

Law, Gender and Sexuality an introduction to LSE Library collections

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Abstract

This article outlines primary and secondary source materials relevant to the academic study of law, gender and sexuality which are available in the LSE library. It includes coverage of the content of the Hall-Carpenter Archive as well as books, journal and archival materials accessible via the Women's Library@LSE. Practical guidance is provided to researchers in using the Library and searching its catalogues effectively.

Biographical summary

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Introduction

The long history of the LSE Library means that it has a rich heritage of materials related to all aspects of the study of law, gender and sexuality. However, its gradual and, often convoluted development, present a complexity of collections and catalogues which researchers need to navigate. This article aims to highlight key features and provide practical tips on locating and accessing them.

The British Library of Political and Economic Science was founded in 1896, a year after the London School of Economics and Political Science. From the outset it was intended to both support the research of the institution as well as fulfil a wider role in collecting social science materials from around the world. Although the modern Library is located in one building, materials relating to law, gender and sexuality can be regarded in three main sections, each of which need to be searched separately:

- LSE Archive and special collections
- Women's Library@LSE printed and archive collections
- LSE main collection printed and online resources

LSE Archives and Special Collections

The LSE Archives and Special collections, which is located on the 4th floor of the Library, houses over 500 archive collections relating to modern British political, economic and social history and the history of the social sciences, mainly dating from the late 19th century to the present day. In terms of gender and sexuality, the highlight of the collection is the Hall-Carpenter Archive.

The Hall Carpenter Archive

The Hall Carpenter Archive is not a single collection, it encompasses materials from many organisations, whose collective aim is to document the development of gay activism in UK since the publication of the Wolfenden Report in 1958. It was named in honour of novelist Radclyffe Hall and socialist writer, Edward Carpenter although regrettably it does not contain primary source materials from either. Originally founded in 1982, it has been housed at the LSE since 1988.

The strength of the archive lies in its creation as a historical research resource collected by and for the gay community. This means that from the outset it was able to identify and preserve ephemera which would have been difficult for others to locate. The origins of its formation lie in the campaigning work of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE) during the 1970s and early 1980s. Although other organisations such as the British Sociology Association's Sex and Gender Group and Gay Research Group were also showing a growing interest in preserving records of the movement.

In 1980 CHE established the Gay Monitoring and Archive Project to record cases of discrimination against homosexuals in all areas of life. In order to gather evidence, press cuttings and other materials were collected and this formed the original basis of the archive which gradually developed as it acquired materials from other gay liberation organisations. In 1982 the GMAP separated from CHE and one of its founders, Julian Meldrum, stored the papers in his own home. Its first funding was a grant made by the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCL) who also provided early office space in Southwark. In 1982 Julian, with others, set up a limited company called the Hall-Carpenter Memorial Archives Ltd which was registered as a charity in 1983. The first major donation was made in 1982 by the Albany Trust, a major organisation in the campaign for the decriminalisation of male homosexuality, and this was quickly followed by gay and lesbian organisations as well as private papers from individuals. The first official accommodation was in Mount Pleasant, however with a £32,000 grant from the Greater London Council (GLC) in 1984 the archives moved to the new London Lesbian & Gay Centre (LLGC) in Cowcross Street, Farringdon.

The archive was able to operate there independently for several years during which it actively collected materials and developed its own publications. However the loss of the GLC grant in 1986 caused funding problems and, despite campaigns, by 1988 the original collection had to be split into three parts. The oral history recordings and transcripts were added to the collections of the National Sound Archive (now the British Library Sound Archive); the press cuttings formed the Lesbian and Gay Newsmedia Archive (based originally at Cat Hill Campus of Middlesex University and subsequently at the Bishopsgate Institute), and the archives, ephemera and journals were transferred to the Archives Division of the London School of Economics where they remain to this day.

The Hall-Carpenter Archive is structured into 3 sections:

- Records of gay organisations and individuals in the UK and worldwide
- Gay, lesbian and bisexual journals
- Ephemera, material gathered from the UK and overseas, relating to gay life and culture

Its history means that it is able to support research covering all stages in the evolution of the gay rights movement from decriminalisation campaigns in the 1950s, to gay pride in the 1960-70s, AIDS awareness in the 1980s, the Campaign against Section 28 and recent activism to legalise same-sex marriage.

Papers

One of the earliest collections deposited were materials from the Albany Trust (Ref No.HCA/ALBANY TRUST).The Albany Trust was founded as a registered charity in May 1958 as a complimentary organisation to the Homosexual Law Reform Society with a remit to promote psychological health in men by collecting data and conducting research. It takes its name from The Albany, in Piccadilly, London, at which its earliest meetings were held. After the decriminalisation of homosexuality The Trust developed into a pioneering counselling organisation for gay men, lesbians and sexual minorities. The archive collections cover the period 1958-91 encompassing over 190 boxes. Early materials include minutes and papers relating to the administration of the Trust and passing of the Sexual Offences Act (1967). There is also correspondence covering a range of topics including government legislation; attitudes of

parliament, clergy, the media and the police, towards homosexuality. Working files and documents relating to its key publications the journal *Man and Society* (issued from 1961-70s), and the newsletter *Spectrum* (published from 1963-70) are also available. Another key area of the collection relates to its role as a counselling and youth education organisation. There are materials relating to surveys and research into sexuality and psychosexual treatments. These include files of the Albany Trust's resident social worker, 1964-78, containing correspondence, case analysis and subject files. Due to data protection some individual files contain closed materials.

The history of the Albany Trust is interlinked with that of the Homosexual Law Reform Society or HLRS. (Ref No. HCA/ALBANY TRUST/1) The HLRS was founded in May 1958 following the recommendation of the Wolfenden Report that homosexual behaviour between consenting adults in private should no longer be a criminal offence. Its first Chairman was Kenneth Walker and its first Secretary the Revd Andrew Hallidie Smith. A public meeting was held on 12 May 1960 at Caxton Hall, and culminated with a vote in favour of reform, resulting in a letter to the Home Office. The Society was reconstituted in 1970 as the Sexual Law Reform Society in order to campaign for further legal changes, particularly relating to the age of consent. Archive holdings include the annual reports, financial papers, executive committee minutes and papers and correspondence 1959-76.

They also include the personal papers of gay rights activist Antony Grey. The pseudonym of Anthony Edgar Gartside Wright. In 1958, Grey started voluntary work for the Homosexual Law Reform Society (HLRS), becoming the Society's Honorary Treasurer in 1960 and later secretary. During the 1970s he served as Secretary of the Sexual Law Reform Society and Director of the Albany Trust. His papers include notes and clippings relating to his tireless lobbying of parliament and the media for liberalisation of attitudes towards homosexuality. Examples include , '*How Should We Treat Homosexuals: the Church's Role*' (1968) - a paper submitted to the Board for Social Responsibility working party on homosexuality.(Ref. No. HCA/ALBANY TRUST/12/19) and correspondence relating to the Causes of Homosexuality Working Party (1983) (Ref. No. HCA/ALBANY TRUST/10/43)

The Campaign for Homosexual Equality (Ref. No. HCA/CHE) was founded in 1964 by Allan Horsfall and others as the North Western Committee for Homosexual Law Reform to support the campaign for the decriminalisation of homosexuality. The NWHLRC was renamed the Committee for Homosexual Equality in 1969, and became the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE) in 1971. Throughout the 1970s, CHE was the main British support organisation. Holdings comprise the administrative and financial files of the organisation as well as copies of its publications: *The Bulletin*, 1970-74; *The Broadsheet*, 1975-80, and *Out magazine*, 1976-77. Also available are general correspondence and notes relating to working committees on subjects including the age of consent, discrimination and police harassment. Other highlights are photographs from campaigns, DVDs of submissions for the Derek Oyston CHE Film Award, and publicity leaflets and records including a 45 rpm record of '*Glad to be Gay*' .

Another key body was the Gay Liberation Front (Ref. No.HCA/GLF) which was founded by Bob Mellors and Aubrey Walter at the London School of Economics in 1970. From the outset it embraced liberation politics and its 1971 manifesto stated 'We do not intend to ask for anything. We intend to stand firm and assert our basic rights. If this involves violence, it will not be we who initiate this, but those who attempt to stand in our way to freedom' 1. Early activities included the 1971 disruption of the Christian Festival of Light. Collection holdings include administrative papers, publications: *Come Together*, 1971, *Gay International News*, 1970s and *Gay News*, 1972-74; GLF newsletters, 1971-74; and writings and publicity relating to the Festival of Light and other disruption campaigns. There are also some tickets and flyers for Gay Pride events.

The Archive also has holdings of other spin off organisations such as the London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard 1987-94 (Ref. No. HCA/CHE2/12/45) and papers from individual campaigners

Notably Peter Tatchell (1952-), Australian born British gay rights campaigner (Ref. No. HCA/TATCHELL) an early member of the Gay Liberation Front and tireless activist. The materials in the Hall-Carpenter archive cover his work from the 1970s to the present day. They include coverage of his political activity within the Labour Party as well as the history of direct action groups such as OutRage! and Act Up. There are some materials relating to Tatchell's trial at Canterbury Magistrates Court following OutRage!'s Easter Sunday protest in 1998.

Gay, lesbian and bisexual journals.

(Ref. No.HCA/JOURNALS) The second strand of the Hall Carpenter Archive are the LGBT periodicals . They comprise over 400 boxes of material, mainly covering 1954-99, collected from the UK and the rest of the world, particularly the USA. Key collections include runs of the *Gay Times* and *Spare Rib*. They include national and regional magazines and newsletters from campaign groups. Many of these present a fascinating social history of gay life as they contain contemporary adverts and listings of social events, as well as accounts of political activities. Researchers should note that additional journals are also held in the LSE Main Library collections and the Women's Library.

Ephemera

(Ref. No. HCA/EPHEMERA) A unique collection of over 100 boxes of leaflets, posters and flyers collected by activists since 1953. Most have been gathered from the UK, but there is also some overseas coverage. They include protest events as well as social events and Gay Pride materials. Some are commercially manufactured by arts organisations, others produced by regional or local gay groups. Also available are a selection of badges with gay and lesbian slogans dating from the 1970s-2000 (Ref. No. HCA/EPHEMERA/1245). They include Gays Against Fascism, Gays Against Nazis, Stop the Clause and Tom Robinson Band.

However one complication for researchers seeking to research sexuality in the LSE archives is that there are a number of key collections which do not form part of the Hall Carpenter Archive. This has occurred for a variety of reasons, often because the donator did not wish their papers to be defined entirely by their sexuality, but the practical result is that researchers should search the LSE Archives catalogue more widely beyond the HCA references. Two key collections in this category are those of Jeffrey Weeks and Mary McIntosh.

The private papers of the historian and sociologist Jeffrey Weeks ((Ref.No. WEEKS) mainly date from the period 1968-2010. They include correspondence regarding his involvement with gay groups, including Gay Left and Gay Liberation Front, and papers relating to his academic work covering his publications such as *Coming out: homosexual politics in Britain from the Nineteenth century to the present* (1977).

The papers of Dr Mary McIntosh, (Ref. No.MCINTOSH) cover the period 1950s–2004. They provide insight into her work as a pioneering feminist and sociologist. They include materials relating to the establishment of the National Deviancy Conference, a radical criminology group in 1968 ; and her work on the policy advisory committee to the criminal law revision committee dealing with sexual-offences issues in the 1970s which played a key role in lowering the homosexual age of consent from 21 to 18. Other key areas include materials relating to the founding of the socialist feminist magazine *Red Rag*, her work as a founding member of the Gay Liberation Front, and initiatives towards building contacts between the women's liberation and lesbian movements.

LSE Archive Collections Catalogue

In order to explore the collections in more detail it is necessary to search the LSE Archives catalogue. This is available at <http://archives.lse.ac.uk/>.

All collections have reference number. If you have the exact code .e.g. DALTON/1/1. use the Advanced search form and enter it into the *Ref No field* . Materials are arranged in a hierarchy of

levels: collection, files and sub files. To see the hierarchy expand the record and then click on the Ref No, which is underlined in blue, and this should produce a browsable tree.

Search for all records in a collection by typing in the collection reference code and adding an asterisk (*i.e.* DALTON*). This can be combined with a subject search by entering a key word or phrase in the *Any Text* box. It will then look for references to a topic in the catalogue records of the collection. You can search more broadly by subject keyword if you leave the *Ref No.* field blank and just enter keywords into the *AnyText* search box. Phrases can be entered in double quotation marks e.g. "section 28". Use an asterisk to conduct a wildcard search: for example, *rail** will search for rail, rails, railway, railways, etc. Keywords can be combined with *and.* to build up more complicated searches. Expand catalogue records to retrieve full reference numbers. One factor to bear in mind is choice of subject keywords as those relating to sexuality may have changed over time and according to cataloguing conventions. For instance entering 'gay' in the *Any Text* box generates over 2,000 hits whereas the term 'queer' only produces 55. It is therefore wise to think broadly and consider a range of possible alternatives.

Women's Library @LSE collections

The Women's Library @LSE is the second key collection available. It was originally founded in 1926 as the Library of the London Society for Women's Service and exists to document and explore women's lives. A key emphasis is upon the social, economic and political lives of women in the UK over the last 150 years, although there are also collections covering other areas of the world, in particular nations of the former British Empire and Commonwealth. Originally existing independently, and then as part of London Metropolitan University, in 2013, it was transferred to the LSE Library. Materials are now available for consultation in the 4th Floor reading room. A separate exhibition area, teaching room and open access shelves are currently under construction. Details of this can be found on the website

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/collections/featuredCollections/womensLibraryLSE.aspx>

The addition of these new collections has added considerably to existing LSE holdings. They include over 500 new archives; as well as a substantial collection of press cuttings; over 500 museum objects (comprising photographs, posters, badges, banners, textiles and ceramics) and a collection of several hundred zines, unique home-made publications made by young women activists. There have also been significant additions of materials from national and local lesbian groups. With such a rich collection it is difficult to single out individual holdings. The breadth can be grasped by browsing the subject hierarchy of strands into which it is divided at the following url.

<http://twl-calm.library.lse.ac.uk/CalmView/Aboutcatalogue.aspx> of particular interest are materials from societies for the abolition of state regulation of prostitution.

A key collection is the Association for Moral and Social Hygiene (Ref. No. 3AMS) [from 1962 known as the Josephine Butler Society]. Josephine Elizabeth Butler (née Grey) (1828–1906) was a British feminist and social reformer who was especially concerned with the welfare of prostitutes. She founded the Ladies' National Association in the 1860s whilst leading a campaign against the Contagious Diseases Acts in Great Britain. These Acts applied to certain garrison towns and seaports, and attempted to preserve the health of servicemen by arrest and compulsory medical examination of women found within these areas who were suspected of being there for 'immoral purposes'. The aims of the organisation was to promote morality and sexual responsibility for both men and women and to secure the abolition of state regulation of prostitution. The collection comprises administrative papers, correspondence from working groups, press cuttings, campaign materials many dating from 1824 to the present day. Early concerns regarded prostitution, sexuality, venereal diseases. Other topics covered are the international traffic in women, child

abuse and pornography. There are also materials relating to international campaigns and the Josephine Butler Autograph Letter Collection of personal correspondence.

Other topics relating to female sexuality which can be researched in depth using the Women's Library @LSE collections include access to contraception and abortion. Holdings relating to these include papers and flyers from support groups such as Hackney Women's Aid (Ref. No. 5HWA) 1970s-90s; campaign organisations such as the National Abortion Campaign 1975-2003, and legal reform committees. An interesting example of the latter is materials from Ad Hoc Committee on Law Relating to Abortion of the British Federation of University Women (Ref. No. 5BFW/04/47) which contains letters and discussion on the topic amongst lecturers in the 1950s.

Many materials relate to sexual orientation and homosexuality. An important early collection are the papers of Vera (Jack) Holme (Ref. No.7VJH). Vera Louise Holme was born in Lancashire in 1881. As a young woman she began performing with touring acting companies, often as a male impersonator. She adopted a masculine style of dress, short hair and took on the nickname Jack. The archive consists of diaries, correspondence, photographs and memorabilia relating to Holme's activities as a suffragette; her work with the Women's Volunteer Reserve and the Scottish Women's Hospital Unit during the First World War; her visits to and relief work in Serbia / Yugoslavia; and her personal life and friendships. Many of the latter relate to her girlfriend Evelina Haverfield.

Another recent early discovery has been copies of *Urania*, a radical journal established by Irish playwright and feminist Eva Gore-Booth in 1916 which was privately printed and is therefore now extremely rare. It is an interesting example of a publication which sought to challenge established male/female gender boundaries by regularly publishing items on sex differences and reprinting articles and essays on cross-dressing and transsexualism from other publications.

More recent materials include collections from individuals and lesbian activist and support groups. They contain letters, photographs and ephemera. Over 100 organisations are represented including the Gay Liberation Front, the Older Lesbian Network, and the Black Lesbian and Gay Centre. They enable researchers to examine legal struggles as well as LGBT lifestyles and family relations. Highlights include:

The papers of academic feminist Sheila Rowbotham (Ref. No. 7SHR). Interestingly, in addition to materials relating to the women's liberation movement and socialism, there are collections of papers and leaflets from men's and gay liberation groups gathered during the 1970s. Materials from activist organisations such as Lesbians in Libraries 1985-1989 (Ref. No. 6LIL) and from campaign groups such as the Lesbian Custody Project (Ref. No. 7HEF/02/05) which was started in 1982 in order to campaign for the right of LGBT mothers to have custody of their children. A more recent addition is the Civil Partnership Collection (Ref. No. 8CPC). This consists of items relating to Civil Partnership ceremonies in 2006 including photographs, invitations, celebration menus and registration forms. It also includes the participants' answers to a questionnaire about their civil partnership.

Catalogues.

Users should note that Women's Library @LSE materials can be traced via two catalogues. Archives, museum objects and ephemera are indexed on the Archive catalogue. <http://twl-calm.library.lse.ac.uk/CalmView/>. This is separate from the LSE Archives catalogue but searchable in the same way so the earlier hints on effective searching techniques will also apply here. Printed books and journals can be traced via the main LSE Library catalogue Library Search. <http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/collections/catalogues/home.aspx>. These include runs of rare LGBT titles such as *Sappho*, *Arena Three*, *Chroma*, *Diva*, *Arena Three* and *Dykelife*. It is easier to

locate these if you choose the Advanced Search form and then limit your search to LSE Library Collections.

In addition, there are plans to digitise parts of the collection to make them publicly available via the LSE Digital Library <http://digital.library.lse.ac.uk/collections/thewomenslibrary>. Currently the site includes a timeline of key events with a range of images which give an overview of collections. There is also a rare books section with 35 full text digitised books from 17th century-20th century. These include classic texts examining the role and status of women in society.

Women's Library staff contribute to the UK web archive women's issues collection.

<http://www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/collection/98537/page/1>. This takes regular snapshots of nearly 400 sites, including women's organisations, zines and blogs. Many of these cover issues relating to women and sexuality. The archive has a keyword search function which enables you to locate individual documents published on the websites. This includes items which have been subsequently removed from the 'live' version.

LSE Library Main Collection

Finally don't exclude materials from the LSE Library main collection as these can offer a rich source of background material. Electronic resources can be consulted by external users via a number of visitor PCs. The types of resources available include:

- Historic newspapers- these can be used to consult contemporary news coverage, obituaries of key figures, and opinion regarding issues relating to sexuality. Many also have fascinating advertisements which can reveal attitudes towards gender roles. Titles available include: *17th-18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers*; *19th Century British Library*; *Daily Mail Digital Archive 1896-2004* ; *Times Digital Archive 1785-2008*
- Legislation.
Although licenses do not currently allow visitors to use the major online law databases, printed statutes are available.
- Journal article indexes.
Key resources for tracing articles covering gender and sexuality include: *LGBT Life* - an index to the world's literature regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues which includes the full text of over 130 journals and 170 books; *SocINDEX* - extensive coverage of sociology- including gender which has abstracts from 1895 to present.; *PsycINFO* produced by the American Psychological Association. Provides abstracts of articles relevant to all fields of psychology.

Getting Access to the Library

Students from foreign and UK universities may use the Library. There are restrictions to entry during exam times March-June and at the start of term October-November, for taught course students.

Information on library opening hours is provided via the website

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/about/findUs/libraryOpeningHours.aspx>

Note that membership desks and the Archive reading room may have shorter opening hours to the main Library. You can fill in the self-registration form in advance at <http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/membership/home.aspx> . This page also tells you the forms of id required. UK Research students can apply via the Sconul Access scheme.

Users of the Women's Library @LSE should consult the webpages for details of conditions of use of the reading room and pre-booking of materials.

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/usingTheLibrary/accessingMaterials/readingRoomAccess/home.aspx>

General and subject based enquiries can be sent to library.enquiries@lse.ac.uk.

References

1. Gay Liberation Front. (1971, revised 1978) *Manifesto* . London, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/pwh/glf-london.asp>