Serving a Transgender Population

As librarians, we want to stay on the forefront of acceptance of our users regardless of race, religion, or gender identity. Now that the transgender community has become more visible in our society, we must keep up with their rights and needs in a library setting. This compilation of sources is intended to help make your library a welcoming and thriving place for transgender patrons along with their friends and family.

What does it mean to be “transgender”?


Large and groundbreaking sociological study of the transgender people. Topics highlighted include demographics, experiences, transgender youth, and others. Explains the intricacies of this culture well for anyone to understand, including figures and data.


Handbook written for parents with children who may identify as transgender. Contains crucial information on empowering child, the educational system, and legal issues. Useful for librarians to help understand and accommodate parents of transgender children in the library.


Comprehensive history of the transgender community from the 1940’s onward. First chapter useful for its definitions of terms and concepts. Includes biological, sociological, and psychological perspectives. Note: the DSM-V has been released since publication, addressing some issues by Stryker.

How can librarians uniquely serve transgender patrons?


Substantial literature review and further analysis of LGBTQ+ collections available to teens in school or public libraries. Contains data and lists of recommended materials. Could be used to further your argument to increase transgender materials in your own library.

Serving a Transgender Population

Stresses collection development about transgender people and for transgender people (citing intellectual freedom). Feeling less alone could alleviate some mental health issues. Lays out plans for libraries to be proactive: written policies, library staff as LGBTQ+ allies, access to transgender materials.

How can your library be supportive?

A field study testing reduction in transphobia using “perspective-taking”. Saw a lasting reduction in transphobia after canvassing. Discusses difficulties removing intergroup prejudices. Methods could be altered to apply to library setting when presented with a transphobic situation.


Resource put together with links to legal resources for each state in the U.S. Contains information for each state regarding advocates, employment, hate crimes, ID documents, etc. Disclaimer that it is not legal advice, intended for general information.


Summary of librarians et al. reacting to legislature passed in North Carolina that enforces “bathroom laws”. Explains the detrimental effect on transgender library users. Associations support librarians’ decisions to show solidarity with the LGBTQ+ community even when funding is threatened.


The personal journey of this librarian in questioning his own identity and sexuality. Utilizes the network of other LGBTQ librarians in his area. He has created programs, attended conferences, and wrote on the issue in his career.

What is changing?
Society is evolving at a rapid rate. I implore you to continue researching new information regarding your transgender library users. Definitions and cultures are updating every day!

User and Access Services

Hannah Craven

Master of Library and Information Science|University of Denver, June 2018|hannah.craven@du.edu|(720) 987-8925

October 6, 2016