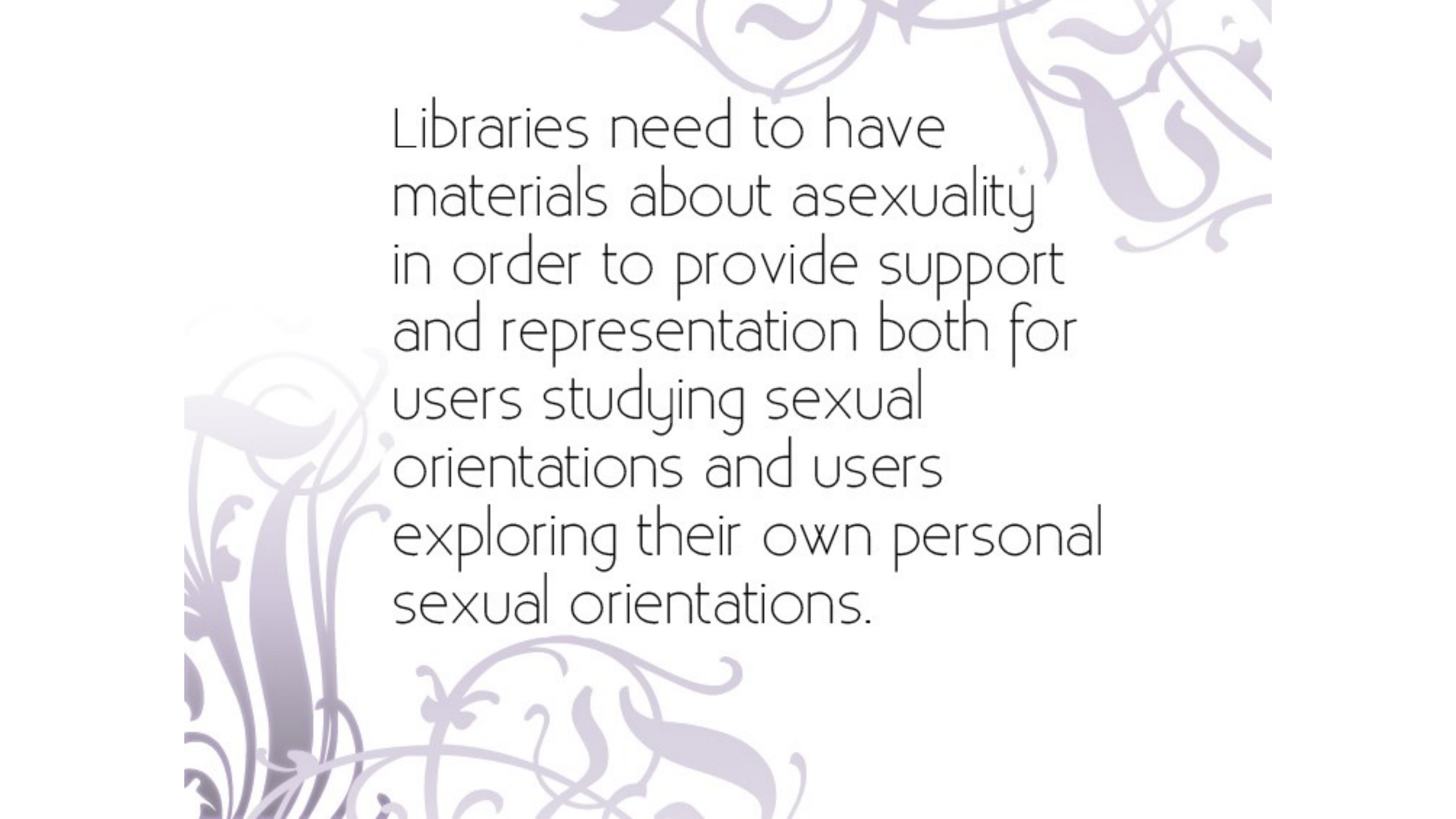
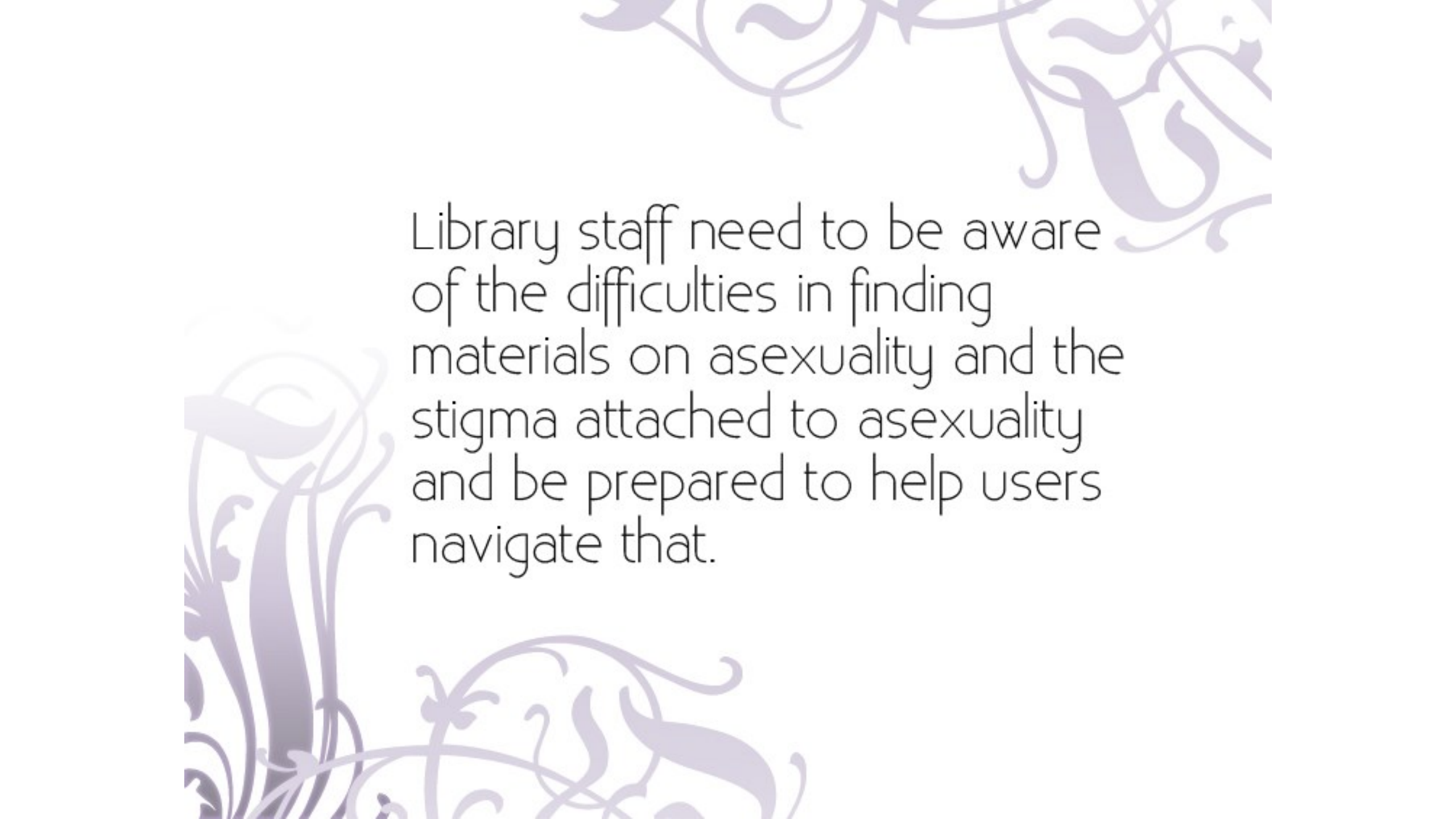


NOT ACING it:
ACCESSING ASEXUALITY
in Academic Libraries

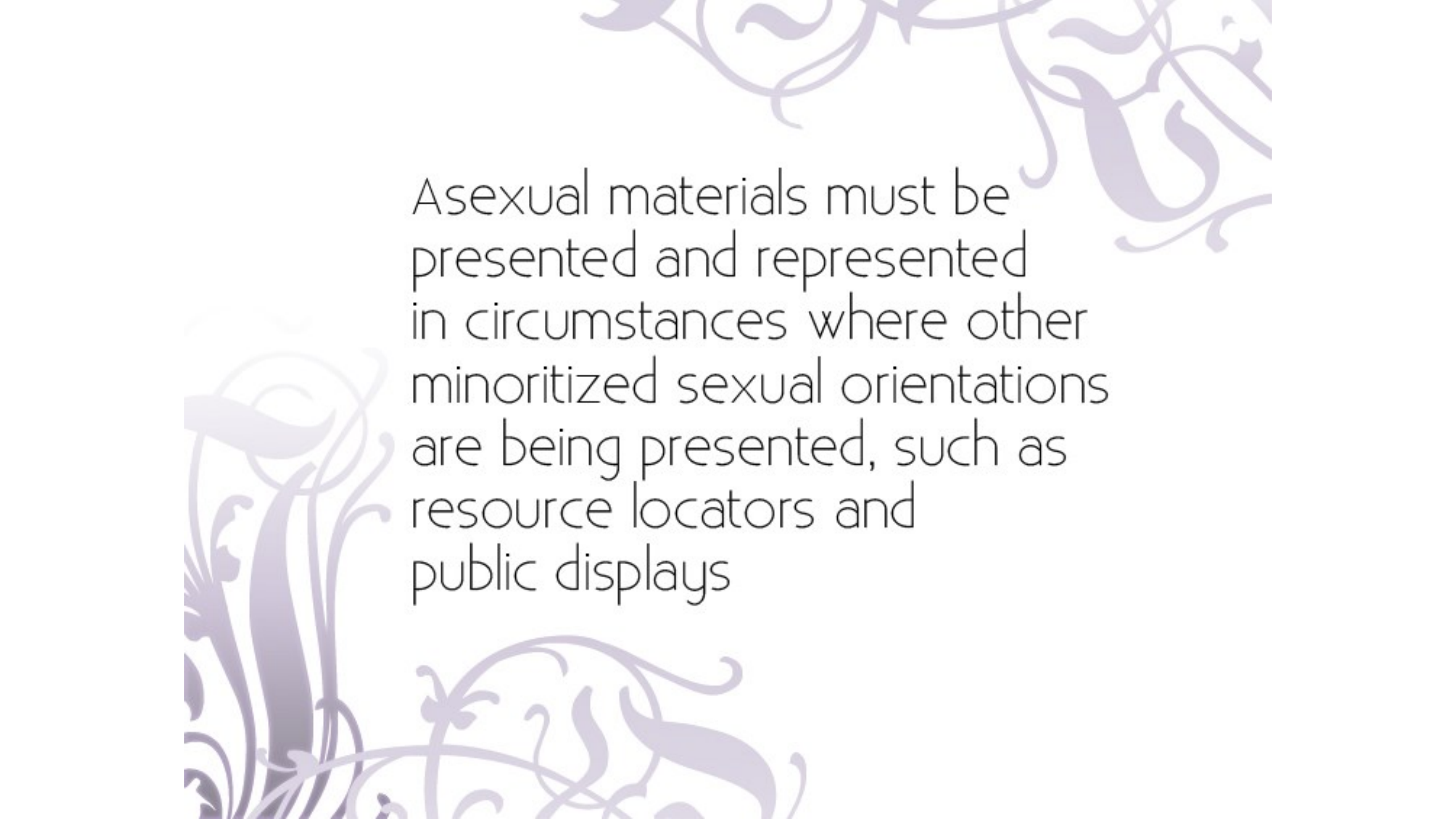
Haviva Avirom & Violet Fox



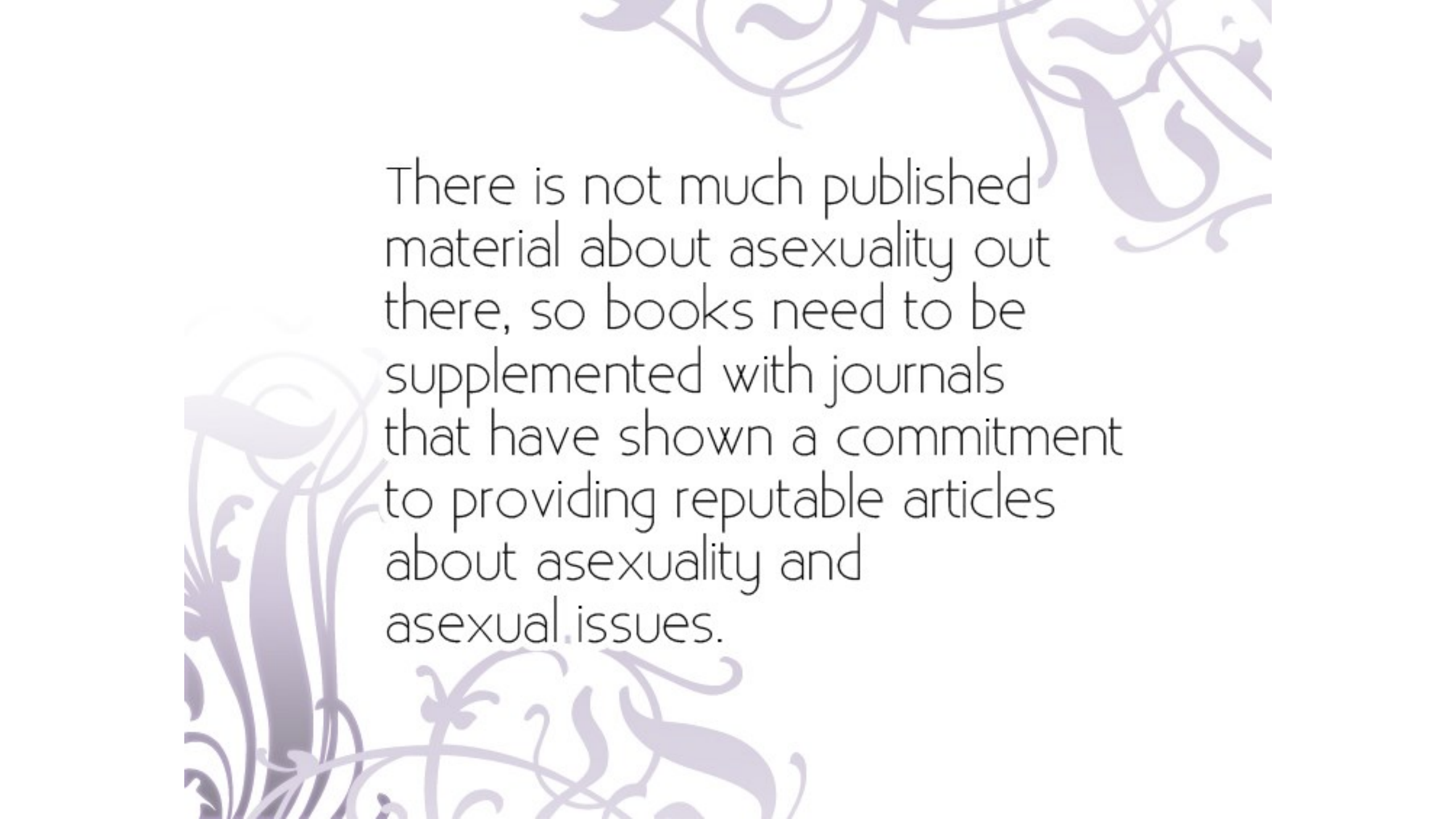
Libraries need to have materials about asexuality in order to provide support and representation both for users studying sexual orientations and users exploring their own personal sexual orientations.



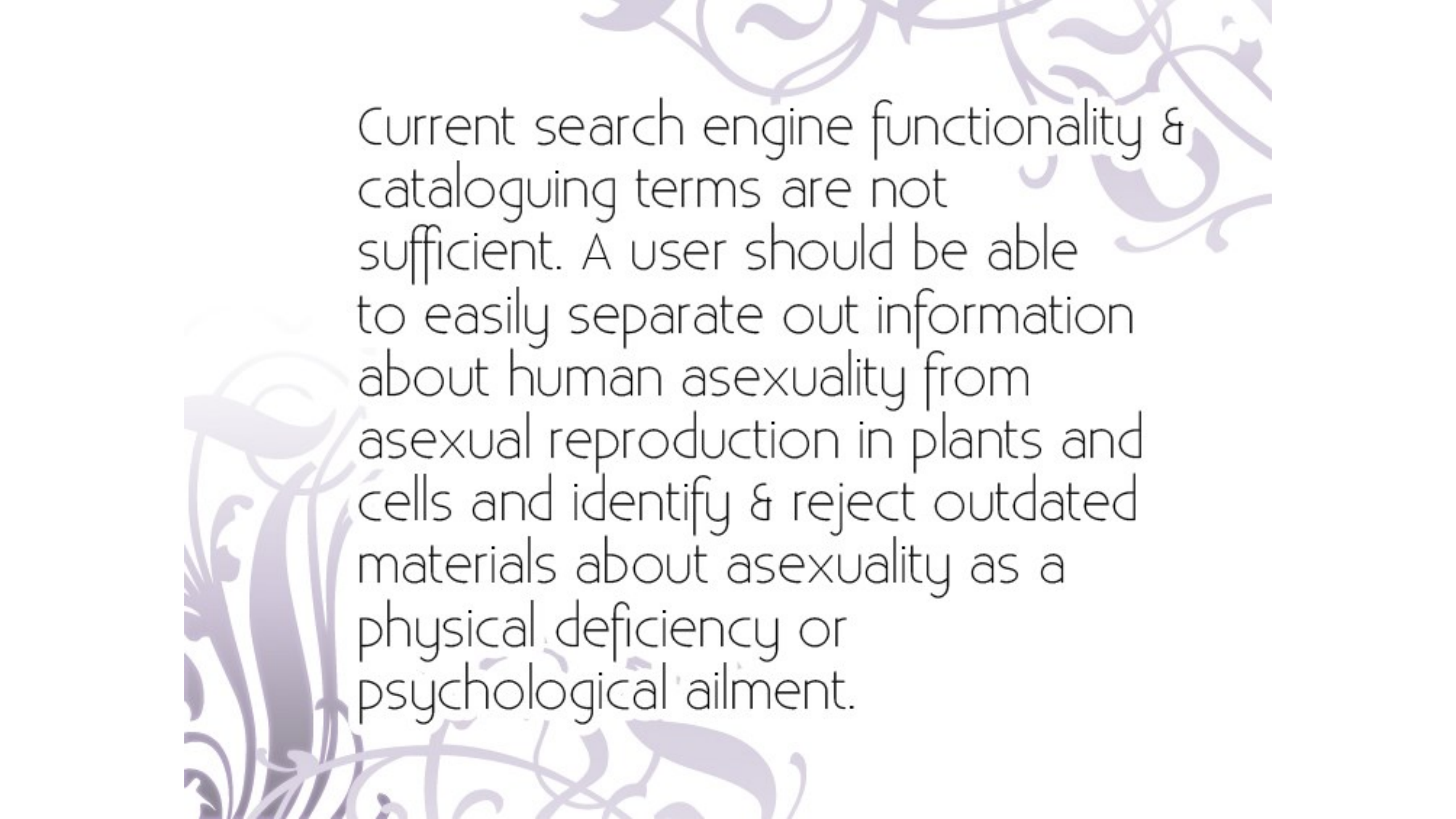
Library staff need to be aware of the difficulties in finding materials on asexuality and the stigma attached to asexuality and be prepared to help users navigate that.



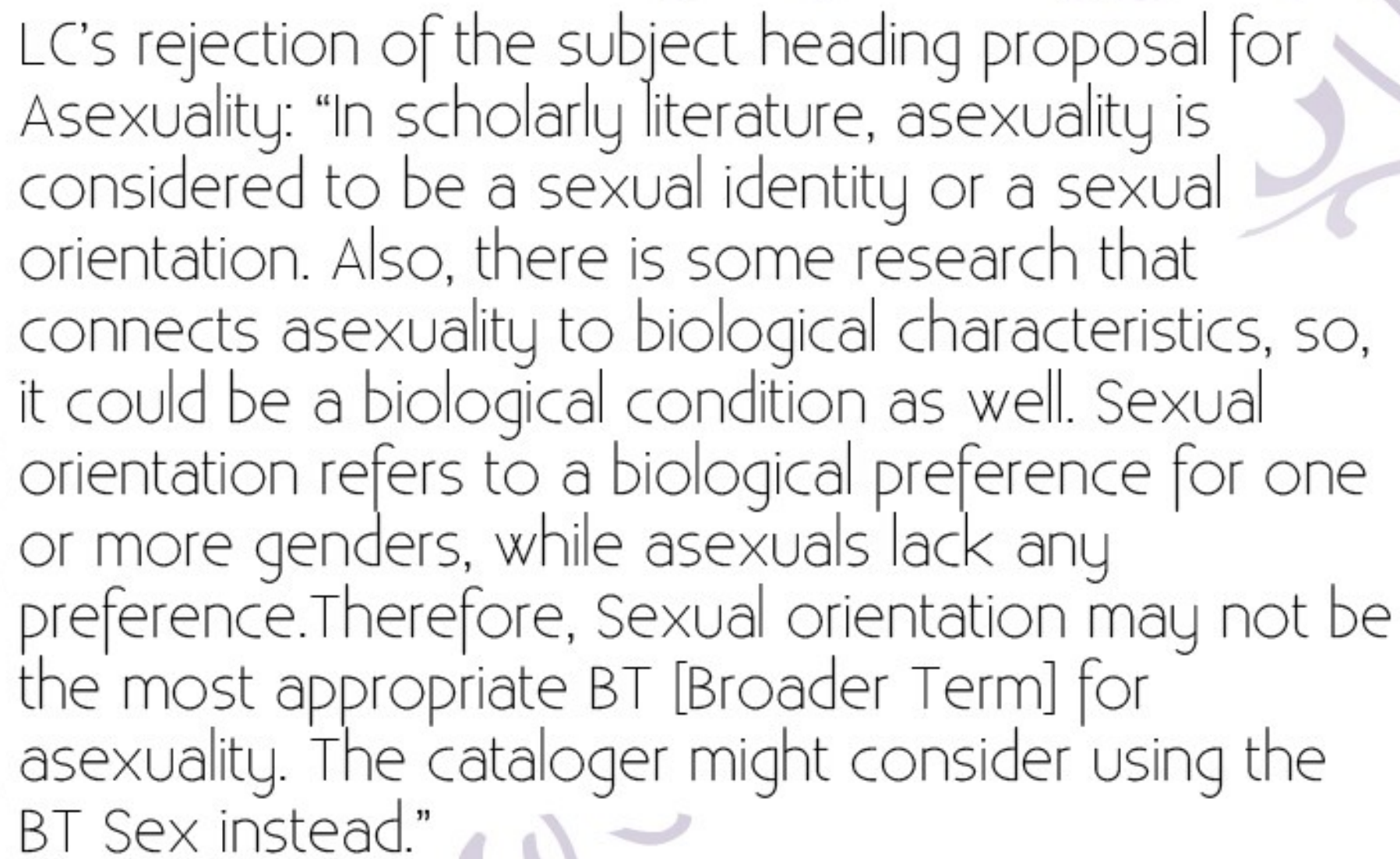
Asexual materials must be presented and represented in circumstances where other minoritized sexual orientations are being presented, such as resource locators and public displays



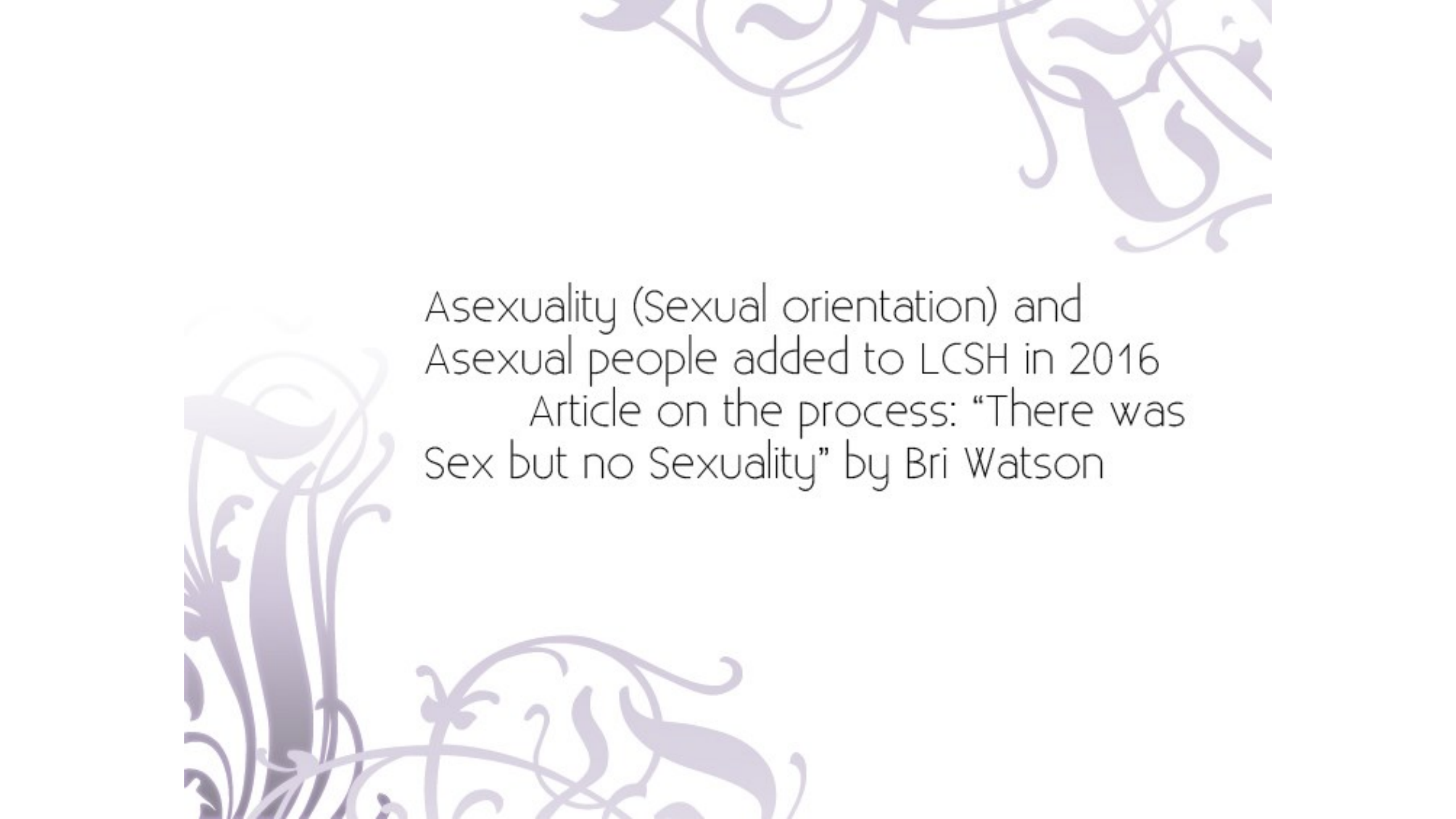
There is not much published material about asexuality out there, so books need to be supplemented with journals that have shown a commitment to providing reputable articles about asexuality and asexual issues.



Current search engine functionality & cataloguing terms are not sufficient. A user should be able to easily separate out information about human asexuality from asexual reproduction in plants and cells and identify & reject outdated materials about asexuality as a physical deficiency or psychological ailment.



LC's rejection of the subject heading proposal for Asexuality: "In scholarly literature, asexuality is considered to be a sexual identity or a sexual orientation. Also, there is some research that connects asexuality to biological characteristics, so, it could be a biological condition as well. Sexual orientation refers to a biological preference for one or more genders, while asexuals lack any preference. Therefore, Sexual orientation may not be the most appropriate BT [Broader Term] for asexuality. The cataloger might consider using the BT Sex instead."



Asexuality (Sexual orientation) and
Asexual people added to LCSH in 2016
Article on the process: “There was
Sex but no Sexuality” by Bri Watson



Asexuality in Dewey:
306.762 introduced in 1989,
discontinued in 2007



Asexuality in Dewey:
306.762 reinstated in 2019
Blog post on this history titled
“Asexuality in the library:
Dewey Decimal Classification edition”



More about the LCSH:

<https://doi.org/10.1080/01639374.2020.1796876>

More about Dewey:

<https://asexualagenda.wordpress.com/2018/11/28/asexuality-in-the-library-ddc/>

<https://ddc.typepad.com/025431/2019/03/asexuality-hijras-and-the-eunuch-conundrum.html>



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