

Example of a Your Heritage project that meets our aims relating to conservation, participation and learning



Project title: 1967 and All That: The Sexual Offences Act and the Gay Community, an 'Archives 4 All' Project

Applicant: Lesbian and Gay Newsmedia Archive

Grant awarded: £49,900 (77%)



Pride March 1972

1. Summary

The Lesbian and Gay Newsmedia Archive (LAGNA) is a national archive of press cuttings, campaigning material and other resources relating to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities. LAGNA exist to encourage and facilitate research into the emergence and existence of LGBT identities and communities within the UK.

The aim of this cataloguing project was to improve access and raise awareness of two important archival collections (held at the Hall-Carpenter Archive and managed by the London School of Economics), which record the hidden history of LGBT communities in Britain.

The research and cataloguing marked the 40th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality by the Sexual Offences Act of 1967.

The project also included a travelling exhibition supported by a programme of talks and presentations, a website and a launch event.

2. The aims of the project

The project had three aims:

- To preserve key LGBT archive collections through cataloguing.
- To improve access to these collections.
- To improve awareness of the Sexual Offences Act and the importance of LGBT history.

3. Benefits for heritage

- The cataloguing of the papers relating to the Albany Trust were particularly important as they were one of the earliest organisations involved in Gay Rights campaigning.
- Work by the Research Officers at the British Library's newspaper collection had resulted in many more articles from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s being discovered, an area which was previously under-represented in LAGNA's collections.
- The exhibition has been extremely successful in raising awareness of the Sexual Offences Act and more generally of the importance of LGBT history and the work of LAGNA and Hall-Carpenter in this field.

4. Benefits for people

- Older members of the LGBT community who attended the exhibition, were able to talk about their memories and experiences.
- Running a stall at Pride enabled LAGNA to promote the collection and the project, but also to canvas opinions from the hundreds of people viewing the exhibition.
- Six volunteers acquired research and cataloguing skills.

5. Lessons learnt

The importance of maintaining and cultivating links with LGBT organisations and libraries and archives to promote the project to professional and public audiences.

6. Long term benefits

- Following the success of the project, LAGNA received enquiries from organisations all over the country in connection with hosting the exhibition.
- An owner of a web design company offered to redesign and host their website for free (www.lagna.org.uk).

7. The budget

Main project costs	£	Funding	£
Capital Costs	4,956	Grants/donations	1,350
Staff	32,352	Non-cash contribution	13,200
Freelance Workers	2,100		
Contingency	4,031	HLF grant (89%)	49,900
		Total Cost	64,450