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Affirming Self, Affirming Community: Outreach in the Spirit and Memory of Neil Richards

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Affirming Self, Affirming Community: Outreach in the Spirit and Memory of Neil Richards

Presented by:

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Outline

Introduction
Neil Richards Collection
Need for Outreach
Videos
Evidence of Increased Use
Future Outreach
Questions
Introduction

Ann Liang - Assistant Librarian - Edwards School of Business

Lindsay Stokalko - Archives Specialist - University Archives & Special Collections
The Neil Richards Collection of Gender and Sexual Diversity

Neil Richards Collection
Publications in Special Collections

Neil Richards fonds
Materials collected by Neil Richards in University Archives

Other fonds and collections
Materials collected by Neil or donated to the University of Saskatchewan Archives & Special Collections that pertain to gender and sexual diversity

Back to Agenda Page
Neil Richards was an active participant in local, provincial and national gay organizations since the early 1970s. His activist work included participation in the Committee to Defend Doug Wilson in 1975, the organization of the 1976 convention of the National Gay Rights Coalition in Saskatoon, and many of the earliest AIDS awareness efforts in Saskatchewan. In conjunction with his work at the University of Saskatchewan Library, he produced many exhibitions and public events concerning AIDS and gay history and life.
Special Collections

This is a library collection of published materials including books (both fiction and non-fiction), periodicals, and videos that cover many aspects of the history and literature of sexual and gender diversity. It has items that are mainstream and relatively new as well as unique, rare and/or fragile items.

As of April 2023 over 8576 items have been added to the collection.

All titles in the collection are given the searchable series title in the library catalogue.

Content

General Sexuality
Religion & spiritual perspectives, commentaries, responses
Historical memoirs of people and communities
Biographies
Psychology and discourse on diversity in sexuality
Gender
Gay Life and Culture
History
Marriage and family
Homophobia
Law
Education
Music
Literature
Non-fiction
Queer influence and identity
Fiction Poetry
Graphic novels and comics
Health
Photographic art books
Armed forces
Ephemera
Themes in Archival Fonds

Prevention of AIDS
Addressing health and social issues
"Queerstorical" tours
Community partnerships
Information, advocacy, support
Educational materials
Photographers for queer magazines, newspapers, conferences
Breaking the Silence conference organizer
Advocacy re: Catholic Church
Zodiac Friendship Centre organizer
Human Rights Commission complaints
Clippings, correspondence re: private lives
Performance, music, art
Activism
Pornography
Authors
Legislation
Outreach
Local, Provincial, National, International Publications
Human Rights
Cross Dressing
Movie Posters
Wrestling

Fonds

- AIDS Saskatoon fonds - MG 315
- Avenue Community Centre fonds - MG 535
- Charles Dobie fonds - MG 439
- Cross-dressing in Saskatchewan collection - MG 311
- Don Cochrane fonds - MG 337
- Don McGuire fonds - MG 613
- Donald McNamee fonds - MG 141
- Doug Wilson fonds - MG 653
- Evelyn Rogers and Lilja Stefansson fonds - MG 641
- Fiji Robinson fonds - MG 651
- Gens Hellquist fonds - MG 549
- Greystone Secrets: A Queerstorical Campus Walking Tour fonds - MG 573
- LGBT Movie Poster Collection - MG 540
- Mona Holmlund fonds - MG 417
- Neil Richards fonds - MG 355
- Nils Claussen - Guy Michaud collection - MG 620
- Peter and Murray Corren fonds - MG 446
- Peter McGehee fonds - MG 652
- Peter Millard fonds - MG 47
- Rainbow Health Coalition fonds - MG 521
- Robin Maugham fonds - MG 464
- Saskatchewan AIDS Network fonds - MG 294
- USSU LGBT Centre fonds - MG 357
- USSU Student Help Centre fonds - MG 142
The Need for Outreach

- Destigmatizing archives as only for academics
- Giving the archive back to the community
- Real life examples of its use
- Collaborative growth
Video Creation Process

Budgets and Approval
- Used an allocated Media Production fund
- $7,000 in the end including Chelazon's fee and music licensing

Scripting and Prep Work
- Short and succinct
- Curating items from the archives
- Reaching out to participants

Shooting and Editing
- Shot over the course of a week
- Edited over a couple of weeks
- Major changes at this point

Back to Agenda Page
2022 PRIDE VIDEOS

YouTube Playlist

The Neil Richards Collection
of Sexual and Gender Diversity
Neil Richards Collection Promo
ARL Film Festival Winner

Best Development/Fundraising Film
Best Reflection of Inclusion
Began creation of videos

Launched videos, created display in Archives Reading Room

Cultivate new relationships:
- Attended Glitter Gala, Spark Your Pride
- Hosted 3 Drag Story Times
- Attended Battleford Agency of Tribal Chiefs Pride Gala, Pride Parade and Community Service Village

Next steps include increasing outreach to individuals and organizations to contribute materials to fill gaps in the collection, produced new video "Saskatchewan Queer History", re-issued old buttons
Evidence of Increased Use:

Reference Stats
We tracked requests to access the collection since launch of videos

Donations of Archival Materials
We tracked offers of donation of archival materials since launch of videos

Monetary Donations
The library matches funds donated specifically to the Neil Richards Collection

Partnerships
Requests to partner on projects Canada-wide
2023 Outreach

Gay Bob's Closet
Photobooth for many Pride and other events on and off campus

Annually choose five pins from the collection to re-issue each year for Pride

Pamphlets, booklets, events, new website, updated chronology with community input, attending community events

Back to Agenda Page
2023 Outreach

Neil Richards Collection: Saskatchewan Queer History

SASKATCHEWAN QUEER HISTORY

Watch on YouTube

Back to Agenda Page
Questions?