

“A Library is a Place Where You Can Lose Your Innocence Without Losing Your Virginity”: LGBTQAI+ Young Adults, Young Adult Literature, & Sexuality Health Information Needs

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ABSTRACT

Although sexual education programs are staples in the middle and high school curricula, many of these courses are abstinence-based which do not serve the needs of the teen demographic, let alone those who are LGBTQAI+. LGBTQAI+-focused literature can help fill the gaps in sexuality/sexual health information not addressed in public school curricula. Content analysis, both quantitative and qualitative divulges sexuality and sexual health issues examined in LGBTQAI+ marketed young adult literature. Individual interviews of LGBTQAI+ young adults add insight into whether the positive and negative aspects of the young adult literature, discovered through content analysis, affect them in their enjoyment of or willingness to read the book, whether the issues in the book are authentic and pertinent to their everyday life, and if the books fulfill an information need they have about sexuality or sexual health. The mixed methods complement each other as the content analysis explores what is contained in the texts while the interviews with LGBTQAI+ teens will determine the significance of those findings.

ALISE RESEARCH TAXONOMY TOPICS

information needs; information seeking; specific populations; young adult services; publishing; collections development

AUTHOR KEYWORDS

LGBTQ; young adults; reading; literature; equity; intersectionality; sexuality health