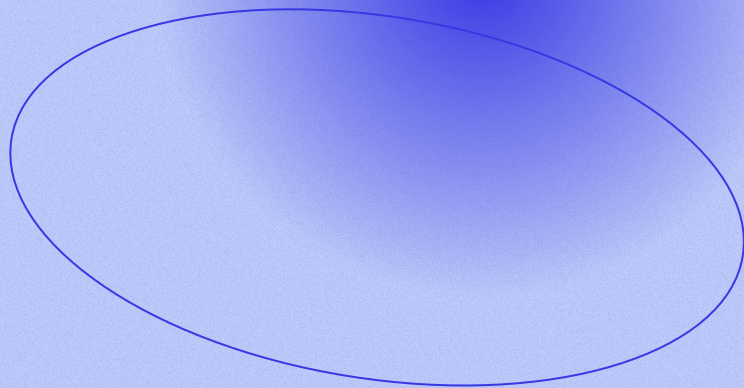# CURATING & DESCRIBING LGBT AUDIO/VISUAL COLLECTIONS

Lesbian Herstory Archive Digitization Project

↓

Bonnie Whitehouse & Jessica Haba

The Curatorial Perspective

- Bridget Arend
- Jessica Haba
- Anna Jacobson
- Bridget O'Keefe

Methodology

- Check the content, tone, and display of existing digital collections on the LHA site.
- Research donors and figures/concepts described on labels.
- Exchange of research materials within and amongst groups.
- Select materials to curate into a collection.
- Comprehensive spreadsheet and organizational streamlining.

Original Inventory

"Final Collections" Inventory

Contextual Research

- How to frame these archival materials?
  - Social movements
  - Cultural movements
  - Political movements

ACLU Timeline of Reproductive Freedom Cases

1997 Irving Cooperberg *New York Times* Obituary

Challenges

1. Research
   a. Initial research
   b. Radio Programs: very little information within the recordings
2. Organization
3. Liza Cowan
   a. What to do about the beliefs of the donor?

Class in the Women's Movement

This episode is a Production of Free Women in Washington D affiliated with the Feminist Ra Network. The hosts cover issu wtihin the Women's Movemen from personal experience as l working class women. It inclu

Untitled Interview: Lesbian Singer and Political Prisoner

Metadata Process

Our task - Jack O'Malley, Alissa Fioretto, Craig Nielsen, Bonnie Whitehouse

→ Develop a metadata scheme and import it into the CMS

→ Provide documentation and rights information for all objects

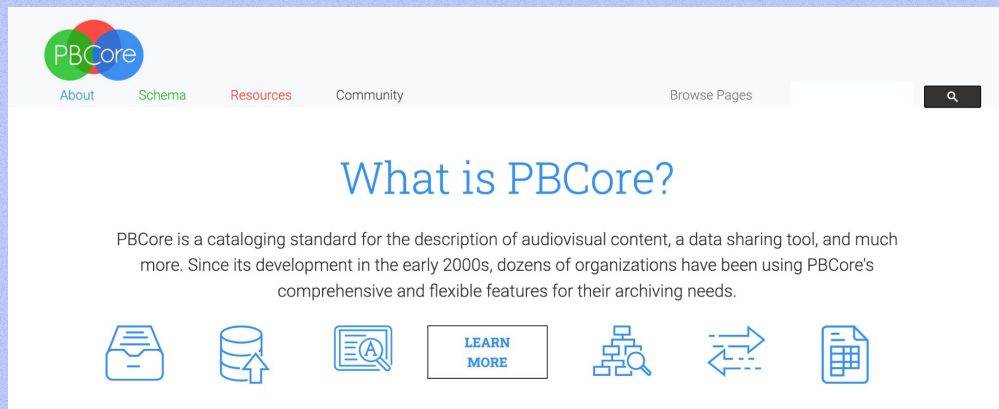**Our decisions**

→ By the content and medium of the collection itself

→ Class discussions

→ Mission statement of the Lesbian Hertsory Archive (LHA).

Technical Metadata

→ Item VS. Collection metadata options in Omeka

    → Dublin Core

→ PBCore as a metadata standard for the public broadcasting community

    → Additional metadata for items based on materiality

Technical Metadata: Dublin Core VS PBCore

Title DC		Radio Free Women: Learning to Fly, Show Business II
Subject DC		Women in Show Business
Description DC		This recording is a compilation of songs, music, excerpts, quotes, and recordings by, about, and for women in show business. Featured in part two are songs by Judy Garland; music from various Broadway shows and movie musicals; excerpts from Bette Davis' autobiography;quotes from Dorothy Dandrige; a recording of "Mary C. Brown and the Hollywood Sign" by Dory Previn; a reading of the poem "I Have Come to Claim Marilyn Monroe's Body" by Judy Grahn; and a recording of "There's No Business Like Show Business".
Creator DC		Radio Free Women
Date DC		August 23, 1972
Rights DC		Not to be used for publication without the express written consent of Liza Cowen. Contact the Lesbian Herstory Archive for Liza Cowen's contact information.
Language DC		English
Identifier DC		LC041
Episode Title PB		Women in Show Business II
Series Title PB		Learning to Fly
Physical Format PB		1/4 inch audio tape
Digital Format PB		.wav file
Physical Location PB		Lesbian Herstory Archive
Duration PB		20:35

Title DC		Neighborhood Voices: Audre Lorde Interview, Tape 1
Description DC		Old Neighborhood Voices interviews Audre Lorde about living as a young Black lesbian in the Lower East Side (now referred to as the East Village). She discusses the interconnectedness of the lesbian communities in the neighborhood, the imperfect support systems they offered each other when there were no other options, and the pressures of living on the edge of society. Lorde also discusses the racism that was rampant in the gay community in the Village, and how the few black lesbians within these communities were met with apathy when discussing political matters. She also discusses the effects of McCarthyism in the 1950s on her lesbian communities, as well as how she gained political consciousness growing up with the Brown v. Board of Education case, as well as by living near the Women's House of Detention in the Lower East Side and seeing Black incarcerated women for the first time.
Creator DC		Neighborhood Voices
Date DC		April 30, 1985
Rights DC		See the LHA Copyright Statement
Language DC		English
Identifier DC		VID010
Episode Title PB		Audre Lorde
Series Title PB		Neighborhood Voices
Interviewee PB		Lourde, Audre
Physical Format PB		U-matic Video
Digital Format PB		.mp4 file
Physical Location PB		Lesbian Herstory Archives
Duration PB		00:19:54

Tagging

Tagging enhances discoverability of items and establishes connections between different parts of the collection
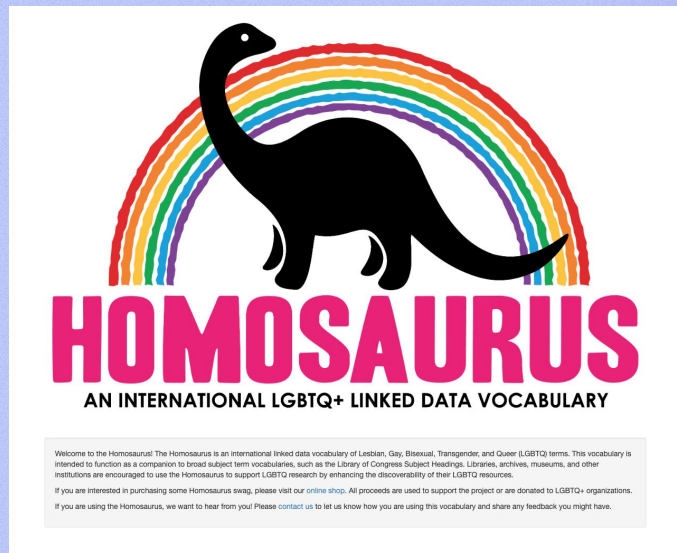
→ Current LHA tagging system had two major flaws:

  → Repetition of similar/overlapping tags

  → Lack of standardization with external controlled vocabularies

→ How many tags is the right amount?

→ Issue of community-selected tagging language

Tagging - Approach

→ Collocated list of tags and number of related items per tag, noted which tags could be combined/discarded

→ Referring to item descriptions provided by Curatorial Team to assign tags

→ Homosaurus (v.3) - controlled vocabulary establishing lexicon for feminist, queer- and trans-related subjects

HOMOSAURUS
AN INTERNATIONAL LGBTQ+ LINKED DATA VOCABULARY

Welcome to the Homosaurus! The Homosaurus is an international linked data vocabulary of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) terms. This vocabulary is intended to function as a companion to broad subject term vocabularies, such as the Library of Congress Subject Headings. Libraries, archives, museums, and other institutions are encouraged to use the Homosaurus to support LGBTQ research by enhancing the discoverability of their LGBTQ resources.

If you are interested in purchasing some Homosaurus swag, please visit our online shop. All proceeds are used to support the project or are donated to LGBTQ+ organizations.

If you are using the Homosaurus, we want to hear from you! Please contact us to let us know how you are using this vocabulary and share any feedback you might have.

Tagging - Challenges

→ Do we tag items with names of persons associated with them? Options:

  → Tagging only famous names - but where to draw the line between famous and non-famous?

  → Restrict tagging of persons to when person is the "subject" (i.e., topic) of the item, rather than contributor

→ When is it appropriate to create a new tag?

  → Being very (perhaps overly) selective about new tag creation to prevent tag bloat

DEI
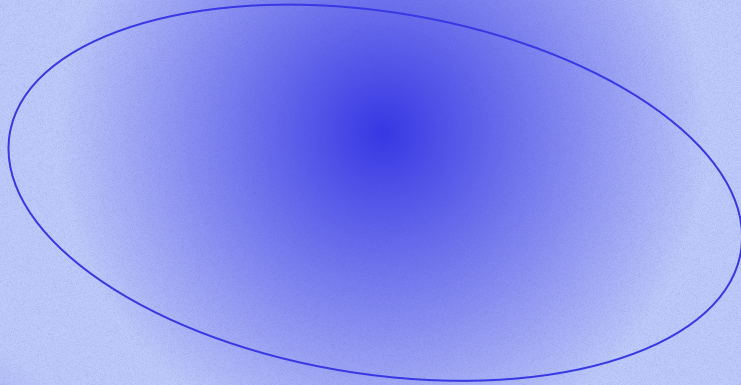
Instructional Method

Add Input

A process, used to engender knowledge, attitudes and skills, that the described resource is designed to support. Instructional Method will typically include ways of presenting instructional materials or conducting instructional activities, patterns of learner-to-learner and learner-to-instructor interactions, and mechanisms by which group and individual levels of learning are measured. Instructional methods include all aspects of the instruction and learning processes from planning and implementation through evaluation and feedback.

Insert required reading here!

Use HTML ☐

Thanks!