



# LGBT Network: Research Seminar

Thursday 3rd February, 12.30pm - 2pm  
Seminar Room 2, Jessop West

**'It's patchy, it's poor, it still terrifies many librarians': provision of LGBT fiction to children and young people in UK public libraries**

**Liz Chapman, Information School**

## **Abstract**

In this paper, I present some preliminary findings from my ongoing research into the provision of LGBT fiction to children and young people in public libraries in the UK – a subject on which very little research has previously been carried out. The research covers both picture books with LGBT content (usually in the form of a family with two mums or two dads) and young adult novels with LGBT content. The paper will present findings from a checklist study which suggest that provision of these materials is poor, together with some preliminary hypotheses on the causes of this lack of provision. These include processual factors relating to the publication and supply of LGBT fiction for children and young people, coupled with loci of anxiety around books with sexual content, provision of books with LGBT content to younger children, promotion of books with LGBT content, and the quality of the books in question. Overall, library staff attitudes to LGBT fiction for children and young people appear to be positive, but are frequently characterised by passivity.

Liz Chapman is a PhD student in the Information School, University of Sheffield, and has previously worked as a librarian and freelance translator. She teaches on the MA in Librarianship, and her research and teaching interests centre around diversity in libraries and young people's reading. She has published in *Public Library Journal*, of which she has also previously been the Editor.

This seminar is hosted by the University of Sheffield's LGBT Staff Network.

(<http://www.shef.ac.uk/hr/equality/involved/lgbtnetwork/index.html>)

We welcome participation in the seminar by both staff and postgraduate research students from across the University interested in research on LGBT issues. If you are planning to attend this event, or interested in joining the staff network, please email: [lgbtnetwork@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:lgbtnetwork@sheffield.ac.uk)