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This study examines the Young Adult Fiction holdings of the main branch libraries of six capital cities in the United States. The study was conducted to determine if there was a relationship between the political leanings of the area the libraries were situated in and the size of their Young Adult fiction collection with gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (GLBTQ) characters. The holdings of each library were compared to a checklist of YA titles with GLBTQ characters published between 1994 and 2004. The expected outcome that libraries in liberal areas would contain higher GLBTQ collections was not supported by the data; indeed, the reverse was true. Libraries in conservative areas had the largest collections of GLBTQ literature for young adults, though the study does not attempt to establish a *causal* relationship between politics and collection.

Headings:

Gay Literature -- Bibliography

Lesbian Literature -- Bibliography

Libraries and Gays

Public Libraries -- Collection Development -- Evaluation

Young Adults' Literature

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT AND SIZE OF A
LIBRARY'S COLLECTION OF GLBTQ FICTION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

by
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Introduction

It is a fundamental tenet of librarianship that libraries should attempt to serve the needs of their user populations. The first statement of the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights states that "Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves" (ALA Council, 1996).

Historically the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (GLBTQ) individuals have not been met at the level that seems to be indicated by the Library Bill of Rights in most libraries. More specifically, the young adult segment of this population is struggling with issues of identity and has explicit, sensitive information needs. The availability of high quality fiction and non-fiction resources is crucial for this group, many of whom may be embarrassed to seek out information from people or organizations. Past studies of library collections and the collection development habits of librarians have indicated that there is a wide discrepancy in levels of service to this community, and many libraries are underserving this population despite their high level of need.

The size of the collection of GLBTQ materials available in public libraries varies widely. Some studies have indicated that the different levels of collection might be related to factors such as the social and political climate of the community in which the individual libraries are situated. A thorough understanding of the materials available to

GLBTQ youth as well as an understanding of the factors affecting the rate of collection of GLBTQ materials is essential to providing the type of high-quality service described in the Library Bill of Rights.

To this end, I have attempted to answer the following questions with this research:

1. What fiction titles published for Young Adults between 1994 and 2004 have GLBTQ content?
2. Is there a relationship between the political climate of a particular area and the level of collection of Young Adult fiction with GLBTQ content in the libraries serving that area?

Review of the Literature

There has been considerable research into the information needs and behaviors of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals, as well as significant research into the information needs of young adults. Several studies have examined the collection of YA literature with GLBTQ themes with the aim of assessing the level of collection of these materials. However there are fewer studies of the information needs of GLBTQ teens. Anecdotal evidence emphasizes the role of the library (public or private) in the young adult's coming out process; oftentimes this is one of the few places where a person wanting to find out more about homosexuality can locate information anonymously and independently (Gough and Greenblatt, 1990). GLBTQ patrons of all ages will often look at books in the library without checking them out and find books without the assistance of a librarian; this can

sometimes lead librarians to overlook the needs of this population and, in some cases, the fact that a GLBTQ user population exists can be overlooked entirely (Greenblatt, 2003).

Because service to GLBTQ users can be so complex, it is important that librarians have training to address their needs. A 1996 study (Carmichael and Shontz, 1996) examined the educational experiences of 465 LIS master's students with regard to instruction about gay and lesbian issues and the needs of this population. The study revealed that these future librarians were not being adequately prepared to serve gay and lesbian patrons; it also revealed the frustration and hostility some study participants felt towards the homosexual community and the gay rights movement.

It also seems as though working librarians are not receiving this instruction after graduation in their places of work, and may not even be aware that their user population contains gays and lesbians. Murden (1993) asked librarians working at public libraries in Virginia to identify GLBTQ-themed works in their libraries and assess their libraries' GLBTQ collections and selection procedures; some librarians reported that they were unable to identify GLBTQ materials that were held by their libraries. Subsequent OPAC searching revealed that these libraries did in fact carry GLBTQ titles. One library director interviewed "admitted that they might have a title, but any such book was not bought because it fell into that category" (Murden, 1993, p. 6). Few libraries had finding aids or other access points, and the size of the library collections varied widely.

While poor library training and lack of specific collection development policies with regards to GLBTQ literature may explain part of the difference in size of GLBTQ collections, it cannot fully explain the differences that researchers have found. Researchers have attempted to identify factors besides training and collection

development policies that might have relationship to the size of the library's GLBTQ collection. Size of the library has an impact on both the depth and breadth of the library collection, as do budgeting constraints. Libraries with more money to spend on materials may have larger collections than those with smaller, more restricted materials budgets. However, budget is often not the primary indicator of the size of the collection; there are several other factors that may come into play.

Several studies (Jenkins, 1997; Ritchie, 2001; Spence, 2000; Coley, 2002) have noted in passing the fact that the size of the collection may be related to a variety of cultural characteristics. A study of several Oregon libraries found the strongest collections to be in traditionally liberal areas, while smaller collections were located in traditionally conservative areas of the state (Oberg, 2003). Jenkins' study of YA fiction with GLBTQ themes seemed to indicate the same phenomenon (1997). Both studies recommended further research into these areas.

There are several methods of examining the size of GLBTQ collections in libraries. Generally a researcher draws up a list of well-known or frequently reviewed GLBTQ titles and compares a particular library's holdings to this list using one of several methods. One method is to ask librarians, either through interview or survey, to assess their libraries' collections, in addition to discussing selection methods used to create the collections. Murden (1993) and Ritchie (2001) follow this method, sampling Virginia and Illinois Public Libraries, respectively. As noted above, the drawback to this type of study is that librarians may have difficulty identifying GLBTQ materials in their collections. Another widely used method is a checklist approach, wherein the researcher identifies a

list of materials likely to be included in a strong GLBTQ collection and checks off which titles (and sometimes how many and which edition) each library has in its collection.

Since librarians themselves may have trouble accurately identifying and assessing their GLBTQ collections, this more quantitative type of checklist study can be revealing. In a fairly large study of this kind, Spence (1999) examined the holdings of nineteen urban public libraries in the United States and Canada against a list of recently published YA fiction. He found “a considerable dissimilarity across the library systems surveyed in the provision of gay fiction for the young adult customer” (Spence, 1999, p. 234). Spence speculates that the regional and social environments may have an influence on service to GLBTQ young adults and calls for study “based not on size of the population served, but rather on regional social considerations or general educational level of the community” (1999, p. 234).

While Spence’s theory has not been the focus of research as yet, other factors in GLBTQ book selection have been explored. Sweetland and Christensen (1995) used a combination content analysis/checklist approach to examine the relationship between the treatment of adult gay, lesbian, and bisexual titles in review publications and the likelihood of the title’s inclusion in a library collection. They found a positive correlation between number of reviews and likelihood of selection, but the tone of the review did not seem to have any effect. An extensive checklist study of 101 public libraries by Spence (2000) focusing on the inclusion of gay-related children’s picture books noted the same correlation. The results come as no surprise, as it has long been known that review publications are important collection development tools for most librarians in all genres and subject areas.

The area of library service to GLBTQ young adults has been under-researched, and many of the studies that do exist have simply pointed out gaps in library collections without any systematic attempt at finding out what relationship exists between social or environmental conditions and the GLBTQ collection. In addition, most studies have focused on large, urban libraries and have not carefully examined the situation of medium-sized public libraries; these libraries often have to carefully balance the needs of a diverse user population with the challenges of ever-shrinking library budgets. There is a significant need for studies that examine not just how large particular GLBTQ collections are, but what factors affect the size of these collections in libraries of all sizes.

This study responds to the need to examine the factors that influence collection size through focusing on the relationship of the political environment of a particular area, as demonstrated through voting results, and the size of that area's library collection of GLBTQ fiction for young adults. While the results of previous studies indicate that libraries in more conservative areas will have smaller GLBTQ collections, the results of this study show that there are clearly other factors at work.

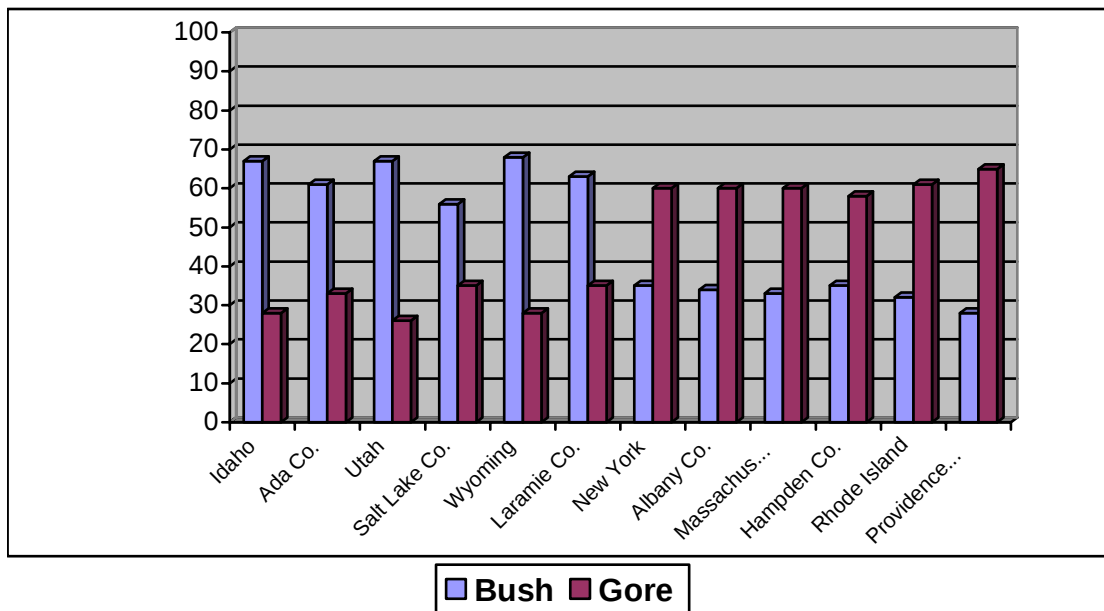
Sample Selection

In order to carry out the study, it was necessary to identify something that could be used as an indicator of the relative political environment of a particular state. The results of the 2000 presidential election were chosen as that indicator; those who voted Republican were considered conservative, while those who voted Democrat were considered liberal. Those who voted for the Green party or for another independent

candidate were not considered. Therefore, a county or state voting heavily for a Republican candidate was considered to be more conservative than a county or state voting heavily Democratic.

Using statistics from the Federal Election Commission, the three states with the largest percentage of voters voting for each party were identified, giving a list of six states: Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming were the most strongly Republican and Rhode Island, New York, and Massachusetts were the most staunchly Democrat. The District of Columbia had the highest percentage of votes going to a Democratic candidate: 85 percent of voters chose the Democratic candidate. However, this was thought to be anomalous and so was not included in the study. The voting percentages of the states, and the county in which the capital city is located, are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Voting Results of 2004 Presidential Election



The question became how to compare the library collections of six such diverse states. It would be impractical and wasteful to compare a large city library to a small rural library; comparing entire library systems in such areas would also be difficult. The goal was to compare libraries in similarly sized communities, with comparable resources. The best way to do this was to stay away from large urban areas, such as New York City or Boston, as well as the extremely isolated areas that comprise much of Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah. With this in mind, I chose to focus my research on the main branch libraries of the six capital cities. Focusing on the main library branch eliminated some of the inconsistencies of comparing library systems of different sizes, while selecting the capital city helped minimize huge discrepancies in population served by each library. Nevertheless, significant differences in terms of size of population served and materials budgets were observed, as described in the library profiles below.

One complicating factor is that more populous areas also tend to vote more heavily Democrat, while less populous areas tend to vote Republican. As indicated in Figure 1, a comparison of the county returns for the capital cities to the state returns revealed that voters in Albany, New York and Springfield, Massachusetts reflected almost exactly the state political leanings ($\pm 4\%$). Providence, Rhode Island voted more heavily Democratic than the state average. The percentage of Republican votes in Salt Lake City, Utah, Cheyenne, Wyoming, and Boise, Idaho were less than the states averages, yet still solidly favored the Republicans. Salt Lake City's percentages were the most divergent from state averages; 56% of votes went to Bush and 35% went to Gore in Salt Lake County, while the state averages were 67% and 26%, respectively. Cheyenne and Boise reflected the state's leanings ($\pm 6\%$). Because the six libraries chosen were

situated in areas that reflected state political leanings, it was reasonable to proceed with the study.

Data Collection

To complete the study, three sets of data were collected: a list of YA titles with GLBTQ content published from 1994-2004; basic information on the six libraries selected for the study and the checklist comparison data.

The list of all Young-Adult fiction published between 1994-2004 was the first task. This list of titles served as the basis for the checklist study. Considering only titles published since 1994 helped to lessen the chance that a library had deselected an older title previous to the study. Unfortunately, no comprehensive bibliography of GLBTQ titles existed for this time frame, necessitating some research to identify titles published during this period.

Fortunately, I was able to locate several bibliographies that dealt with portions of the years in question. Christine Jenkins' comprehensive list of YA titles with GLBTQ themes published through 1997 served as an excellent resource for the first few years. The reference librarians at the Center for Children's Books at the University of Illinois were kind enough to furnish me with a list of all of the titles with GLBTQ themes that they had reviewed in their bulletin during 1994-2004. A research article by Hilton Boon and Howard (2004) dealing with YA collection development in Canada included a GLBTQ fiction bibliography for the years 1998-2002; finally, I searched Google.com and

Amazon.com to discover other titles that were not included in the above bibliographies. This was especially useful for books that had been published in 2004.

I followed the precedent of Hilton Boon and Howard (2004) and avoided titles that were published by vanity presses. These titles generally do not receive reviews in major reviewing media and may be published in limited editions that make inclusion in this study problematic. Several titles were eliminated in this way. In addition, I retained six titles that were identified by Hilton Boon and Howard as being primarily for adults; the reviews for these materials also “identified them as YA or YA- appropriate” (2004, p. 134). The titles are *Calendar Boy*, *War Boy*, *Just Like Beauty*, *The World of Normal Boys*, *Flamboyant*, and *Girl Walking Backwards*. The final bibliography contains 95 titles published between 1994-2004. While I do not claim that this bibliography is absolutely comprehensive, it does contain the majority of books identified as having GLBTQ themes that are appropriate for a Young Adult audience published during 1994-2004.

Library Profiles

Using the American Library Directory (2004) and information available on library websites, I compiled a profile of the six libraries to be studied. Five of the six libraries selected could be categorized as medium sized, and one is part of a larger system serving well over one million people. Unfortunately, there was limited information about specific branches; budget information was given in terms of the entire library system of which the main branch was a part. However, this provided at least a rudimentary basis for comparison.

The Providence Public Library system is by far the largest of the six examined. It is comprised of the main library and nine branches and serves a user population of 1,048,319 people. Materials expenditures for 7/01-6/02 were \$953,707, with \$656,953 of that going to the purchase of books. While this library has the largest user population, it is important to note that the materials expenditure is dwarfed by that of Salt Lake City Public Library, described below.

Boise, Salt Lake City, and Springfield made up the middle group of libraries. Boise serves a population of 194,000 with the main library, one branch library, and one bookmobile. Materials expenditure for 10/03-9/04 was \$501,086, with \$345,586 allocated for the purchase of books. Salt Lake City serves a similarly –sized population of 181,743 with the main library and five branches. Materials expenditures from 7/00-6/01 were \$1,769,853 with \$1,064,300 allocated for books- three times the budget of Boise! Springfield Public Library System serves a somewhat smaller population of 150,000 with the main library and nine branches. The total materials budget for 7/01-6/02 was \$519,632, with \$305,615 set aside for books. Of the four largest libraries, Boise and Springfield library are the most similar when both user population and budget are taken into consideration.

The lower tier of libraries includes the Laramie County Library System and Albany Public Library. The Laramie County system includes the central Cheyenne library and two branches. It serves a population of 80,000. Unfortunately, no budgeting information was provided by the *American Library Directory*. However, the Laramie County Library System website indicated an annual budget of 2.1 million dollars, without specifying the amount allocated for materials expenditures (Laramie County Library

System, 2003). Albany Public Library serves a population of 95,000 and consists of the main library and four branches. As with Laramie County Library System, no budgetary information was found for this library in the *American Library Directory*. A search of the library's website revealed an annual operating budget of 4.5 million dollars, but there was no indication of what proportion of the total budget was spent on materials (Albany Public Library, 2004). Here again significant differences can be found. Although the Laramie County Library system and Albany Public Library have similarly sized user populations, Albany's total budget is over twice as large as that of Laramie County.

Checklist Study

The OPACs of all six libraries were searched for all 95 titles. A note was made if the only available copy of the book was to be found in the adult section of the library, because the location of the book may have implications for access. If a title search did not bring up the book, I performed an author search to double-check the results. I re-searched books that did not appear in any library to ensure the title and author information was entered properly. Copies listed as missing or lost were counted as being part of the collection since it could reasonably be assumed they might yet be returned or replaced. Recently acquired books that were listed as on order or in processing were also counted as part of the library's collection. Titles that were only available as audiotapes were not counted. This only affected one title; the vast majority of the books were held only in print form.

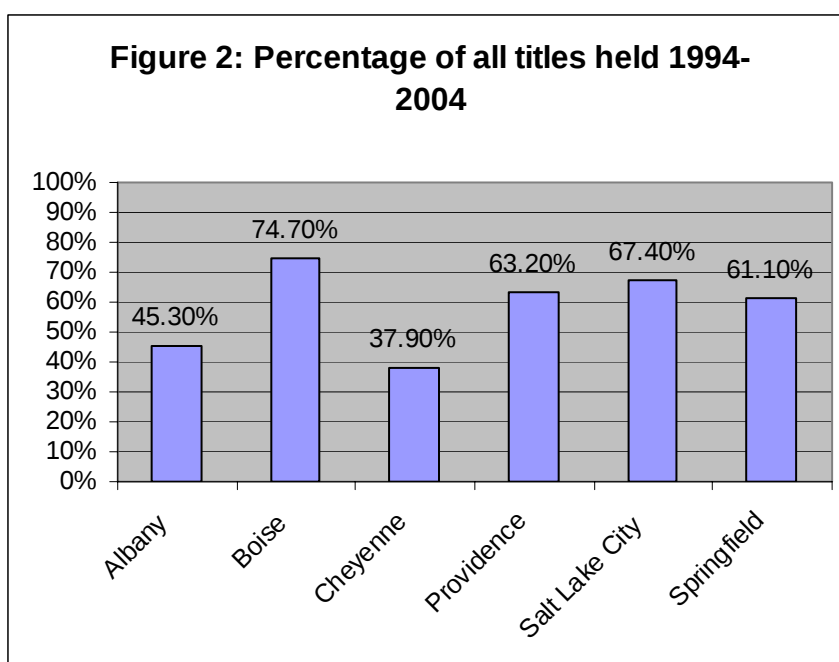
The number of copies held by each library was not ascertained. While this might have provided some interesting data, I felt that it would not be fruitful to compare the number of copies purchased by Providence Public Library, with its over one million users, with the number purchased by smaller libraries such as the Albany Public Library, with 95,000 users. Finally, only titles appearing in the main branch of the library system were included in the results. Data was entered into an Excel spreadsheet and analyzed in the various ways discussed below. Raw data from the checklist study can be found in Appendix A.

Results

Perhaps surprisingly, Boise Public Library proved to have collected the highest percentage of titles: 74.7 %, or 71 of the 95 titles in the bibliography. Salt Lake City followed with 67.4%, or 64 titles. Springfield and Providence followed fairly closely with 63.2% and 61.1% of titles respectively. In the bottom third, Albany held 43 titles or 45.3%, and Cheyenne held the fewest titles with 36, or 37.9%. Figure 2 shows the results in graph form.

These results would seem to indicate that, at least for those libraries examined, the social environment in terms of political conservatism or liberalism does not have a clear relationship to the comprehensiveness of the collection of young adult literature with GLBTQ themes. The top two libraries in terms of collection are both situated in heavily republican areas, while the bottom two are situated in a republican and a democratic area. It is interesting to note that Providence, a much larger library in terms of population

served, ranks only third in terms of the size of the GLBTQ collection. The general trend noted in several of the previous checklists, that larger libraries have larger collections, does not seem to be true in this instance. Salt Lake City, with its huge materials budget, ranks second after Boise, a library with one-third of the materials budget of Salt Lake and a similarly-sized user population.



While a relationship between political environment and size of the collection is not evident in the libraries studied, there are several interesting findings. One intriguing result was the pattern of collection rates over the course of the years surveyed. To calculate these figures, the total number of GLBTQ titles published in a particular year was compared to the number of those titles a particular library has in its collection. This number is expressed as a percentage. Therefore, for example, if one library has five out of

ten books published in a particular year, it has achieved a 50% collection rate for that year. Note that this calculation does not specify when the titles were added, only that they are currently held. In the discussion of collection rates that follows I did not consider 2004 titles, since the recent release of some titles may skew the results. Libraries with specific buying schedules or budget limitations may not yet have had the opportunity to select these titles. A visual representation of the collection rate data for all six libraries from 1994-2004 can be found in Appendix C.

For the first three years examined, Albany averaged a collection rate of 18%. For the years 2001-2003 Albany averaged a 65.15% collection rate. This is a large and significant increase in the rate of collection of GLBTQ titles. However, without more information regarding staff hiring or training, collection development policies, budget shifts, etc., it is impossible to say what precipitated such a dramatic increase in collection of the titles. Cheyenne exhibited a similar, if slightly less dramatic, change: from 1994-1996, the library had a 25.6% collection rate; in the years 2001-2003, that rate increased to 50.51%. It would be interesting to look at a larger sample to see if other libraries with low rates of collection for titles published in the mid-1990s experienced a similar increase in collection rate for titles published in the last five years.

This pattern was not exhibited by the other libraries studied. Boise shows a 1994-1996 collection rate of 76.52%; the 2001-2003 rate is 79.8%; a small increase that would not seem to indicate any major shifts in collection development policy or selection criteria. Springfield's 1994-1996 collection rate is 61.64% and its 2001-2003 rate is 56.57%, a decrease of 5% that again would not seem to indicate any major change in selection practices.

If we look at the data in terms of titles instead of in terms of the libraries examined, other interesting information emerges. 8 titles are not held by any of the libraries examined. Two of these titles were published in 2004; they may have been published so recently that the libraries have not yet had a chance to select the titles. Two titles, *Calendar Boy* and *Telling*, are Canadian titles. Two titles are part of the Pride Pack series; although these titles received reviews in *School Library Journal*, they were not chosen by any libraries. The remaining two titles also had reviews in major reviewing media, and no obvious similarities are noted. Perhaps a content analysis would reveal additional similarities; however that is beyond the scope of this study. 51 titles, or 53.7%, are held by four or more libraries. In contrast, 19 titles, or 20%, are held by one library. Sixteen titles, or 16.8%, are held by all six libraries. Of these sixteen titles, two are written by Francesca Lia Block, a well known and popular author. Two are written by Alex Sanchez, another popular author; his two titles are part of a series called Rainbow High. One title was written by Nancy Garden whose *Annie On My Mind* is perhaps the most well-known young adult novel featuring lesbian characters. Two novels are written by Ellen Wittlinger. It would seem that the titles selected by all six libraries are frequently chosen on the reputation of the authors. It would be interesting to compare this information to a control group of general YA fiction for teens to see if the same patterns would occur.

While compiling data, I noted titles that were held by the libraries, but shelved only in the adult fiction section. Those titles shelved both in the adult and YA sections were not noted. The titles *Flamboyant* and *The World of Normal Boys* were only located in the adult section for libraries that collected them. These results were not surprising, as

the titles were identified by Hilton Boon and Howard (2004) as primarily written for an adult audience. However, an interesting result was found in the Providence Public Library, one of the three libraries located in a liberal area: 13 titles, or 21.67% of all of the GLBTQ YA titles the library collected, were shelved in the adult section, with no copies present in the Young Adult area. The other libraries examined had no more than two of the titles shelved exclusively in the adult section. Shelving YA titles with GLBTQ content in with adult titles may have implications for access; further research is needed, as discussed below.

Recommendations

Further research into the collection rates of libraries situated in different political climates would be useful to confirm or contradict these results. One area to explore is whether or not the non-fiction collections of the libraries studied reflect the same patterns that the fiction collections reveal, both in terms of overall size of the collection and the change in collection rate over time. The non-fiction information needs of GLBTQ youth have been largely overlooked by the existing research.

A larger sample size would also be revealing, as this might allow statistical analysis that was not advised due to the small sample size. Attention to rural libraries might be useful, as most checklist studies to date have focused on mid-sized and large urban libraries. Researching these libraries would also be difficult due to the impact of budget shortfalls and limited resources on many rural libraries; it would be doubly important to know the extent of the regular collection so there would be a basis for

comparison. A larger sample size would also allow more in-depth comparisons based on budget and size of user population. This might mitigate the differences inherent in comparing libraries with substantially different budgets and user populations. In addition, a larger sample size might reveal whether one of these factors tends to have more of an influence on the size of the GLBTQ collection than another.

For the six libraries examined in this study, a more thorough examination of the entire YA collection would be useful and would help to answer the question of whether the collection rates of GLBTQ literature reflect the collection rates of YA literature in these libraries as a whole. The Laramie County Library, Cheyenne branch may have the lowest rate of collection of GLBTQ titles, but without knowing the rate of collection of other YA titles, it is difficult to know whether this is a reflection of budget issues or selection practices.

Further analysis of the individual titles discussed in this study could also prove to be fruitful. Why were some titles collected by all six libraries, while some titles were not collected by any? I have made some brief observations in the results section, but a more careful analysis is warranted. While all of the titles in this bibliography received at least one review, did the number of reviews of a particular title have an effect on the frequency of collection, as indicated by previous studies (Sweetland and Christensen, 1995)?

What about the content of the book? Some studies have indicated that YA novels featuring lesbian characters are collected at a lower rate than those featuring gay characters; is this born out by the results? Content analysis of each title was beyond the scope of this study but could provide a significant amount of data on this topic. In addition, content analysis might reveal the degree to which there are differences in

collection for titles in which the main character is GLBTQ and titles in which the homosexual or questioning character is not the protagonist of the book.

Finally, the results of this study brought up issues related to access. What is the impact of shelving YA titles with GLBTQ content in the adult fiction area? Will young adults find these titles if they are not shelved with the rest of the YA collection? How is the decision about shelving made; is there a specific policy describing when materials should be located in the adult section, or is it a practice dictated by the judgment of the selector? How widespread is the practice of shelving YA titles with GLBTQ content in the adult section?

Another access issue involves the way materials are catalogued. Informal observation during the checklist study revealed that several titles did not have subject headings related to sexuality or gender issues. Lack of these access points would make it extremely difficult for a young adult interested in GLBTQ titles to locate these materials.

Summary

While no relationship was found between the political environment in which a library is situated and the size of that library's GLBTQ collections, this study did reveal several interesting findings that warrant further study. In addition, a larger study on this topic focusing on more libraries or smaller rural libraries may yet reveal a relationship. Other social and cultural differences that might have an impact on collection size, such as education level, socioeconomic level, demographic of the user population, etc., might also be studied with interesting results. Libraries are open to everyone, and should

provide materials of interest to all members of a user population. It is important for librarians to continue to examine the areas in which our service falls short.

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Appendix A: Checklist Study Data

Note: "Total # of Libs." indicates how many libraries hold a particular title.

Author	Title	Albany	Boise	Cheyenne	Providence	Salt Lake City	Springfield	Total # of Libs.
1994	8 Titles Total							
Bauer, Marion	<i>Am I Blue?</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Davis, Deborah	<i>My Brother has AIDS</i>		x	x	x	x	x	5
Donovan, Stacey	<i>Dive</i>				x	x	x	3
Kerr, M. E.	<i>Deliver Us from Evie</i>				x	x	x	3
McClain, Ellen	<i>No Big Deal</i>		x					1
Nelson, Theresa	<i>Earthshine</i>		x	x	x	x	x	5
Paulsen, Gary	<i>The Car</i>		x	x		x	x	4
Taylor, William	<i>Blue Lawn</i>		x	x	x		x	4
1994 Titles per Library		1	6	5	6	6	7	
1995	11 Titles Total	Albany	Boise	Cheyenne	Providence	Salt Lake City	Springfield	
Bantle, Lee F.	<i>Diving for the Moon</i>		x			x		2
Block, Francesca Lia	<i>Baby Be-Bop</i>		x		x	x	x	4
Fox, Paula	<i>The Eagle Kite</i>	x	x		x	x	x	5
Grimsley, Jim.	<i>Dream Boy</i>		x			x	x	3
Hamilton, R.J.	<i>Who framed Lorenzo Garcia?</i>							0
Hamilton, R.J.	<i>The Case of the Missing Mother</i>							0
Springer, Nancy	<i>Looking for Jamie Bridger</i>				x			1
Van Dijk, Lutz	<i>Damned Strong Love</i>	x	x				x	3
Velasquez, Gloria	<i>Tommy Stands Alone</i>							0
Vigna, Judith	<i>My Two Uncles</i>	x			x		x	3
Woodson, Jacqueline	<i>From the Notebooks of Melanin</i>		x		x	x	x	4
1995 Titles per Library		3	6	0	5	5	6	
1996	7 Titles Total	Albany	Boise	Cheyenne	Providence	Salt Lake City	Springfield	
Block, Francesca Lia	<i>Girl Goddess #9</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Cart, Michael	<i>My Father's Scar</i>		x			x		2
Cooper, Melrose	<i>Life Magic</i>		x					1
Garden, Nancy	<i>Good Moon Rising</i>		x		x		x	2
Lynch, Chris	<i>Dog Eat Dog</i>		x		x			2
Maguire, Gregory	<i>Oasis</i>		x					1
Zalben, Jane Breskin	<i>Unfinished Dream</i>		x		x		x	3
1996 Titles per Library		1	7	1	4	2	3	
1997	11 titles total	Albany	Boise	Cheyenne	Providence	Salt Lake City	Springfield	
Dines, Carol	<i>Talk to Me: Stories and a Novel</i>		x	x		x	x	4
Donoghue, Emma	<i>Kissing the Witch: Old Tales in</i>		x	x	x	x		4
Gantos, Jack	<i>Desire Lines</i>		x		x			2
Jenkins, A. M.	<i>Breaking Boxes</i>		x	x	x	x		4
Kerr, M. E.	<i>"Hello," I Lied</i>	x	x		x	x	x	5
Ketchum, Liza	<i>Blue Coyote</i>		x		x	x		3
Larson, Rodger	<i>What I Know Now</i>		x					1
Mowry, Jess	<i>Babylon Boyz</i>	x		x	x	x	x	5
Revoyr, Nina	<i>Necessary Hunger</i>		x			x	x	3
Wersba, Barbara	<i>Whistle Me Home</i>		x	x		x	x	4
Woodson, Jacqueline	<i>The House You Pass on the Way</i>		x		x	x	x	4
1997 Titles per Library		2	10	5	7	9	6	
1998	5 titles total	Albany	Boise	Cheyenne	Providence	Salt Lake City	Springfield	
Block, Francesca Lia	<i>I Was a Teenage Fairy</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Matas, Carol	<i>Telling</i>							0
Stoechr, Shelley	<i>Tomorrow Wendy</i>				x	x		2
Swados, Elizabeth	<i>Flamboyant</i>	x			x	x		3
Williams, Bett	<i>Girl Walking Backwards</i>							0
1998 Titles per Library		2	1	1	3	3	1	

1999	13 titles total	Albany	Boise	Cheyenne	Providence	Salt Lake City	Springfield	Total # of Libs.
Bechard, Margaret	<i>If It Doesn't Kill You</i>		x		x	x	x	4
Boock, Paula	<i>Dare truth or promise</i>	x	x		x	x	x	5
Chambers, Aidan	<i>Postcards from No Man's Land</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Chbosky, Stephen	<i>Perks of Being a Wallflower</i>	x			x		x	3
Coville, Bruce	<i>Odder than Ever</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Garden, Nancy	<i>The Year They Burned the Book</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Hines, Sue	<i>Out of the Shadows</i>		x			x	x	3
Huser, Glen	<i>Touch of the Clown</i>		x					1
Naylor, Phillis Reynold	<i>Alice on the Outside</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Taylor, William	<i>Jerome</i>					x	x	2
Torres, Laura	<i>November Ever After</i>	x	x		x	x	x	5
Wittlinger, Ellen	<i>Hard Love</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Yamanaka, Lois-Ann	<i>Name Me Nobody</i>		x	x	x		x	4
	1999 Titles per Library	8	11	6	10	10(didn't count tape)	12	
2000	6 titles	Albany	Boise	Cheyenne	Providence	Salt Lake City	Springfield	
Ferris, Jean	<i>Eight Seconds</i>		x	x	x	x	x	5
Garden, Nancy	<i>Holly's Secret</i>	x	x		x	x		4
Hillsbery, Kief	<i>War Boy</i>				x	x		2
Soehnlein, K.M.	<i>The World of Normal Boys</i>	x			x	x		3
Torres, Laura	<i>November Ever After</i>	x	x		x	x	x	5
Wittlinger, Ellen	<i>What's in a Name?</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
	2000 Titles per Library	4	4	2	6	6	3	
2001	11 titles	Albany	Boise	Cheyenne	Providence	Salt Lake City	Springfield	
Cart, Michael (Ed.)	<i>Love & Sex: 10 Stories of Truth</i>	x		x	x	x	x	5
Howe, James	<i>The Misfits</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Quan, Andy	<i>Calendar Boy</i>							0
Reynolds, Marilyn	<i>Love Rules</i>	x	x		x		x	4
Ryan, Sara	<i>Empress of the World</i>	x	x		x	x	x	5
Sanchez, Alex	<i>Rainbow Boys</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Taylor, Kim	<i>Cissy Funk</i>		x					1
Toten, Teresa	<i>The Game</i>	x		x		x	x	4
Watts, Julia	<i>Finding H.F.</i>		x			x		2
Withrow, Sarah	<i>Box Girl</i>	x	x		x		x	4
Wolff, Virginia Euwer	<i>True Believer</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
	2001 Titles per Library	8	8	5	7	7	8	
2002	6 titles total	Albany	Boise	Cheyenne	Providence	Salt Lake City	Springfield	
Freymann-Weyr, Garr	<i>My Heartbeat</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Lerner, Lisa	<i>Just Like Beauty</i>		x		x	x		3
Newbery, Linda	<i>The Shell House</i>	x				x		2
Shyer, Marlene Fanta	<i>The Rainbow Kite</i>	x	x		x			3
Williams, Tamara L.	<i>Truth and Lies</i>				x			1
Young, Cathy (Ed.),	<i>One Hot Second: Stories about</i>		x	x		x	x	4
	2002 Titles per Library	3	4	2	4	4	2	
2003	11 titles total	Albany	Boise	Cheyenne	Providence	Salt Lake City	Springfield	
Benduhn, Tea	<i>Gravel Queen</i>	x	x			x	x	4
Frost, Helen	<i>Keesha's House</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Hartinger, Brent	<i>Geography Club</i>	x	x	x	x		x	5
Huser, Glen	<i>Stitches</i>		x	x	x			3
Johnson, Kathleen	<i>Target</i>		x	x	x	x		4
Levithan, David	<i>Boy Meets Boy</i>	x	x	x	x	x	x	6
Matthews, Andrew	<i>The Flip Side</i>		x					1
Myracle, Lauren	<i>Kissing Kate</i>	x	x		x	x		4
Peters, Julie Anne	<i>Keeping You a Secret</i>	x	x	x		x	x	5
Ripslinger, Jon	<i>How I Fell in Love & Learned t</i>	x	x	x		x	x	5
2004	6 titles total	Albany	Boise	Cheyenne	Providence	Salt Lake City	Springfield	
De Oliveira, Eddie.	<i>Lucky</i>							0
Donovan, Stacy	<i>Who I Am Keeps Happening</i>							0
Earls, Nick	<i>48 Shades of Brown</i>	x	x	x		x	x	5
Lyon, George Ella	<i>Sonny's House of Spies</i>		x			x		2
Peters, Julie Ann	<i>Luna</i>	x				x	x	3
Sones, Sonya	<i>One of Those Hideous Books W</i>	x	x		x	x	x	5
	2004 Titles per Library	3	3	1	1	4	3	

Appendix B: Glossary

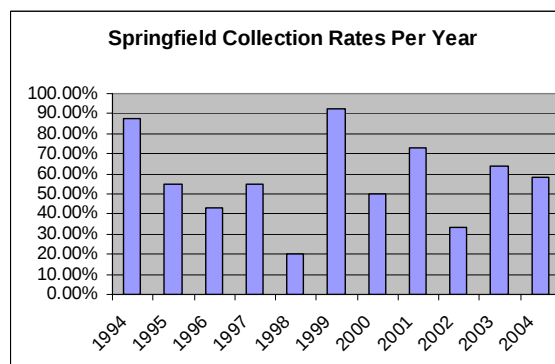
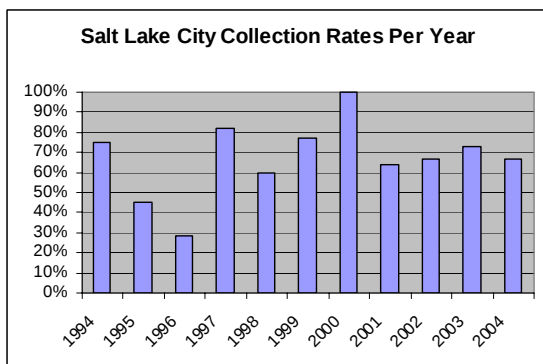
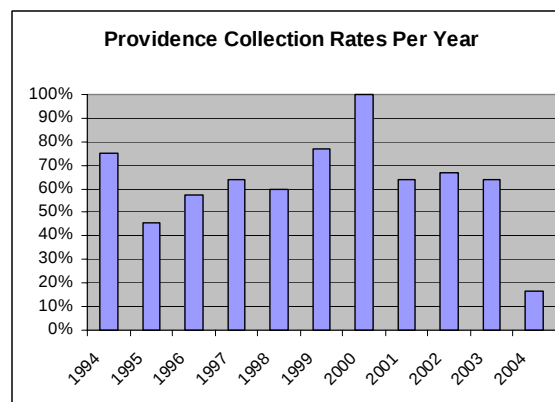
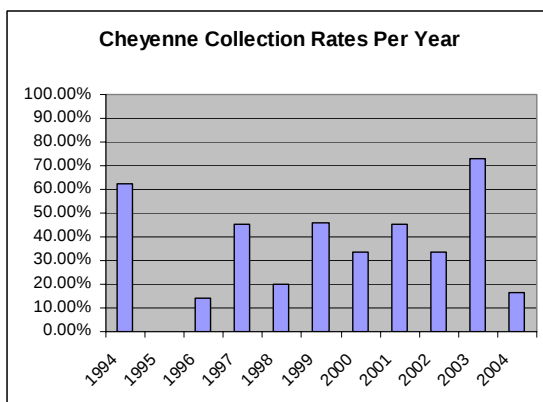
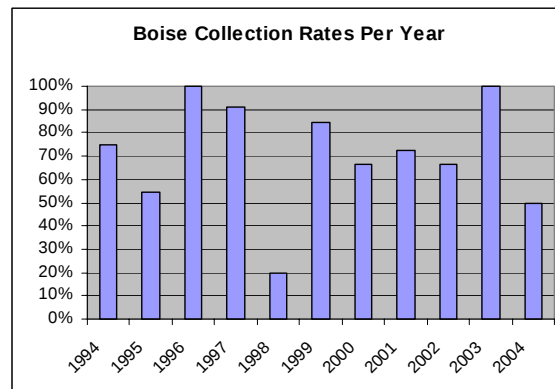
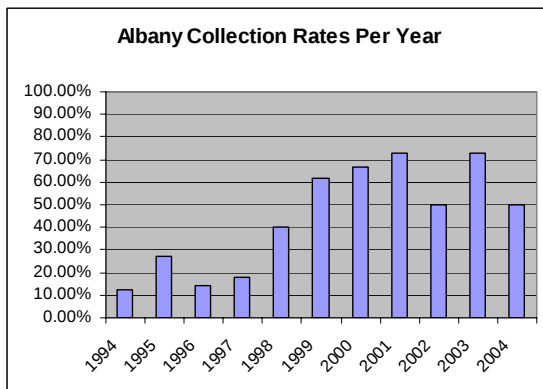
Collection: For the purposes of this study, only fiction appropriate for the young adult reader is included in the term “collection”

Gender: Here used in a way distinct from biological sex; gender is a person’s social and cultural expression of masculinity, femininity, or some mixture thereof. A person’s gender identity may or may not match their biological sex.

GLBTQ: an acronym for gay males (males who are sexually/romantically attracted to other males), lesbians (females who are sexually/romantically attracted to other females), bisexuals (who may be attracted to members of either sex), transgendered young adults (whose biological expression of sex is different than their psychological expression of sex) or questioning young adults (who have questions about their sexuality and are seeking more information about gender and sexuality).

Young Adult: A child between the ages of 12 and 18 years of age.

Appendix C: Library Collection Rates Per Year



Appendix D: YA Homosexuality in Fiction 1994-2004

1994

Bauer, Marion. (1994). *Am I Blue?: Coming out from the silence*. New York: HarperCollins.

Davis, Deborah. (1994). *My Brother has AIDS*. New York: Atheneum.

Donovan, Stacey (1994). *Dive* Dutton, 1994

Kerr, M. E. (1994). *Deliver Us from Evie*. New York: HarperCollins.

McClain, Ellen. (1994). *No Big Deal*. New York: Lodestar.

Nelson, Theresa. (1994). *Earthshine*. New York: Jackson/Orchard.

Paulsen, Gary. (1994). *The Car*. New York: Harcourt.

Taylor, William. (1994). *Blue Lawn*. Los Angeles: Alyson Books.

1995

Bantle, Lee F. (1995). *Diving for the Moon*. New York: Macmillan.

Block, Francesca Lia. (1995). *Baby Be-Bop*. New York: HarperCollins.

Fox, Paula. (1995). *The Eagle Kite*. New York: Jackson/Orchard.

Grimsley, Jim. (1995). *Dream Boy*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: Algonquin Books.

Hamilton, R.J. (1995). *Who framed Lorenzo Garcia?* Los Angeles: Alyson Books.

Hamilton, R.J. (1995). *The Case of the Missing Mother*. Los Angeles: Alyson Books.

Springer, Nancy. (1995). *Looking for Jamie Bridger*. New York: Dial.

Van Dijk, Lutz. (1995). *Damned Strong Love*. New York: Holt.

Velasquez, Gloria. (1995). *Tommy Stands Alone*. Houston: Arte Public/Pinata Books.

Vigna, Judith. (1995). *My Two Uncles*. Morton Grove, IL: Whitman.

Woodson, Jacqueline. (1995). *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun*. New York: Blue Sky/ Scholastic.

1996

Block, Francesca Lia. (1996). *Girl Goddess #9*. New York: HarperCollins.

Cart, Michael. (1996). *My Father's Scar*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Cooper, Melrose. (1996). *Life Magic*. New York: Dial.

Garden, Nancy. (1996). *Good Moon Rising*. New York: Farrar.

Lynch, Chris. (1996). *Dog Eat Dog*. Blue-eyed Son series, Book 3. New York: Harper Collins.

Maguire, Gregory. (1996). *Oasis*. New York: Clarion.

Zalben, Jane Breskin. (1996). *Unfinished Dream*. New York: Simon & Shuster.

1997

Dines, Carol. (1997). *Talk to Me: Stories and a Novella*. New York: Delacorte.

Donoghue, Emma. (1997). *Kissing the Witch: Old Tales in New Skins*. New York: Colter/HarperCollins.

Gantos, Jack. (1997). *Desire Lines*. New York: Farrar.

Jenkins, A. M. (1997). *Breaking Boxes*. New York: Delacorte.

Kerr, M. E. (1997). *"Hello," I Lied*. New York: HarperCollins.

Ketchum, Liza. (1997). *Blue Coyote*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Larson, Rodger. (1997). *What I Know Now*. New York: Holt.

Mowry, Jess. (1997). *Babylon Boyz*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Revoyr, Nina. (1997). *Necessary Hunger*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Wersba, Barbara. (1997). *Whistle Me Home*. New York: Holt.

Woodson, Jacqueline. (1997). *The House You Pass on the Way*. New York: Delacorte.

1998

Block, Francesca Lia. (1998). *I Was a Teenage Fairy*. New York: HarperCollins.

Matas, Carol. (1998). *Telling*. Toronto: Key Porter Books.

Stoehr, Shelley. (1998). *Tomorrow Wendy*. New York: Delacorte.

Swados, Elizabeth. (1998). *Flamboyant*. New York: Picador.

Williams, Bett. (1998). *Girl Walking Backwards*. New York: St Martin's Press.

1999

Bechard, Margaret. (1999). *If It Doesn't Kill You*. New York: Viking.

Boock, Paula. (1999). *Dare Truth or Promise*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin.

Chambers, Aidan. (1999). *Postcards from No Man's Land*. New York: Random House.

Chbosky, Stephen. (1999). *Perks of Being a Wallflower*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Coville, Bruce. (1999). *Odder than Ever*. New York: Harcourt.

Garden, Nancy. (1999). *The Year They Burned the Books*. New York: Farrar.

Hines, Sue. (1999). *Out of the Shadows*. New York: Avon Press.

Huser, Glen. (1999). *Touch of the Clown*. Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre.

Naylor, Phillis Reynolds. (1999). *Alice on the Outside*. New York: Karl/Atheneum.

Taylor, William. (1999). *Jerome*. Los Angeles: Alyson.

Torres, Laura. (1999). *November Ever After*. New York: Holiday House.

Wittlinger, Ellen. (1999). *Hard Love*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Yamanaka, Lois-Ann. (1999). *Name Me Nobody*. New York: Hyperion.

2000

Ferris, Jean. (2000). *Eight Seconds*. New York: Harcourt.

Garden, Nancy. (2000). *Holly's Secret*. New York: Farrar.

Hillsbery, Kief. (2000). *War Boy*. New York: William Morrow.

Soehnlein, K.M. (2000). *The World of Normal Boys*. New York: Kensington Books.

Torres, Laura. (2000). *November Ever After*. New York: Holiday House.

Wittlinger, Ellen. (2000). *What's in a Name?* New York: Simon & Schuster.

2001

Cart, Michael (Ed.). (2001). *Love & Sex: 10 Stories of Truth*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Howe, James. (2001). *The Misfits*. New York: Atheneum Books.

Quan, Andy. (2001). *Calendar Boy*. Vancouver, BC: New Star Books.

Reynolds, Marilyn. (2001). *Love Rules*. Buena Park, CA: Morning Glory Press.

Ryan, Sara. (2001). *Empress of the World*. New York: Viking.

Sanchez, Alex. (2001). *Rainbow Boys*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Taylor, Kim. (2001). *Cissy Funk*. New York: HarperCollins.

Toten, Teresa. (2001). *The Game*. Calgary: Red Deer Press.

Watts, Julia. (2001). *Finding H.F.* Los Angeles: Alyson Books.

Withrow, Sarah. (2001). *Box Girl*. Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre.

Wolff, Virginia Euwer. (2001). *True Believer*. New York: Atheneum.

2002

Freymann-Weyr, Garret. (2002). *My Heartbeat*. New York: Houghton Mifflin.

Lerner, Lisa. (2002). *Just Like Beauty*. New York: Farrar.

Newbery, Linda. (2002). *The Shell House*. New York: David Fickling Books.

Shyer, Marlene Fanta. (2002). *The Rainbow Kite*. Tarrytown, NY: Cavendish.

Williams, Tamara L. (2002). *Truth and Lies*. Toronto: J. Lorimer.

Young, Cathy (Ed.). (2002). *One Hot Second: Stories about Desire*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

2003

Benduhn, Tea. (2003). *Gravel Queen*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

Frost, Helen. (2003). *Keesha's House*. New York: Farrar.

Hartinger, Brent. (2003). *Geography Club*. New York: HarperTempest.

Huser, Glen. (2003). *Stitches*. Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre.

Johnson, Kathleen. (2003). *Target*. Brookfield, CT: Roaring Brook.

Levithan, David. (2003). *Boy Meets Boy*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Matthews, Andrew. (2003). *The Flip Side*. New York: Delacorte.

Myracle, Lauren. (2003). *Kissing Kate*. New York: Dutton.

Peters, Julie Anne. (2003). *Keeping You a Secret*. New York: Little, Brown.

Ripslinger, Jon. *How I Fell in Love & Learned to Shoot Free Throws*. Brookfield, CT: Roaring Brook.

Sanchez, Alex. (2003). *Rainbow High*. New York: Simon & Schuster.

2004

De Oliveira, Eddie. (2004). *Lucky*. New York: Scholastic.

Donovan, Stacy. (2004). *Who I Am Keeps Happening*. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press .

Earls, Nick. (2004). *48 Shades of Brown*. Boston: Graphia.

Lyon, George Ella. (2004). *Sonny's House of Spies*. New York: Jackson/Atheneum.

Peters, Julie Ann. (2004). *Luna*. New York: Megan Tingley.

Sones, Sonya. (2004). *One of Those Hideous Books Where the Mother Dies*. New York: Simon & Schuster.