

Collections Purchase Cover Sheet

Date of Application: 10/27/13

Name, Department, and Rank: Ashley Currier, WGSS,
Assistant Professor

Amount Requested: \$31,000

Author/Editor/Compiler: Alexander Street Press

Title of Requested Materials: LGBT Thought and
Culture

Publisher/Distributor: Alexander Street Press

Date of Publication: 2013

Edition: First

Format: Electronic

Series: LGBT Thought and Culture

Price: \$32,500

ISBN/ISSN: 2324-7274

OCLC# (if known): 810943457

Place of Publication: Alexandria, Virginia

Is this a joint application? No

Checklist

- Proposal Narrative (500-1000 words).
- Budget Justification
- Letter of support from a library bibliographer if the collection is to be a library holding.
- A 2-page, recently updated curriculum vitae.
- Supporting materials.

Review Taft website for full application guidelines

If “Yes” complete the following section for all participating faculty

Name	Department	Rank	Award Percentage

Proposal Narrative

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) studies is an interdisciplinary field that explores the artistic, cultural, economic, and political contributions of gender and sexually diverse individuals to their societies and the discrimination and violence suffered by gender and sexual minorities. LGBTQ studies scholars also document how different societies have treated gender and sexual diversity in the past. Under the guise of queer theory, LGBTQ studies challenges scholars and laypersons not to make value judgments about gender and sexual diversity. Drawing on developments from other disciplines, LGBTQ studies scholars recognize that same-sex sexualities differ across time and place. One particular contribution of LGBTQ studies has been to diagnose the economic, social, and political privilege afforded to heterosexual and gender-conforming persons, while concomitantly denigrating and punishing gender and sexually nonconforming persons.

Sexuality studies, particularly LGBTQ studies, is a research and teaching strength of the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) at the University of Cincinnati. This strength attracts M.A. students to our program. Faculty with appointments in WGSS who have expertise in LGBTQ studies include Ashley Carrier, Amy C. Lind, Deborah T. Meem, and Carolyn Peterson; faculty with appointments outside of WGSS with expertise in LGBTQ studies include Michael Gott (Romance Languages and Literatures), John Maddux (English), Thérèse Migraine-George (Romance Languages and Literatures), Patricia Valladares-Ruiz (Romance Languages and Literatures), Valerie Weinstein (German Studies), and Sarah Whitton (Psychology). I have enclosed statements of support for the purchase of this collection authored by Carolyn Peterson and Thérèse Migraine-George (supporting materials).

The "LGBT Thought and Culture" collection has brought together several disparate collections. First, the archive contains the Magnus Hirschfeld Collection, which consists of Hirschfeld's correspondence, publications, newspaper articles, and court documents related to the life of the noted German sexologist. Second, the collection acquired parts of the Kinsey Institute's archives, such as early transgender and transsexual movement documents and publications. Third, the collection contains materials related to LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS organizing in the U.S. Fourth, other publications include newspapers that serve African American and Latina/o LGBTQ communities. Although the collection is not exhaustive, it provides students and researchers with an important starting point for delving more deeply into LGBTQ history, culture, and politics.

Acquiring the "LGBT Thought and Culture" collection would benefit faculty and students in WGSS and other departments in several ways. First, this resource constitutes a boon for students and faculty conducting research in the area of LGBTQ and sexuality studies. Many WGSS M.A. students have expressed interest in LGBTQ history, popular culture, and social movements in the U.S. and in other societies. For my own research, the collection would prove to be useful in a future research project examining the transnational diffusion of the "LGBT" acronym to other sources. I would be interested in using the collection to document the rise of the LGBT acronym in U.S. activist vocabulary and to identify contact U.S. LGBT activists had with LGBT activists in other countries. The "LGBT Thought and Culture" resource would provide students with primary and secondary sources they can use in their research. Such sources include films, novels, and original LGBTQ movement documents. Second, this resource would greatly enhance courses in LGBTQ and sexuality studies taught by WGSS faculty including Carrier, Lind, Meem, and Peterson. For instance, in my graduate-level "WGS 8000: Feminist Research and Methods" course, I teach students about archival research and analyzing primary

sources, such as personal narratives, newspaper articles, and original social movement documents. It would be a great advantage to turn to a collection of related documents to work with students on looking for connections among documents and how to analyze documents as a group. I also teach “LGBT Studies” and “Homophobias,” courses in which personal narratives and other primary sources would enhance my ability to illustrate lived gender and sexual diversity and differences in LGBT organizing across time and cultures.

Budget Justification

I am requesting \$31,000 to cover the cost of acquiring “LGBT Thought and Culture.” I quote from Sally Moffitt’s letter of support for acquiring this collection because she explains the budget for this collection very well: “*LGBT Thought and Culture* is available from Alexander Street Press for a one-time purchase price of \$32,500. This price includes MARC records for all individual items in the database. Inclusion of MARC records increases the database’s research value by providing access to each individual piece through author, title, subject, and keyword access in the library’s catalog as well as through searching or browsing in the database itself. There is an ongoing hosting fee of \$250 that will be assessed starting in 2015. The library pays for the annual hosting fee in addition to the cost of adding all the MARC records and other cataloging expenses. The library also assumes the ongoing costs associated with maintain and servicing the database. In addition, the library can put forward \$1,500.00 from the general collection’s allocation for acquiring women’s gender and sexuality studies monographic materials by foregoing purchases of current publications in that amount during 2013-2014” (p. 2).

Taft Grants Received in the Last Five Years

Project title: “Transnational Dimensions of African LGBT Organizing”

Award name: Travel for Research Award

Award letter date: January 16, 2013

Amount: \$3,700

Development: I completed the first phase of fieldwork for this project in the summer of 2013. I also obtained a small grant (\$7,000) from the American Sociological Association’s Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline for this project. The next phase of this project will involve arranging for the transcription and translation of interviews I conducted in West Africa and then analyzing these interview transcripts.

Project title: “Gendered Revolutions in Orthodox Judaism: It’s Not Just the Feminists”

Award name: Competitive Lecture Award

Award letter date: November 8, 2012

Amount: \$597.65

Development: Dr. Orit Avishai delivered a presentation based on her research with Israeli Orthodox Jewish women at the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center on March 7, 2013. Approximately 40 people attended her talk.

Project title: “The Toxic Closet: Being Gay in the Bible Belt”

Award name: Competitive Lecture Award

Award letter date: November 7, 2012

Amount: \$554.39

Development: Dr. Bernadette Barton delivered a presentation based on her book, *Pray the Gay Away: The Extraordinary Lives of Bible Belt Gays*, on January 17, 2013. Approximately 150 people attended the talk. Her book was a finalist for a 2013 Lambda Literary Award in the LGBT Studies category.

Project title: ““The Diffusion of Political Homophobia in Contemporary African Contexts”

Award name: Domestic Conference Travel Grant

Award letter date: October 3, 2012

Amount: \$680.90

Development: The conference paper is part of a chapter of my current book manuscript, “The Politicization of Homosexuality in Africa.” I will complete a draft of this book manuscript during the 2013-14 academic year. An American Association of University Women Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship will support my work on the book manuscript.

Ashley Currier

Curriculum Vitae

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Sexuality Studies
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Education

Ph.D. Sociology (certificates in Women's Studies and Cultural Studies)
2007 University of Pittsburgh

M.A. Sociology
2003 University of Pittsburgh

M.A. English
2001 University of Pittsburgh

B.A. (*summa cum laude*) English and Spanish
1998 University of Oklahoma

Academic Appointments

2012-present Assistant Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies,
University of Cincinnati

2007-2012 Assistant Professor of Sociology (50%) and Women's and Gender Studies
(50%), Texas A&M University

Publications

Book

Currier, Ashley. 2012. *Out in Africa: LGBT Organizing in Namibia and South Africa*.
Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
*Honorable Mention for 2013 ARNOVA Award for Outstanding Book in Nonprofit and
Voluntary Action Research
*Finalist for 2013 Lambda Literary Book Award—LGBT Studies category
Reviewed in *African Affairs*, *African Studies Review*, *GLQ*, *Human Rights Quarterly*,
Journal of African History, *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, and *Mobilization: An
International Journal*

Journal Articles

Currier, Ashley. 2012. "De la ventriloquie provisoire: l'inclusion de la catégorie transgenre dans
les mobilisations LGBT en Namibie et en Afrique du Sud." (English title: Temporary
Ventriloquism: Transgender Inclusion in Namibian and South African LGBT
Organizing.") *Politique Africaine* 126: 87-108.

Currier, Ashley. 2012. "The Aftermath of Decolonization: Gender and Sexual Dissidence in
Postindependence Namibia." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 37(2): 441-
467.

*Recipient of 2013 American Sociological Association Sex and Gender Distinguished Article Award

- Blee, Kathleen M. and Ashley Currier. 2011. "Ethics Beyond the IRB: An Introductory Essay." *Qualitative Sociology* 34(3): 401-413.
- Currier, Ashley. 2011. "Representing Gender and Sexual Dissidence in Southern Africa." *Qualitative Sociology* 34(3): 463-481.
- Currier, Ashley. 2011. "Decolonizing the Law: LGBT Organizing in Namibia and South Africa." *Studies in Law, Politics, and Society* 54: 17-44.
- Currier, Ashley. 2010. "Political Homophobia in Postcolonial Namibia." *Gender & Society* 24(1): 110-129.
- Currier, Ashley. 2010. "The Strategy of Normalization in the South African LGBT Movement." *Mobilization: An International Journal* 15(1): 45-62.
- Blee, Kathleen M. and Ashley Currier. 2006. "How Local Social Movement Groups Handle a Presidential Election." *Qualitative Sociology* 29(3): 261-280.
- Blee, Kathleen M. and Ashley Currier. 2005. "Character-Building: The Dynamics of Emerging Social Movement Groups." *Mobilization: An International Journal* 10(1): 129-144.
- Book Chapters (*Refereed)*
- *Currier, Ashley and Joëlle M. Cruz. 2014. "Civil Society and Sexual Struggles in Africa." In *The Handbook of Civil Society in Africa*, ed. Ebenezer Obadare. New York: Springer.
- *Currier, Ashley. 2010. "Behind the Mask: Developing LGBTI Visibility in Africa." In *Development, Sexual Rights, and Global Governance: Resisting Global Power*, ed. Amy Lind. New York: Routledge.
- *Currier, Ashley. 2009. "Deferral of Legal Tactics: A Global LGBT Social Movement Organization's Perspective." In *Queer Mobilizations: LGBT Activists Confront the Law*, eds. Scott Barclay, Mary Bernstein, and Anna-Maria Marshall. New York: New York University Press.
- Blee, Kathleen M. and Ashley Currier. 2007. "Are National Politics Local? Social Movement Responses to the 2004 Presidential Election." In *New Perspectives in Political Ethnography*, eds. Lauren Joseph, Matthew Mahler, and Javier Auyero. New York: Springer.

Selected Recent Grants and Fellowships

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2013-14 | American Association of University Women Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship |
| 2013 | Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline, American Sociological Association |
| 2013 | American Council of Education (ACE) Ohio Women's Network Professional Development Scholarship |
| 2012 | Publication Support Grant, Text and Academic Authors Association |

Work in Progress

Book Manuscript

- Currier, Ashley. "The Politicization of Homosexuality in Malawi."

Taft Bibliographer's letter

To: Members of the Taft Research Support Committee: Dr. Nicasio Urbina, Chair

From: Sally Moffitt, Reference Librarian and Bibliographer for Anthropology, History, Philosophy, Political Science; Africana Studies, Asian Studies, Judaic Studies, Latin American Studies, Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies; Cohen Library Enrichment Collection

Date: October 21, 2013

***LGBT Thought and Culture* database provides primary source documentation for teaching and research addressing both current LGBT political and social movements and their historical antecedents during the past 100 years of the 20th century. The material that forms the core of this database is widely scattered among various entities including research facilities such as the Kinsey Institute Archive and Library and the National Archives of Great Britain; local and national organizations such as ACT UP and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; noted publishers of LGBT literature such as Lambda Publications and Seal Press; and the contents of important archival collections such as the Magnus Hirschfeld Collection and the Tracy Baim Editorial Files.**

Types of resources brought together from these widely scattered repositories include literary works both published and in manuscript; letters, memoirs, biographies, and personal papers; professional correspondence and confidential reports of early sex researchers; speeches and interviews; seminal texts and ephemera. Because these resources are drawn from holdings in the United States, Latin America, Europe, Australia, and New Zealand they afford an unprecedented overview of the transnational nature of LGBT experience, thought, and culture.

***LGBT Thought and Culture* database offers guided searching by author, title, topic, and named archival collection contents in addition to free-text searching over the entire database contents. Playlists are a unique feature of this database, allowing researchers to create their own personal files of resources selected from the contents of the database. These playlists may be annotated, edited, and shared. Playlists may be used in-class as a teaching resource or may be assigned to students for out-of-class viewing. Each playlist that is created contains its own unique static URL.**

WorldCat shows that as of this writing 9 university libraries have added *LGBT Thought and Culture* to their collections, none of which are in Ohio and the closest of which is at Northwestern University. The database is not among CRL's collections nor is it likely to be since for CRL to provide online access to its many member institutions is cost prohibitive. CRL continues to purchase microfilm and print collections, but does not purchase digital collections.

Acquisition of *LGBT Thought and Culture* will enhance and compliment a number of research collections in University Libraries, including these microfilm collections: *Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance Archives, ca. 1972-1994*; *Lesbian Herstory Archives Subject Files*; *National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Records, 1973-2000*; *Selected Newsletters and Periodicals from the Holdings of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Transgender History Society Parts 1 through 3*; *Selected Periodicals and Newsletters from the Holdings of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society*; *Underground Newspaper Collection*; *Women and/in Health/Women's History Research Center*; *Women and Law*; and the databases *Women and Social Movements in the United States Scholar's Edition* and *Women and Social Movements International*.

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RE: WGSS Taft Collections application for "LGBT Thought and Culture"

Migraine-George, Therese (migrait)

To: [Currier, Ashley \(currieay\)](#)

I strongly support the WGSS Taft Collections application for "LGBT Thought and Culture." This interdisciplinary database will be of critical importance to my research, which touches on various LGBTQ issues in both Western and non-Western cultures. For example, I have conducted and published research on same-sex relations in West Africa, Haiti, and France. For a future book project, I am also planning to explore the question of ethnic and sexual differences in Paris in the 1920s. Finding adequate resources and materials on the lives and experiences of LGBTQ people is often a challenging task because there are still very few archives and databases devoted to collecting this information. "LGBT Thought and Culture" will therefore provide me with much-needed help and a precious wealth of information in the course of my prospective research.

Thérèse Migraine-George
Associate Professor,
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From: [Currier, Ashley \(currieay\)](#)
Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2013 10:19 AM
To: [Migraine-George, Therese \(migrait\)](#)

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Support for LGBT Thought and Culture Database acquisition

Carolyn Peterson [snormal@gmail.com]

To: Currier, Ashley (currieay)

Thursday, October 24, 2013 3:19 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

The LGBT Thought and Culture Database is a custom-fit for our classes and students in sexuality studies. It provides key resources of interest for us to research sexuality through works in many disciplines, including sociology, anthropology, psychology, history, political science, gender studies, cultural studies, and religious studies. My courses are by nature interdisciplinary (Human Sexuality and Advanced Human Sexuality), and so this collection meets our research needs perfectly, especially as we further develop an understanding of LGBT issues. What a rich source for students researching LGBT history, politics, culture and identity. For the University to acquire this LGBT database, which furthers both our academic mission and commitment to valuing diversity in research, reflects positively on UC's scholarly and institutional integrity. I fully and passionately support the acquisition of this database.

Thank you for your consideration,

Carolyn Peterson

Educator Instructor

Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

University of Cincinnati

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Don't Forget To Be Awesome

Carolyn Peterson, MA

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