

Outhouse LGBTQ+ Centre - Library Content Principles

At Outhouse LGBTQ+ Centre, we are committed to creating a safe, inclusive, and welcoming space for all members of the LGBTQ+ community and our allies. Our LGBTQ+ library is a testament to our dedication to preserving LGBTQ+ history, heritage, and culture. We understand the immense value of books and literature in shaping and documenting the experiences of our community throughout history.

Our library catalogue comprises a rich collection of LGBTQ+ literature, academic works, personal narratives, and historical texts. We recognise that these materials are not just books, but artefacts that have played a crucial role in the growth and evolution of our community. They have been sources of empowerment, inspiration, and connection for generations.

It is important to acknowledge that some of our catalogue's books and materials may contain outdated content and views that could be challenging by today's evolving norms and standards. The original intentions behind many of these works may not align with the current perception of what is respectful and inclusive. Furthermore, the language and labels used may today appear offensive or incorrect, but signal points of evolution in the development of LGBTQ+ identity. However, we believe it is vital to preserve this history, even when it may be uncomfortable or contentious.

Our commitment to safeguarding our patrons is unwavering. We are eager to protect our community members and provide a space where everyone feels respected, valued, and safe. Outhouse LGBTQ+ Centre's values of respect and trust are at the core of our organisation, and we extend these principles to our library.

As we navigate this journey of preserving LGBTQ+ history and culture, we invite our patrons to engage with the materials in our library catalogue with an open mind and critical thinking. These materials offer a glimpse into the past,



showing how far we have come and how much further we still have to go in our pursuit of equality and acceptance.

We acknowledge that our library collection may not fully represent intersectional identities. We are committed to enhancing diversity and inclusion in our collection, aligning with our commitment to intersectionality, our value of inclusion and addressing the unique experiences of individuals facing multiple forms of discrimination.

We remain committed to creating an environment where the LGBTQ+ community and our allies can learn, connect, and grow together while fostering a sense of belonging and understanding. The Outhouse Library is a testament to our past, a guide to our present, and a bridge to our future. Together, we will continue to honour our diverse experiences and celebrate the rich tapestry of LGBTQ+ history and culture.

We welcome your thoughts and input as we develop a new acquisition and collection policy for the Outhouse Library. You can share your thoughts with us by emailing library@outhouse.ie.