http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/people/edelman/google-safesearch/>

Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. *Access Denied: The Impact of Internet Filtering Software on the Lesbian and Gay Community.* 1997. http://www.glaad.org/publications/archive_detail.php?id=160&
— *Access Denied Version 2.0: The Continuing Threat Against Internet Access and Privacy and Its Impact on the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community.* December 1999.
http://www.glaad.org/publications/archive_detail.php?id=103&

Heins, Marjorie, and Christina Cho. *Internet Filters: A Public Policy Report.* National Coalition Against Censorship, Fall 2001. <http://www.fepproject.org/policyreports/filteringreport.html>

Heins, Marjorie, Christina Cho, and Ariel Feldman. *Internet Filters: A Public Policy Report.* 2nd ed. Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, 2006. <http://www.fepproject.org> (PDF at <http://www.fepproject.org/policyreports/filters2.pdf>)

Hunter, Christopher D. *Filtering the Future?: Software Filters, Porn, PICS, and the Internet Content Conundrum.* Thesis, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, 1999.
<http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/hunterchap1.html>

Kaiser Family Foundation. *See No Evil: How Internet Filters Affect the Search for Online Health Information.* 2002. www.kff.org/entmedia/20021210a-index.cfm. Summary published in *JAMA* (Caroline Richardson, Paul Resnick, Derek Hansen, Holly Derry, and Victoria Rideout. “Does Pornography-Blocking Software Block Access to Health Information on the Internet?” *Journal of American Medical Association* 288.22 (2887-2894)).

Online Policy Group and Electronic Frontier Foundation. *Internet Blocking in Public Schools: A Study on Internet Access in Educational Institutions.* Version 1.1, 2003.
<http://www.onlinepolicy.org/access/schoolblocking.shtml>

Schrader, Alvin M. *Directory of Internet Access Policies of Canadian Libraries in the Public Sector.*
<http://www.ualberta.ca/~aschrade/internet/access.htm>
—“Internet Filters: Library Access Issues in a Cyberspace World.” Address to the FILA annual conference, Bangkok, 1999. The Hague, Netherlands: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, January 2000. <http://www.ifla.org/faife/papers/others/schrader.htm>
—“Technology and the Politics of Choice: Information Literacy, Critical Thinking, and Intellectual Freedom.” Keynote address to the ATA Learning Resources Council and ATA Computer Council, 2002.
<http://www.learningresources.ab.ca/Freedom.html>

Willard, Nancy. *Filtering Software: The Religious Connection.* 2002.
<http://responsiblenetizen.org/onlinedocs/documents/religious1.html>

Why we don't have any LGBTQ-related materials in our library*....

- *Young library users are not searching for gay and lesbian materials.*
- *My library doesn't provide materials geared to specialized needs.*
- *Gay people don't live in my community. At least they don't seem to use my library.*
- *Aren't most of those materials too technical for most libraries?*
- *It's too difficult to find reviews of these materials. How can I tell what's worthless and what's worthwhile? And those materials require ordering from special vendors.*
- *I don't feel qualified to order these materials.*
- *My library's vendor doesn't handle those items.*
- *Can't people just use interlibrary loan to get these materials instead of my having to buy them?*
- *I'm uncomfortable with what some of these materials are about.*
- *That stuff doesn't belong in libraries—at least not in my library.*
- *I don't approve of homosexuality or of homosexuals.*
- *My library can't afford gay/lesbian materials.*
- *Librarians handle all library materials, including those dealing with sexual orientation, equally and neutrally.*
- *The library's books about AIDS adequately address the information needs of its gay and lesbian patrons.*
- *Buying library materials for gay and lesbian library users endorses the way these people live.*
- *We don't need special booklists or indexes; gays and lesbians can use the catalogue and periodical indexes like anyone else.*
- *We simply haven't yet found the time to devote attention to covering this particular subject area.*

* "Key Issues in the Collecting of Gay / Lesbian Materials" by Cal Gough, in Cal Gough and Ellen Greenblatt, eds., *Gay and Lesbian Library Service* (pp. 3-10). Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1990. And "Services to Gay and Lesbian Patrons: Examining the Myths" by Cal Gough and Ellen Greenblatt. *Library Journal* 117.1 (January 1992): 59-63.

Library Service and Collection Strategies for Supporting LGBTQ Communities*

Board Policies and Legislation

- develop and approve policies on inclusive education, curriculum-based library support, intellectual freedom and challenges to school and library materials, within the context of board philosophy, mandate and mission, legislative frameworks, esp. *Canadian Charter* and *Canadian Human Rights Act* and library association policy statements highlighting social responsibility

Community Development

- use community development approaches to build inclusive, responsive and collaborative libraries
- seek out and listen to local BGLTT communities
- develop and maintain relationships with gay–straight student alliances (GSAs) and other local BGLTT groups such as PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Canada)

Professional Networking

- develop relationships and a support network with other librarians, teachers, counselors, parents, police, social workers and other community leaders and groups
- stay current through local publications of community organizations, news and issues, reviews of books, movies, etc.

Selection Criteria

- establish inclusive selection guidelines and practices that go beyond selection canon
- identify BGLTT-related areas for collection development such as travel, consumer information, same-sex marriage, parenting, adoption, homelessness, violence and ethnic minorities
- include alternate formats
- develop procedures for obtaining input from teachers, students, parents and other community members

Challenges and Reconsideration of Materials

- frame policies and procedures in accord with the *CLA Statement on Intellectual Freedom*

Collection Development

- consult bibliographies, “best” books lists, award lists, multiple sources of book reviews, the catalogues of independent publishers and the alternative press
- seek recommendations from local groups, bookstores and websites

Collection Access

- adopt a user-centred approach to classification and cataloguing and sure fiction and non-fiction are catalogued under an imaginative diversity of user-friendly subject headings
- materials should be visible, accessible and promoted through book lists, bibliographies, etc.
- make materials available through an honour system or alternative checkout process (but no consensus exists on rainbow labeling)

Web Access

- ensure Internet filtering software does not exclude BGLTT sites and information, which otherwise violates non-discrimination laws and library policies — better yet, avoid filtering for teens and adults and develop acceptable use policies with user training and parental awareness information and training

- ensure easy web access to owned materials and maintain links to other websites and resources
- endorse and distribute the CLA policy document *Statement on Internet Access* and the CLA brochure *Have a Safe Trip! A Parent's Guide to Safety on the Internet* (<http://www.cla.ca/netsafe/netsafe.pdf>)
- consult the *Directory of Internet Access Policies* adopted by Canadian public, school and post-secondary libraries

Library Access

- promote the library as a “safe space,” through signage, etc. (see Promotion & Marketing)
- use inclusive language in all library communications and on websites

Promotion and Marketing

- post “safe space” signs and symbols
- maintain an BGLTT presence on the library website, including bibliographies, new titles alerts and links to relevant websites including those of other libraries and BGLTT organizations
- include BGLTT titles in displays, book talks, presentations and communications
- produce brochures, resource listings and exhibits or displays
- support and promote awareness of local events and national issues of BGLTT interest, e.g., pride week celebrations, same-sex marriage, parenting, adoption, bullying awareness, violence, literacy, homelessness, Mother's and Father's Days, and *International Day Against Homophobia* (www.homophobiaday.org) held annually on May 17
- promote *Freedom to Read Week* (www.freedomtoread.ca) annually in February as well as local initiatives to build awareness and an appreciation for inclusivity and diversity
- ensure the school or public board and senior administration are regularly and fully aware of BGLTT initiatives and activities undertaken by library staff

Community Advocacy

- develop a support network of like-minded teachers, parents, police, social workers and other community leaders and librarians
- establish working relationships with key local media and engage in well-planned public education programs to inform constituencies about the library's mission to serve inclusive populations and oppose social exclusion

Professional Development

- expand your knowledge of BGLTT issues and information resources by attending conferences, staying current with research and fostering cultural awareness training for other staff, volunteers and trustees

Library Service Guarantee

- develop a board-approved user-centred guarantee of superior inclusive collections and services in school and public libraries

Seize the teachable moment to educate your community!

* from: *Challenging Silence, Challenging Censorship*,
by Alvin M. Schrader and Kristopher Wells (2007).