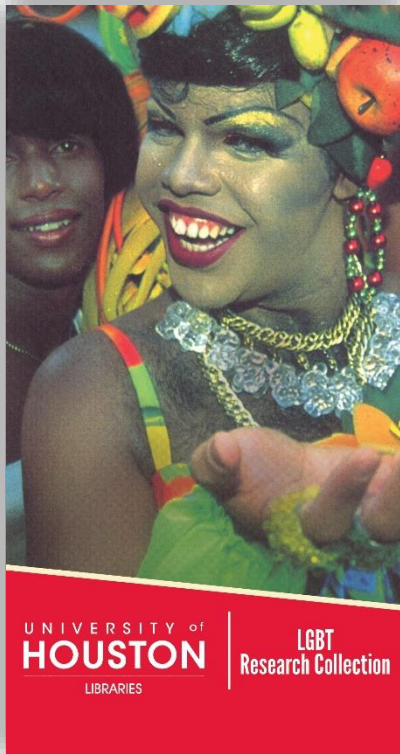


Every great city deserves a great university, and at every university's core is a great library.

The LGBT Research Collection

Building the LGBT Research Collection in UH Libraries Special Collections is an important priority for University of Houston, and UH Libraries. Located on campus, in the M.D. Anderson Library, the LGBT Collection is a primary focus of UH Libraries' strategic plan to build original, unique and archival collections that embody the essence of our region, our people, and economy.



Great university libraries are distinguished by the special collections, unique roles, and customized services only a university library can provide to the community it serves. Our role is increasingly important because of the transformative power of information to open doors to new modes of thinking that unleash human potential.

The LGBT Research Collection represents a significant priority of the University of Houston and UH Libraries, supporting President Renu Khator's strategic goals of national competitiveness, student success, community advancement, resource competitiveness, and national and local recognition, as well as UH Libraries' core value of providing resources that promote and value diversity while reflecting the unique essence of our people and our region.

Our Special Collections allow us to identify and respond to the social and cultural challenges affecting our community's quality of life through education, research, and service. In a diverse urban city, like Houston, every person's potential can be elevated simply by having significant special collections in a university library.

Mission

The mission of the LGBT Research Collection is to gather, organize and promote materials representing the people and organizations that shaped the LGBT movement across the country and in the region, to memorialize members of the community who were lost, to give voice to history, and to spark new ideas. We do this by fostering high-impact scholarship, and offering abundant and compelling resources that engage and empower the community at large. Such a collection will bring national and international scholars to the University of Houston to research and publish within a wide array of subjects, and attract top students, faculty and leaders to Houston. Our mission supports the activities of our community of alumni, students, teachers, authors, thought leaders, entrepreneurs, visiting scholars, activists, and other members of Houston's vibrant and multicultural community while helping to fulfill UH's ability to educate creative leaders with a future vision that is grounded in awareness of the past.

Vision

Our vision is a community-at-large where people are connected to the powerful legacy of collaboration, pride, acceptance, perseverance, achievement, and recognition that binds members of the LGBT community. A collection reflective of the LGBT community will serve to document this legacy for future generations.

Initiatives

In support of this mission and vision, University of Houston Libraries is:

- Acquiring unique primary sources that document the activities of leading individuals and organizations in the Houston LGBT community.
- Building upon new and long-time relationships with members of the community to centralize and make accessible a wide range of materials that focus on various areas of interest within the Houston LGBT realm, such as the arts, politics, literature, and social services.
- Contextualizing historical aspects of the regional and national LGBT movement by incorporating living archives, such as oral histories, of individuals and organizations residing in the Houston area.
- Developing presentations, programming, exhibits and digital assets in partnership with the LGBT community, area organizations, and campus units, such as the UH LGBTQ Resource Center, to enrich the academic and intellectual objectives of students, faculty, scholars, activists, and lifelong learners.
- Seeking to discover underrepresented perspectives that will enhance the collection, such as materials related to minorities within the LGBT community.
- Providing unique and compelling resources with which to engage and empower the global community for impact on interdisciplinary research and knowledge creation.
- Digitizing collection materials to make them accessible to students, teachers, scholars, industry, and activists beyond the limits of print and the walls of the library onto the global stage.
- Creating on-line and on-site exhibits of print, archives, artifacts, and other collection materials to engage the public with the LGBT Collection.
- Engaging UH and community students from different disciplines to support our archival, exhibition, digital scholarship, and research programs, giving those students unique opportunities to gain experience and understanding of LGBT history.
- Offering research fellowships for scholars to work in our unique, comprehensive collections.
- Organizing speakers and events that highlight our collections and programs.



The LGBT Research Collection at UH grew from a long-standing collaboration with archivists and community activists of the Houston Area Rainbow Coalition History (ARCH) group with the goal of curating unique and meaningful collections in the heart of the University. The collection emphasizes the significance of the community, and its history and narrative in the broader context of academic research and discussion.

UH Libraries LGBT Research Collection embodies our unique local heritage. It serves to provide an outstanding documentary resource for teaching, learning, research, culture, and enterprise.

UH LIBRARIES VISION

A community nurtured by curiosity and creativity that drives lifelong learning and scholarship.

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