

LGBTQ

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer

A Guide to the Resources in the Michigan State University Archives

Compiled by Susan O'Brien
Revised August 2016



Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections
Conrad Hall, Room 101
East Lansing, MI
(517) 355 - 2330
archives.msu.edu

This guide was created to aid visitors to the Michigan State University Archives in finding resources related to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer topics. Note that this guide is not a comprehensive listing of all the available sources, but is intended to be a starting point from which visitors can begin their research according to their specific needs. Online versions of the finding aids for most collections listed can be accessed by clicking on the collection name.

MSU Departmental Records

1. **Department of Police and Public Safety records, 1938-2015.** UA 2.7
 - Unpublished annual reports in the 1960s list the number of homosexual activity arrests.

2. **Department of Psychiatry records, 1968, 1990-2003, undated.** UA 16.100
 - 3.0 cubic feet
 - Materials related to the MSU AIDS Education Training Center can be found in this collection. The materials include publications about ministry and aids, promotional handouts, health and safe sex kits, and t-shirts (the majority of this material was not created by Michigan State University).

3. **LGBT Resource Center records, 1980-2008.** UA 7.16
 - 6.0 cubic feet
 - The records of the LGBT Resource Center consist of background materials and final reports for the University-Wide Task Force for Lesbian and Gay Issues. Other materials include Michigan State University Gay and Lesbian Faculty Staff Association materials, faculty development seminar packets, and curriculum material from MSU and other institutions. *A History of Gay/Lesbian Activities: MSU* can be found in Box 2769, Folder 18.

4. **Media Communications records, 1925-2015.** UA 8.1.1
 - 9 folders
 - The collection contains news clippings, letters and other materials relating to the Sexuality Colloquy held on campus in 1969.
 - Also included is a folder on AIDS (1992-2002).

5. **MSU HealthTeam records, 1947-1992.** UA 3.1
 - 30 folders (Box 2443, Folders 2-32)
 - The collection contains records of the Colloquy on Sexuality held on campus during winter term, 1969.

6. **MSU Institutional Diversity: Excellence in Action (MSU IDEA) records, 1991-2002.** UA 3.22
 - 0.1 cubic feet
 - MSU Institutional Diversity: Excellence in Action (MSU IDEA) was "a plan for advancing excellence through diversity within the Michigan State University community." MSU IDEA II consisted of "50 initiatives in the areas of leadership and administration; recruitment and retention of faculty, students, and staff; instruction, research, and outreach; and climate." A few of these initiatives specifically address the rights of the LGBT community on campus. Folder 4 of the collection contains the MSU IDEA II book (1992).

7. **Office of Diversity and Pluralism records, undated.** **UA 16.171**
- 0.1 cubic feet
 - The College of Agriculture and Natural Resources' Office of Diversity and Pluralism records contain a brochure with recommended guidelines for respecting diversity and pluralism.
8. **Office for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives records, 1971-2016.** **UA 8.2**
- 1 item
 - Included in the collection is "Progress Report II: University-Wide Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Issues" dated January 13, 1992.
9. **Office of the President records, 1876-2008.** **UA 2**
- 2 items
 - Subject files on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) 1986-1992, Task Force on Gay and Lesbian Issues 1992, Institutional Diversity: Excellence in Action – the MSU Idea 1989-1990
 - Subject file on Task force on Lesbian and Gay Issues
10. **Office of the President. Clifton R. Wharton papers, 1950-1977.** **UA 2.1.14**
- 28.3 cubic feet
 - Fourteenth president of Michigan State University, Wharton's term of office (1970-1977) was often a turbulent one, featuring student demonstrations in 1970 and 1972.
 - Box 432, Folder 32 contains Sexual Orientation Discrimination case records, 1972-1973. Leonard Graff, representative of the Gay Liberation Movement and an MSU student, requested a hearing of the Student-Faculty Judiciary, stating that the Board of Trustees violated the Academic Freedom Report by not publicly stating a policy which clearly defines the extent to which the anti-discrimination policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.
 - Box 425, Folder 3 contains complaints about PSY 290 Human Sexuality, 1972-1973.
11. **Office of the President. John A. DiBiaggio records, 1985-1992.** **UA 2.1.17**
- 1 folder
 - This folder contains a 1991 complaint letter against a gay fraternity (Box 5405, Folder 13).
12. **Office of the President. John A. Hannah papers, 1857-1991.** **UA 2.1.12**
- 140.5 cubic feet
 - As twelfth president of Michigan State University, John Alfred Hannah served from July 1, 1941 to April 1, 1969. His tenure was characterized by extensive growth of the University, in both size and enrollments. President Hannah's activities were not limited to the University, however, as he filled a variety of positions in both the federal government and private industry.
 - Relevant materials include the restricted files of student disciplinary cases from the office of the VP of Student Affairs during Hannah's tenure. These files have had personal information redacted and are now accessible to the researcher (Box 763, Folder 76a; Box 764, Folders 74a, 75a, 76a).

- 13. Office of the President. Maurice Cecil Mackey records, 1978-1985.** **UA 2.1.16**
- 3.0 cubic feet
 - M. Cecil Mackey's records were created or collected primarily in his capacity as the fifteenth president of Michigan State University (1979-1985). Issues that span multiple presidencies may be documented here, as well as other presidents' files.
 - Significant to this topic is the case of John J. Nowak, III vs. Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity. Nowak was suspended from membership of the fraternity by a majority vote in January 1982 because of his homosexuality.
- 14. Office of the President. Peter M. McPherson records, 1993-2004.** **UA 2.1.19**
- 22.0 cubic feet
 - Relevant topics found within these records are domestic partner benefits, sexual harassment, gender equity, gender equality and gender identification issues.
- 15. Olin Health Center records, 1919-2015.** **UA 7.9**
- 1 folder
 - The records contains an issue of the Healthy Sexuality Week newsletter from February 2009.
- 16. Ombudsman records, 1968-1970, 1988-1991.** **UA 2.13**
- 0.5 cubic feet
 - This collection contains clippings from the State News, the Detroit News, and others covering stories on civil rights issues including those relating to the homosexual community on campus and throughout the nation.
- 17. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs records, 1850-2016.** **UA 3**
- 7 folders
 - Redacted copies of East Lansing and MSU Police Department reports of homosexual activity which include statements from individuals questioning their involvement in homosexual activities (Box 5575, Folders 3a, 22a-25a).
- 18. Public Relations records, 1943-2004.** **UA 8.1**
- 2 folders
 - Folders 38 and 39 (Box 1172) contain the records of the Sexuality Colloquy Steering Committee for 1968-1969.
- 19. State Board of Agriculture / Board of Trustees records.** **UA 1**
- 110.5 cubic feet
 - The State Board of Agriculture papers include correspondence, minutes, reports, financial records legal records and newspaper clippings of the first governing body of the state agriculture college.
 - The Board of Trustees records include minutes of meetings, reference materials and supporting documentation for the Board meetings.
 - The CDs series includes digitized audio recordings.
 - The Electronic Resources series includes digitized audio recordings and text documents of meeting minutes.

- Minutes of Board of Trustees meetings record changes in personnel and university policies. Supplemental materials for meetings from 1922 to 1993 are included. Relevant policies are the 1997 Domestic Partner benefits ruling and the 2010 MSU LGBT Climate Survey results.
- Supporting materials for the meeting held on June 17, 1955 include correspondence with and about Professor Harry H. Scales regarding that “homosexuals are among the teaching profession at the College.” (Box 1904, Folder 9)

20. University-Wide Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Issues records, 1969-1994.

UA 3.22.1

- 3.0 cubic feet
- The records of the University-Wide Task Force on Lesbian and Gay Issues consist of five series: Final Report, Focus Group and Surveys, Working Papers, Articles and Reference Materials, and Work Groups and Committees.
- The Final Reports series consists of volumes one, two and three of the report. Volume I contains a history of the task force, recommendations, history of lesbians and gays at Michigan State University, and hopes for the future. Volume II consists of transcripts of forums, responses to open-ended questions from the survey, and codebooks which give statistical information used to analyze the surveys. In addition, there are transcripts of forums from Lesbian and Gay focus groups. This series retains the original order of the report.
- The Focus Groups and Surveys series contains transcripts from focus groups not included in the final report. They are excerpts taken from the transcriptions of the focus groups and compiled by subject. There is also a report summarizing the process of the survey and the focus groups. The series contains blank surveys that were handed out to faculty staff and students as well as the data from the questionnaires.
- The Working Papers series is comprised of documents relating to the general business of the Task Force and work groups. It contains executive meeting minutes, memos, notes, Gay and Lesbian Faculty group papers, and correspondence. Also included are documents about recommendations to the university including those to the Military Education Advisory Committee about ROTC issues.
- The Articles and Reference Materials series consists of articles from newspapers and magazines, including local sources, about issues relevant to the Task Force. The reference materials consist of policies from other universities, cities, and national groups on topics such as domestic partnership and housing.
- The Work Groups and Committees series consist of items generated by the specific work groups and the Publicity Subcommittee which was a part of the task force. Included are memos, correspondence, and notes.
- Additional materials: A CD-ROM with additional electronic versions of the task force's final report is contained in a small box within Box 1844. Included are final reports produced by individual work groups.
- The small box also contains a tape recording of the Minority Issues forum.
- Audio tapes of interviews may not be reproduced and identifying names should not be published.

21. Women's Resource Center records, 1972-2016.**UA 8.2.2**

- 0.5 cubic feet
- Folder 5, 8, 14 contain materials relevant to LGBT issues.
- This collection contains flyers, reports, and assorted guides from the Women's Program/Women's Resource Center at Michigan State University. The flyers advertise workshops and events celebrating women's achievements and women's history week. Other events focus on issues such as LGBT and racial concerns. There are two reports outlining the minority presence at different campuses across the country, and list the minority organizations as well as the affirmative action officers. Also included are resource guides which outline activities and programs for women at MSU. There is also a video of the event, "Women Matter: Celebrating Women Achieving Excellence," from May 1, 2002. Gwendolyn Norrell was the key note speaker and faculty and staff were honored at the event.

22. Women's Studies Program records, 1970-2006.**UA 16.176**

- 4.0 cubic feet
- This collection contains information about the development of the Women's Studies Program at Michigan State University. MSU, as part of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), utilized research and input from the other member institutions (primarily Big-Ten) in the establishment of the Women's Study Program. Of particular interest are the files about issues at the Michigan State University campus, including pornography and discrimination.
- Information about an anti-LGBT incident that occurred in Abbot Hall in 2002 can be found in this collection.

Student Groups**23. Alliance of Queer and Ally Students records, 1963-2014.****UA 12.3.24**

- 4.0 cubic feet
- The Alliance of Queer and Ally Students originated in 1970 as the Michigan State University Gay Liberation Movement, a registered student organization. Its objective was to provide lesbian and gay students with representation in student government, educate the public on issues of sexual orientation, and to counter discrimination and harassment. It played a crucial role in the passage of the city of East Lansing's now historically significant non-discrimination ordinance in 1972.
- In 1977 the name of the group changed to the MSU Gay Liberation Council. Subsequently, it was renamed the MSU Lesbian/Gay Council, then the Alliance of Lesbian-Bi-Gay Students (ALBGS). In 2005, the student organization was renamed the Alliance of Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgendered and Straight Ally Students. In 2010, the name changed to Alliance of Queer and Ally Students.
- Records consist of announcements, correspondence, flyers, and minutes of the organization. There are also newsletters, event flyers, and material relating to Lansing and East Lansing, Michigan, LBGTA groups and women's groups. There are also newsletters, event flyers, and other material relating to Midwestern and National LBGTA groups. Electronic Resources includes meeting minutes, agendas and other student group-related text documents.

- Student-produced television documentary film entitled “Some Call It Funny” mentioned in the 1972 minutes. The film features gay students at MSU. (Box 2582, Folder 7)
- Digitized version of “Some Call It Funny” is available for viewing in the Archives.

24. Associated Students of MSU records, 1940-2010.

UA 12.1.1

- 4.0 cubic feet
- Box 2470, Folder 16 contains Steering Committee materials relating the Colloquy on Sexuality that was held at MSU in 1969.

25. Spectrum records, 2010-2013.

UA 12.3.60

- 0.1 cubic feet
- The Spectrum is a Michigan State University student organization representing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender students. Spectrum’s mission is to provide a secure and compassionate campus for LGBTA students to meet for conversation and activities. The Spectrum records consist of the organization’s constitution, event flyers, and meeting announcements.

24. Student Coalition for Political Awareness and Freedom of Expression records, 1988.

UA 12.3.53

- 1 folder
- The records of the Student Coalition for Political Awareness and Freedom of Expression (SCOPAFE) consist of one issue of *The Campus Rag* from 1988. The issue contains political articles, fiction, and humor pieces. The issue includes an article about condom distribution on campus by the MSU group, Condoms on Campus, and the article “20 Years after Stonewall” by the Lesbian/Gay Council of MSU.

Serials

GLFSA News, 2002-2012.

Serial 01110

- *Gay/Lesbian Faculty Staff Association* (Summer 2002-March 2006)
- *GLFSA News* (September 2006-September 2014)

Joint Issue/Lansing Star, 1970-1983.

Serial 00405

- *Red Apple News*, Gay Liberation, February 14-28, 1971
- Special Gay Issue, March 6-20, 1972

Q-news, 1997-2005.

Serial 01085

- 1 folder
- Michigan State University's lesbian-bi-gay & transgendered student newsletter.

Re-Visions, 1987-1992.

Serial 00958

- 1 folder
- Journal of the Women’s Studies Program at MSU.

Other Resources at the MSU Archives

University Publications

Alumni and Faculty Catalogues

Alumni Newsletters

Annual Reports (Published and Unpublished)

University Student-Faculty Judiciary records (UA 14.6.9)

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Services records (UA 7.1)

Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services records (UA 7)

Department of Police/Public Safety records (UA 2.7)

Course Catalogs

Faculty and Student Directories

MSU Staff Newsletters

MSU Yearbooks (Wolverine and the Red Cedar Log)

Office of the President records

Student/Student Groups Scrapbooks

Student Newspapers

The State News

MSU Information Files

Affirmative action

AIDS policy

Bias free communications

Center for Gender in Global Context

Discrimination

Discrimination. Nowak Case. Homosexuality (Mackey's opinion)

Discrimination. Sexual

Diversity

Domestic partner benefits

Fraternities. Delta Sigma Phi

Gay/Bi/Lesbian

Gay movement

Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives (Office for)

National Organization for Women (NOW)

Sexual behavior

Sex changes

Students. Demonstrations. 1977-current

Women's course.

MSU Photo Files

Students. Activities. Dances.

See also – Other archives/libraries

Special Collections at the MSU Libraries – American Radicalism Vertical File

- Gay Rights Advocates: file of clippings and miscellanea (ARVF)
- Michigan State University Lesbian/Gay Council: file of clippings, leaflets and pamphlets (ARVF)
- *Detroit Gay Liberator* (serial)
- *Red Apple News* (serial)
- *Joint Issue* (serial)

Bentley Historical Library at University of Michigan

- Greg Kamm papers, 1963-2009
 - Greg Kamm was a graduate of MSU and an early gay rights activist and secretary of the MSU Gay Liberation Movement (collection closed until 2034)

LGBT Archive at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center, New York, NY

- [Jon Nalley papers, 1972-1993](#) (collection #40)
 - Jon Nalley graduated from MSU in 1982. He was the founding member of the MSU Gay and Lesbian Alumni (GALA).

Subjects to use when searching archival collections and library catalogs

- Bisexual college students
- Coming out (sexual orientation)
- Demonstrations
- Gay college students
- Gay college students – Michigan – East Lansing
- Gay liberation movement
- Gay men
- Gay men – Michigan – East Lansing
- Gay men – Political activity
- Gay rights
- Gays
- Gays – Michigan – East Lansing
- Homosexuality
- Lesbian college students
- Lesbians
- Lesbians – Michigan – East Lansing
- Lesbians – Political Activity
- Michigan State University -- Students
- Sexual minorities
- Sexual minorities in higher education
- Sexual minority college students
- Sexual orientation
- Transgender college students
- Transsexual college students