

ARLIS/NA + VRA 3rd Joint Conference 2016 | Seattle
Poster Session

Making Queer Materials Accessible in the Art Library — *Sylvia Page*, Librarian, Memphis College of Art

Addressing efforts made by Memphis College of Art Library to highlight and improve access to queer (LGBTQIA) art resources, while empowering students and creating a safe, accessible space for learning and art-making in the library. In response to student input and drawing from theories of queer information seeking, we have sought to eliminate barriers of access to library materials relating to queer issues. This is an especially important mission given that there are no specifically designated resources for queer issues elsewhere on our campus. Furthermore, our traditional library tools (e.g. subject headings) often prove difficult or insufficient in representing and identifying these materials. Some of our efforts include targeted collection development, establishment of a zine collection, reformation of special collections policies in order to bring marginalized explicit materials into the main collection, and collaboration with students to construct visually dynamic, creative finding aids. This poster serves to connect these initiatives and provides visual examples of the changes and programming. It will also present an opportunity for engagement with other art information professionals on the topic of supporting access to and creation of queer art.