

Evaluation of Russell Library's 306.76\* Collection:

Sexual orientation, transgenderism, intersexuality

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### **Introduction**

For my collection evaluation, I chose Russell Library in Middletown, Connecticut, as they are my area's largest public library and have an extensive collection. I used the CREW Guidelines for Weeding as a base for this evaluation; see Appendix A for the specific 306 guidelines that were used (Texas State Library and Archives Commission, 2012).

This report primarily relies on circulation data provided by Russell Library's Circulation Services Department. They were kind enough to provide me with an Excel spreadsheet with details for all 307.76\* materials. Russell Library's 307.76\* collection is comprised of 78 titles. I chose 50 physically available books to evaluate. A listing of the other 28 titles can be found in Appendix B. Throughout this report, I'll use the acronym LGBTQ to mean lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, or questioning individuals.

### **Review**

For a concise listing of the final evaluation regarding whether to dispose of or retain each title, as well as further details about condition and last circulation date, see Table 1.

For Abelove's (1993) *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*, I would dispose of the book. While the most popular item in the collection, it is 21 years past publication and has not been checked out in six and a half years. It has also been superseded by other materials within the collection such as the *Martin Duberman Reader* (Duberman, 2013).

For Thompson's (1994) *Long Road to Freedom*, I would retain the book. While it is 20 years past publication, it is historical, circulated in the past year and a half, and is a popular item

in the collection. While the bottom right corners of the pages are worn and dirty, the pages are glossy and should withstand a gentle cleaning.

For Aarons' (1995) *Prayers for Bobby*, I would retain the book. While it is 19 years past publication, it has circulated in the past year and a quarter, is the second most popular item in the collection, and is still in good condition.

For Miller's (1995) *Out of the Past*, I would dispose of the book. It is 19 years past publication, has not circulated in four and a half years, and the book retained water damage to approximately a sixth of the pages. And while it is a historical book, it has been superseded by other materials in the collection such as *A Queer History of the United States* (Bronski, 2011) and *A Little Gay History* (Parkinson, 2013).

For Ford's (1996) *The World Out There*, I would dispose of the book. It is 18 years past publication and has not circulated in three years. Given its age, it is no longer relevant or accurate and has been superseded by other materials in the collection such as *Gay and Lesbian Communities the World Over* (Simon, 2011) and *A Family by Any Other Name* (Gillespie, 2014).

For Merla's (1996) *Boys Like Us*, I would dispose of the book. It is 18 years past publication and has not circulated in three and a half years. While it has circulated 22 times since entering the collection 8 years ago, it has been superseded by more recent coming out stories added to the collection, such as *Crisis* (Gold, 2008), *My Husband and My Wives* (Beye, 2012), *Oddly Normal* (Schwartz, 2012), *Eating Fire* (Cogswell, 2014), and *Teaching the Cat to Sit* (Theall, 2014).

For Mondimore's (1996) *A Natural History of Homosexuality*, I would retain the book. While it is 18 years past publication, it is a historical book and has circulated in the past two years.

For Roleff's (1997) *Gay Rights*, I would retain the book. While it is 17 years past publication, it is a historical book and has circulated in the past two years.

For Johnson's (1997) *Coming Out Every Day*, I would retain the book. While it is 17 years past publication, it has circulated in the past one and a quarter years.

For The History Project's (1998) *Improper Bostonians*, I would retain the book. While it is 16 years past publication, it is a historical book and has circulated in the past two and a half years.

For Oliver's (1998) *Gay and Lesbian Rights*, I would retain the book. While it is 16 years past publication, it has circulated in the past two years and has been circulated 28 times since entering the collection eight years ago.

For Owens' (1998) *Queer Kids*, I would dispose of the book. It is 16 years past publication and has not circulated in four and a half years. It has also been superseded by other materials in the collection such as *Coming Around* (Dohrenwend, 2012).

For Bono's (1998) *Family Outing*, I would dispose of the book. It is 16 years past publication. It has circulated 12 times since entering the collection eight years ago, though the circulation data do not have the last date of circulation. While the book is both an autobiography and a coming out guide for gay and lesbian individuals, it has been superseded in many ways by Bono's (2011) *Transition: The Story of How I Became a Man*. I would recommend *Transition* be purchased in *Family Outing*'s place; it was a nominee for the 2011 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2011b). Library Journal provided a review of *Transition* and said "the emotions Bono experiences in his personal journey of self-discovery... can be appreciated by everyone" (Horn, 2011).

For Sullivan's (1998) *Love Undetectable*, I would retain the book. While it is 16 years past publication, it has circulated in the past six months.

For Richards' (1999) *Identity and the Case for Gay Rights*, I would dispose of the book. It is 15 years past publication and much has changed since then in terms of marriage equality and LGBTQ rights. The book's pages are dirty and worn and the cover is dog-eared. It also circulated only seven times since entering the collection eight years ago, though the circulation data do not have the last date of circulation.

For Fone's (2000) *Homophobia*, I would retain the book. While it is 14 years past publication, it is a historical book and has circulated in the past two and a half years.

For Loffreda's (2000) *Losing Matt Shepard*, I would retain the book. While it is 14 years past publication, it is a historical book and has circulated in the past two and a half years.

For Outland's (2000) *Coming out*, I would dispose of the book. It is 14 years past publication and has not circulated in three and a half years. It has also been superseded by other materials in the collection such as *American Savage* (Savage, 2013) and *A Family by Any Other Name* (Gillespie, 2014).

For Berzon's (2001) *Positively Gay*, I would dispose of the book. It is 13 years past publication and has not circulated in four and a half years. Other books in the collection are far more recent and focus on similar issues.

For Brown's (2001) *The Evening Crowd at Kimser's*, I would dispose of the book. It is 13 years past publication and, while it is a historical book, it has not circulated in four and a half years. Other historical books within the collection more fully cover the topic.

For Bull's *Come out Fighting* (2001), I would dispose of the book. It is 13 years past publication and, while a historical book, it has not circulated in four and a half years. Other historical books within the collection more fully cover the topic.

For Constantine-Simms' (2001) *The Greatest Taboo*, I would dispose of the book. It is 13 years past publication and has not circulated in five years. Other books in the collection are more recent and focus on similar issues, though the collection could use a more recent book that focuses on the intersection of people of color and marginalized sexual orientations. I would recommend adding Boykin's (2012) *For Colored Boys who Have Considered Suicide when the Rainbow is Still Not Enough* to the collection. Library Journal provided a review of the book, stating it was a "stirring collection of poems, reminiscences, and essays by a variety of writers" (Lisa, 2014) that highlighted the struggles faced by young gay and bisexual men of color. This book was included on the 2013 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2013a) and is not available through LION interlibrary loan.

For Ellis' (2001) *Gay Men at Midlife*, I would dispose of the book (2001). It is 13 years past publication and has not circulated in four and a half years. Other books in the collection are far more recent and focus on similar issues.

For Gross' (2001) *Up from Invisibility*, I would dispose of the book. It is 13 years past publication and has not circulated in five years. Given it focuses on media representation, its content ages quickly.

For Henrikson's (2001) *Our Daughter Martha*, I would dispose of the book. It is 13 years past publication and has circulated three times, though the circulation data do not have the last date of circulation. It is superseded by other items in the collection such as *Oddly Normal* (Schwartz, 2012).

For Murdoch's (2001) *Courting Justice*, I would dispose of the book. It is 13 years past publication and has not circulated in four and a half years. In addition, details surrounding marriage equality have substantially shifted since this was published.

For Stein's (2001) *The Stranger Next Door*, I would dispose of the book. It is 13 years past publication and has only circulated once, though the circulation data do not have the last date of circulation.

For Duberman's (2002) *Cures*, I would dispose of the book. It is 12 year past publication and has not circulated in four and a half years. It is also superseded by the *Martin Duberman Reader* (Duberman, 2013).

For Marcus' (2002) *Making Gay History*, I would retain the book. While it is 12 years past publication, it is a historical book and circulated in the past year.

For Nimmons' (2002) *The Soul beneath the Skin*, I would dispose of the book. It is 12 years past publication and has not circulated in five and a half years. The topic of gay men's personal lives is better addressed by more recent materials in the collection such as *My Husband and My Wives* (Beye, 2012).

For Berkowitz's (2003) *Stayin' Alive*, I would retain the book. While it is 11 years past publication, it is a historical book and circulated in the past six months.

For Gooch's (2003) *Dating the Greek Gods*, I would retain the book. While it is 11 years past publication, it circulated in the past one and a quarter years.

For Kaminsky's (2003) *Affirmative Gay Relationships*, I would retain the book. While it is 11 years past publication, it circulated in the past two and a half years and is not readily superseded by other items in the collection.

For Mancilla's (2003) *Love in the Time of HIV*, I would retain the book . While it is 11 years past publication, it is a historical book and circulated in the past two and a half years.

For Stevenson's (2003) *Everyday Activism*, I would dispose of the book. It is 11 years past publication, last circulated over three years ago, and many laws pertaining to LGBTQ rights have changed since its publication. The book has also been superseded by more recent additions to the collection such as *Gay and Lesbian Communities the World Over* (Simon, 2011) and *Martin Duberman Reader* (Duberman, 2013).

For McCourt's (2004) *Queer Street*, I would retain the book. While it is 10 years past publication, it is a historical book; additionally, the last date of circulation is not available.

For Beam's (2007) *Transparent*, I would retain the book. While it is seven years past publication, it circulated in the past year. It is also one of the only books in the collection focused on transgender youth. I would recommend adding: *Helping Your Transgender Teen* (Krieger, 2011) which was included on the 2012 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2012a); and *Transitions of the Heart* (Pepper, 2012) which was included on the 2013 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2013a). Library Journal provided a review of *Transitions of the Heart* and notes that while it is an excellent compilation of essays with support and shared experience, it is not an "advice or self-help book" (Minkin, 2012). One copy of each book is available through LION interlibrary loan.

For Kennedy's (2007) *The First Man-Made Man* I would dispose of the book. It is seven years past publication and while it's a historical book, it has not circulated in six years.

For Schulman's (2009) *Ties that Bind* I would retain the book. It is included on the 2011 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2011a), is within five years of publication, and has been in the collection for less than a year.



For Creech's (2011) *Adam's Gift*, I would dispose of the book. While it is included on the 2012 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2012a) and is within five years of publication, it has not circulated since joining the collection three and a half years ago.

For Savage & Miller's (2011) *It Gets Better*, I would retain the book. It is within five years past publication and last circulated two and a half years ago. It was included on the 2012 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2012a).

For Barton's (2012) *Pray the Gay Away* I would retain the book. It was a nominee for the 2014 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2013b), within five years of publication, and has circulated in the past year.

For Beye's (2012) *My Husband and My Wives*, I would retain the book. It is included on the 2013 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2013a), within five years of publication, and has circulated in the past year and a half.

For Dohrenwend's (2012) *Coming Around*, I would retain the book. It was a nominee for the 2014 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2013b), within five years of publication, and has been in the collection for a bit less than two years.

For Hirshman's (2012) *Victory* I would retain the book. It was a nominee for the 2013 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2012b), within five years of publication, and has circulated in the past two years.

For Schwartz's (2012) *Oddly Normal* I would retain the book. It is included on the 2013 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2013a), within five years of publication, and has circulated in the past year and a quarter.

For Duberman's (2013) *The Martin Duberman Reader*, I would retain the book. It is included on the 2014 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2014a) and has circulated in the past two years.

For Haskell's (2013) *My Brother My Sister*, I would retain the book. It is within five years of publication and has circulated in the past six months.

For Boylan's (2013) *Stuck in the Middle with You*, I would retain the book. It is within five years of publication and has circulated in the past year and a quarter.

For Mock's (2014) *Redefining Realness*, I would retain the book. It is included as a pre-nominee for the 2015 Over the Rainbow List (GLBTRT, 2014b), within five years of publication, and has circulated in the past three months.

<i>First Author</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Condition</i>	<i>Last Circ.</i>	<i>Evaluation</i>
Abelove	1993	Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader	Spine and cover are damaged	5/22/2008	Dispose
Thompson	1994	Long Road to Freedom	Pages in bottom right corner are dirty and worn	5/3/2013	Retain
Aarons	1995	Prayers for Bobby	Good	8/6/2013	Retain
Miller	1995	Out of the Past	Water damage to last 1/6 <sup>th</sup> of pages	5/4/2010	Dispose
Ford	1996	The World Out There	Good	10/21/2011	Dispose
Merla	1996	Boys Like Us	Good	4/11/2011	Dispose
Mondimore	1996	A Natural History	Good	11/30/2012	Retain
Roleff	1997	Gay Rights	Good	11/30/2012	Retain
Johnson	1997	Coming Out Every Day	Good	7/31/2013	Retain
History Project	1998	Improper Bostonians	Good	3/17/2012	Retain
Oliver	1998	Gay and Lesbian Rights	Good	11/30/2012	Retain
Owens	1998	Queer Kids	Good	6/23/2010	Dispose
Bono	1998	Family Outing	Good	NA	Dispose
Sullivan	1998	Love Undetectable	Good	5/1/2014	Retain
Richards	1999	Identity and the Case for Gay Rights	Cover is dog eared, pages in bottom right corner are dirty	NA	Dispose
Fone	2000	Homophobia	Good	3/29/2012	Retain
Loffreda	2000	Losing Matt Shepard	Good	3/27/2012	Retain
Outland	2000	Coming Out	Good	4/11/2011	Dispose
Berzon	2001	Positively Gay	Good	5/17/2010	Dispose
Brown	2001	The Evening Crowd	Good	4/21/2010	Dispose
Bull	2001	Come Out Fighting	Good	5/4/2010	Dispose
Constantine-	2001	The Greatest Taboo	Good	10/3/2009	Dispose

Simms					
Ellis	2001	Gay Men at Midlife	Good	5/17/2010	Dispose
Gross	2001	Up from Invisibility	Good	10/3/2009	Dispose
Henrikson	2001	Our Daughter Martha	Good	NA	Dispose
Murdoch	2001	Courting Justice	Good	6/1/2010	Dispose
Stein	2001	The Stranger Next Door	Good	NA	Dispose
Duberman	2002	Cures	Good	5/17/2010	Dispose
Marcus	2002	Making Gay History	Good	1/11/2014	Retain
Nimmons	2002	Soul Beneath the Skin	Good	6/29/2009	Dispose
Berkowitz	2003	Stayin' Alive	Good	4/5/2014	Retain
Gooch	2003	Dating the Greek Gods	Good	7/31/2013	Retain
Kaminsky	2003	Affirmative Gay Relat.	Good	4/26/2012	Retain
Mancilla	2003	Love in the Time of HIV	Good	6/21/2012	Retain
Stevenson	2003	Everyday Activism	Good	10/21/2011	Dispose
McCourt	2004	Queer Street	Good	NA	Retain
Beam	2007	Transparent	Good	12/6/2013	Retain
Kennedy	2007	First Man-made Man	Good	10/4/2008	Dispose
Schulman	2009	Ties that Bind	Good	NA	Retain
Creech	2011	Adam's Gift	Good	NA	Dispose
Savage	2011	It Gets Better	Good	8/28/2012	Retain
Barton	2012	Pray the Gay Away	Good	11/17/2013	Retain
Beye	2012	My Husband	Good	6/10/2013	Retain
Dohrenwend	2012	Coming Around	Good	NA	Retain
Hirshman	2012	Victory	Good	11/30/2012	Retain
Schwartz	2012	Oddly Normal	Good	9/7/2013	Retain
Duberman	2013	Martin Duberman Read.	Good	8/15/2013	Retain
Haskell	2013	My Brother My Sister	Good	6/6/2014	Retain
Boylan	2013	Stuck in the Middle	Good	7/9/2013	Retain
Mock	2014	Redefining Realness	Good	9/25/2014	Retain

### Recommendations

In addition to Bono's (2011) *Transition*, Boykin's (2012) *For Colored Boys*, Pepper's (2012) *Transitions of the Heart*, and Krieger's (2011) *Helping your transgender teen*, I would recommend a few more titles be added to the collection.

I would recommend Erickson-Schroth's (2014) *Trans Bodies, Trans Selves*. It is a definitive work and extremely informative regarding issues faced by transgender individuals. It has been met with positive reviews from NPR (NPR, 2014) and the Advocate (Molloy, 2014). It was reviewed in Booklist and highlighted as a unique resource, made in the same style as the "seminal 1971 book *Our Bodies, Ourselves*" and as a "much-needed and well-done workbook,

suitable for all types of libraries" (Zwarek, 2014). One copy of this book is available through LION interlibrary loan.

I would recommend Greenberg's (2012) *Intersexuality and the Law*, given there are no books within 306.76\*'s collection which address intersexuality. It was included on the 2013 Over the Rainbow Listing (GLBTRT, 2013a). According to a review in *Law & Society Review*, it "provides a definitive account of the history and present of intersex issues, artfully interweaving stories from the lives of intersex individuals with explanations of complex legal doctrine and suggestions for future litigation and legislation" (Knouse, 2012). No copy of this book is available through LION interlibrary loan.

I would recommend Eisner's (2013) *Bi*, as it is a rare book that focuses exclusively on bisexual individuals and their unique experience, separate from that of gay and lesbian individuals. It was included on the 2014 Over the Rainbow Listing (GLBTRT, 2014a). In a review in *Publisher's Weekly*, they noted *Bi* "is a groundbreaking exploration of bisexual politics by a revolutionary thinker" (Albanese, 2013). One copy of this book is available through LION interlibrary loan.

I would recommend Bornstein and Bergman's (2010) *Gender Outlaws*. While it has been a few years since publication, the book is still relevant today and has not been superseded. It provides both theoretical and practical perspectives on gender identity. It was included on the 2011 Over the Rainbow Listing (GLBTRT, 2011a). It was also included in a review of LGBTQ books by *School Library Journal* (Honig, 2012). This review recommended the title and noted its "capacious and complicated understanding of gender and transgender experiences" (Honig, 2012). No copy of this book is available through LION interlibrary loan.

### **Conclusion**

This collection was a pleasure to review. While some books had been in the collection uncirculated for six years, these were few and far between. As a general rule, most books were within 10-15 years of publication and had been circulated in the past three to four years. The collection had a great deal of depth which I found impressive, given that many libraries I've patronized have had very small and outdated 307.76\* collections. While this collection could be spruced up with some additions, it is a respectable collection as it stands now.

I was reticent to weed the collection holding strictly to the 5/2/MUSTIE guidelines for fear of clearing the shelves with little funding to add to the collection. If there is funding available, this section could be weeded more aggressively, holding to the 5/2/MUSTIE guidelines. As it stands, I recommended weeding 22 of the 50 titles I reviewed (44%).

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## Appendix A

### CREW Guidelines for Weeding Dewey Decimal Section 306 (Culture & Institutions)

#### 5/2/MUSTIE

This section includes books on marriage, family life, and sexuality. Discard as interest in the author or title wanes. Unless a book has an historical approach, the topic is usually outdated within five years. Books in this category should circulate at least once every two years.

MUSTIE is an easily remembered acronym for six negative factors that frequently ruin a book's usefulness and make it a prime candidate for weeding:

M = Misleading (and/or factually inaccurate)

U = Ugly (worn and beyond mending or rebinding)

S = Superseded (by a truly new edition or by a much better book on the subject)

T = Trivial (of no discernible literary or scientific merit; usually of ephemeral interest at some time in the past)

I = Irrelevant to the needs and interests of your community

E = The material or information may be obtained expeditiously Elsewhere through interlibrary loan, reciprocal borrowing, or in electronic format.

From: Texas State Library and Archives Commission. (2012). *CREW: A weeding manual for modern libraries*. Retrieved from <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/ld/pubs/crew/index.html>

**Appendix B**

## Additional Books in Russell Library's 307.76\* Collection

First Author	Year	Title	Last Circ.
Preston	1992	A member of the family: Gay men write about their families	NA
Chauncey	1994	Gay New York: Gender, urban culture, and the makings of the gay male world, 1890-1940	02/14/13
Vida	1996	The new our right to love: A lesbian resource book	07/11/07
McNaught	1997	Now that I'm out, what do I do?	05/17/10
Van Gelder	1997	The girls next door: Into the heart of lesbian America	12/28/09
Clendinen	1999	Out for good: The struggle to build a gay rights movement in America	07/25/13
Kleindienst	1999	This is what lesbian looks like: Dyke activists take on the 21st century	03/26/09
Smith	1999	Way to go, Smith!	11/17/12
Faderman	1999	To believe in women: What lesbians have done for America--a history	05/04/10
Mixner	2000	Brave journeys: Profiles in gay and lesbian courage	NA
Shenitz	2002	The man I might become: Gay men write about their fathers	NA
Sullivan	2003	Boyfriend 101: A gay guy's guide to dating, romance, and finding true love	07/08/13
Derfner	2008	Swish: My quest to become the gayest person ever	06/23/08
Gold	2008	Crisis: 40 stories revealing the personal, social, and religious pain and trauma of growing up gay in America	01/03/12
Plante	2009	The pure lover: A memoir of grief	05/02/11
Tiber	2011	Palm trees on the Hudson: A true story of the mob, Judy Garland, & interior decorating	04/24/14
McHugh	2011	The L life: Extraordinary lesbians making a difference	11/12/11
Bronski	2011	A queer history of the United States	08/07/13
Simon	2011	Gay and lesbian communities the world over	NA
Teich	2011	Transgender 101: A simple guide to a complex issue	09/25/14
Parkinson	2013	A little gay history: Desire and diversity across the world	08/25/14
Als	2013	White girls	04/07/14
Savage	2013	American savage: Insights, slights, and fights on faith, sex, love	08/08/14
Theall	2014	Teaching the cat to sit: A memoir	08/13/14
Cogswell	2014	Eating fire: My life as a lesbian avenger	NA
Barr	2014	Maggie & me: Coming out and coming of age in 1980s Scotland	08/12/14
Gillespie	2014	A family by any other name: Exploring queer relationships	07/11/14
Mutchler	2014	Under this beautiful dome: A senator, a journalist, and the politics of gay love in America	NA