



Pride West group march in London, 1994 (ref. 45120/Ph/1)

Bristol Archives

Sources for research: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer history



Queer Heritage
and Collections
Network

MEMBER

Online catalogue archives.bristol.gov.uk
Website www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-archives
Email archives@bristol.gov.uk
Telephone 0117 922 4224

Contents

Introduction	Page 3
LGBTQ+ terminology	Page 4
About this guide	Page 4
Using our collections	Page 5
Online resources	Page 5
LGBTQ+ material at Bristol Archives	
Organisational records	Page 7
Activists' and personal papers	Page 8
Other evidence of LGBTQ+ lives	Page 9
Case studies	Page 13
Useful websites	Page 15
Further reading	Page 16
Other LGBTQ+ material in Bristol	Page 17
Other significant LGBTQ+ collections in the UK	Page 18

We are grateful to the donors of personal and organisational collections included in this guide.

Introduction

There are many different sources you can use to research the history of LGBTQ+ people. Bristol Archives holds a number of collections relating to LGBTQ+ organisations and people. These are listed in this source guide and can be viewed on our online catalogue. However, these collections are not the only archival sources for LGBTQ+ history; records relating to LGBTQ+ people may be found across many of our collections. This source guide aims to highlight collections which may be useful and relevant for researchers of LGBTQ+ history. Because of the historic legal and social persecution of LGBTQ+ people, there are particular challenges researchers may need to recognise and overcome. These include:

Terminology: Many words we commonly use for LGBTQ+ people (e.g. 'trans' and 'lesbian') are relatively modern and will only appear in more recent records. Similarly, older records of LGBTQ+ people may include language that is today considered outdated or offensive. See the next section of this guide for more advice about terminology.

Absence or obscurity of LGBTQ+ sources: Historically, many LGBTQ+ people hid or did not express their sexual and/or gender identities due to contemporary taboos, morals and laws, so that these aspects of their lives were recorded euphemistically or not at all. For example, in the 1950s and 1960s personal diaries were used in court to convict homosexual men, so for many it became safer not to create written records in the first place. Where it exists, documentary evidence may not be explicit or obvious and LGBTQ+ perspectives may need to be interpreted, for example, same-sex couples may be described as 'close friendships'.

Loss of LGBTQ+ sources: Where LGBTQ+ histories were explicitly recorded, they may have since been lost, hidden or destroyed. LGBTQ+ people may have done this themselves to hide their identities for their own safety. Alternatively, others may have wished to suppress LGBTQ+ material. The diaries of Anne Lister (1791-1840), popularly known as 'Gentleman Jack', are an interesting example. Anne wrote sections of her diaries in code, hiding details of her lesbian relationships. Her descendants managed to decipher them but hid them again, physically, because of their content. The diaries were not published for almost a century after the code was cracked. They are now held by [West Yorkshire Archive Services](#).

Authorship: Where records of LGBTQ+ people have survived, their contents may be affected by the perspectives of the records' creators. Historic negative attitudes mean that many of our older collections contain records which were not created by or for LGBTQ+ people and were instead designed to control, malign or punish them (for example, court and prison records or hospital records). In the last century, social attitudes have shifted significantly and LGBTQ+ people have become more able to express and document their identities, lives, and communities. Archive collections created or gathered by LGBTQ+ people range from records of activism and community activities to personal papers of LGBTQ+ individuals.

Depositing LGBTQ+ sources: LGBTQ+ collections may include sensitive personal information. Against a background of stigma, discrimination and criminalisation, LGBTQ+ material generated by the community themselves has not always been recognised by archivists or specifically collected. LGBTQ+ people may have chosen not to deposit their material in official archives, or to restrict access for their own security or peace of mind.

Restricted sources: More recent records may include sensitive information about people who are still alive and are subject to data protection legislation. These records will be restricted, and this will be noted in the collection descriptions on our online catalogue. Please contact us if you wish to view these records.

Catalogue descriptions: Archive catalogues include the title and a brief description of a document but do not reproduce the document's content in full. This may make relevant material hard to find as LGBTQ+ content will not be explicitly highlighted in the catalogue. Catalogues are constantly being updated. Omissions which might have been made in the past due to prejudice or simply not recognising the nature of the content are corrected where found.

Archival research can be difficult, and researching LGBTQ+ history may be especially challenging, but we hope you will find that it is a rewarding experience. If you have any questions or difficulties, please contact us and we will try our best to help you. If you believe we have missed the LGBTQ+ significance of collections we hold, please let us know so we can better highlight these in the future.

LGBTQ+ terminology

The Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) has a guide to modern LGBTQ+ terminology (available [on this link](#)) and the National Archives (TNA) has a list of historically used terms as part of their Sexuality and Gender Identity Source Guide (available [on this link](#)). This terminology can be used for searching our catalogues but remember that many of these terms are time- and context-specific. While they may be used in documents, they may not appear in catalogue entries.

About this guide

This source guide highlights some key collections and individual documents for exploring Bristol's LGBTQ+ history, but it is not an exhaustive list. To find further material, visit our [online catalogue](#) - we have also created a [category](#) for LGBTQ+ sources.

Using our collections

To find out more information about visiting Bristol Archives, please [visit our website](#).

Resources which are available online are highlighted in blue boxes like this

Online resources

Our catalogues

The [Bristol Archives catalogue](#) describes the collections that are available for research at Bristol Archives. In general, it provides only a short description of the material, which anyone can come to consult in our public searchroom. However, we have digitised some large image collections, and these can be viewed within catalogue entries.

The British Empire and Commonwealth collection, also housed and viewable at Bristol Archives, has its [own catalogue](#) which is searched in the same way.

The title of records in the catalogue are based on the titles given to them by their creators. Catalogue descriptions are brief summaries of a document's content. There are a number of techniques you can use to refine and improve a search of our catalogue. For tips and explanations see the [help](#) page.

You may have more success if you are able to use a wider range and combination of search terms. It is also very useful to know what type of record might hold the kind of information you are looking for. This source guide provides suggestions of collections which are known to include, or are likely to include, LGBTQ+ material.

Outstories Bristol

[Outstories Bristol](#) is a local history group that collects and preserves the social history and recollections of LGBTQ+ people living in or associated with Bristol. As well as information on their own website, some of their research is included as a layer on [Know Your Place Bristol](#). This digital mapping resource for Bristol also provides access to some digitised heritage collections from the city's museums and library, as well as the council's Historic Environment Record data.

Family history sites

If you are researching individual people, sites such as [Ancestry.co.uk](https://www.ancestry.co.uk) and [Findmypast.co.uk](https://www.findmypast.co.uk) are useful sources. These provide access to census records, trade directories and other records about individuals. These are both subscription websites, but access is free at Bristol Archives and Bristol libraries.

Newspapers

Online newspaper libraries can be a valuable source of information, reporting on local events and activity such as court cases or controversial events. The [British Newspaper Archive](https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) can be accessed for free at Bristol Archives and Bristol Libraries. A number of other online newspaper resources can also be accessed via [Bristol Libraries](https://www.bristollibraries.co.uk). When searching newspapers, it is important to use the terms used by the press of the time and not by the terms that are acceptable today.

LGBTQ+ material at Bristol Archives

Organisational records

These records relate to organisations either run by and for LGBTQ+ people (for example, campaign groups and support groups) or organisations, while not specifically LGBTQ+ related, whose records contain material relating to LGBTQ+ people and/or activities (for example, art organisations with material relating to LGBTQ+ artists). The dates given for each organisation relate to the dates of the material we hold, not the dates the organisation was active.

Arnolfini, 1961-2020 (ref. [43371](#))

The Arnolfini is an art gallery in central Bristol which has exhibited the work of LGBTQ+ artists, including Robert Mapplethorpe (ref. [43371/Dept/Exh/1/M/8](#)), DV8, Ron Athey, Franko B and Tom Marshman. Their archive of sound recordings includes a talk about the work of Derek Jarman (ref. [43371/Dept/Ed/4/207/1](#)). The Arnolfini also served as a refuge, provided public facilities, and held film nights, protests and meetings which are considered the precursors to Bristol Pride events (for example, ref. [40765/X/2](#) – a programme relating to Bristol Gay Festival in 1985).

Bristol Gay Centre, 1976-2013 (ref. [40765](#))

The centre, open from 1978 to 1983, contained a café and spaces for parties, meetings, and discos. It also provided premises for Bristol Gay Switchboard (see below). The collection includes administrative records, correspondence, financial records, minutes, and newsletters.

Bristol Gay Switchboard, 1976-2011 (ref. [45120](#))

Bristol Lesbian and Gay Switchboard was established in 1975 as Gay Switchboard Bristol by a collective working from Bristol's Women's Centre. The collection includes administrative, financial, operational, photographs and printed material. The service was wound up in 2012 and taken over by the London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard (now Switchboard). The papers of this successor organisation are held by the [Bishopsgate Institute](#).

Records of Gay West, 1972-2019 (ref. [45281](#))

Gay West is a social and support group covering Bristol, Bath and the surrounding area. It can trace its origins back to April 1970 when the Bristol group of the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (CHE Bristol) was founded. The collection includes the records of the organisation and a large amount of publicity material from other LGBTQ+ organisations. Some parts of this collection are restricted at the request of the depositor.

OutStories Bristol, 1981-2011 (ref. [46561](#))

OutStories Bristol is Bristol's LGBTQ+ history society. It has worked with Bristol Archives and Bristol Culture for many years to create, record, and share archives and objects from Bristol's LGBTQ+ past. Their [website](#) displays their projects including the 'Mapping LGBTQ+ Bristol' and the ground-breaking 'Revealing Stories' exhibition in 2013. The collection

includes records relating to Bristol Gay Centre (also known as the Bristol Lesbian and Gay Centre Project), programmes, flyers, and newsletters.

Freedom Youth, 1995-2016 (ref. [45795](#))

One of the oldest LGBTQ+ youth services in the UK, now part of Off the Record Bristol, a mental health social movement, Freedom Youth provides safe social groups, information, support, and opportunities to young people in the city. The collection includes administrative, financial and illustrative material.

ShoutOut Radio, 2000s-2010s (ref. [46459](#))

ShoutOut Radio is a magazine radio show for the local LGBTQ+ community, on [BCfm](#) a community radio station based in Bristol. The collection includes papers related to ShoutOut Radio, Bristol City Council related reports, flyers, leaflets, booklets and magazines, and national publications by Stonewall and the government.

Posters from the LGBT Society, University of the West of England, 2011 (ref. [45677](#))

Now known as the UWE LGBT+ Society, the group is a hub for information and social organisation for LGBTQ+ students and staff. The collection contains posters advertising student events.

Activists' and personal papers

The following collections are the personal records and collections of individuals from the Bristol area.

Our activists' papers include correspondence relating to campaigning as well as records of groups in which the individuals were involved. There is considerable overlap and some duplication of records in these collections with the records in our organisational collections ([listed above](#)).

Personal papers may provide evidence of LGBTQ+ lifestyles and relationships but due to their illegal or taboo status, they were historically rarely documented. Some of our collections are likely to include material which reflects the lives of LGBTQ+ people but may contain little or no explicit evidence of their LGBTQ+ identity.

Records of Charles Beaton relating to various organisations and charities, 1975-2001 (ref. [45248](#))

Charles Beaton has been socially and politically active in Bristol for decades. His collection is a rich source of LGBTQ+ related material demonstrating the social attitudes and the campaigning activities of the time. It includes records relating to Action Against Homophobic Hate Crimes, HIV support charity The Aled Richards Trust, the Avon and Somerset Lesbian and Gay Policing Initiative, the Campaign for Homosexual Equality (Bristol) and the Labour Campaign for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Records of Robert Howes relating to Bristol and South West LGBT organisations, 1983-2015 (ref. [44881](#))

Robert Howes is a Bristol-born researcher and activist. This collection includes material collected during activities with Outstories and while researching his book, *Gay West* (ref. [Bk/2500](#)). It also includes lobbying correspondence with various political figures.

Organisations represented include Gay West, Amicus, Bristol Gay Centre, the Aled Richards Trust, Avon Pride, the Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual (LGB) Forum and OutStories Bristol. Content includes newsletters, event programmes, information leaflets, and some administrative records of OutStories. Robert Howes has also donated collections to the [Bishopsgate Institute](#) and [Cambridge University Library](#).

Papers of Doris K Flinn, sculptor, and Joan Tuckett, actor, of East Dundry, near Bristol, 1890s-1940s (ref. [40214](#))

Doris Flinn and Joan Tuckett lived together and worked in Bristol most of their lives. There is no written evidence that they were a couple, but it is widely understood that they were. Flinn was a celebrated sculptor and Tuckett was a teacher and theatre director. Both were very active socialists and members of the Communist Party. Their papers include sketchbooks, photographs, correspondence, diaries, and press cuttings.

Other evidence of LGBTQ+ lives

Legal and criminal records

Male homosexual activity was partially decriminalised in England and Wales in 1967. Female homosexual activity was never criminalised but was socially taboo. As a result, many records which provide evidence about LGBTQ+ people come from legal and criminal records.

The language used in these records may obscure the nature of the crime. For example, 'sodomy' may describe consensual sex between men, but could also refer to religious dissent (especially Catholicism) or treason, bestiality, rape, public indecency or other sex-based crimes. Other terms to look out for include 'soliciting', 'immoral', 'indecency', 'buggery' and references to a 'disorderly house'. This term could mean prostitution or gambling, instead of, or as well as, homosexual activity. It's worth remembering that spellings of these words and the names of people involved may vary.

In the 20th century, police entrapped men into activities which would be considered public indecency (known as cottaging) in order to charge them. However, most records of these convictions are currently restricted under data protection legislation.

For an example of using criminal records, see the case study on [page 13](#).

Details of arrests, convictions and punishment may be found in several record series, examples are given over the page:

Courts including the **Quarter Sessions** (ref. [JQS](#)) and **Magistrates' Court** (ref. [JMag](#)): There are many examples of references to “disorderly house[s]” in the Quarter Sessions papers: (ref. [JQS/P/766/1](#); ref. [JQS/P/779](#); ref. [JQS/P/812](#)). In the 20th century, pairs of men are listed in the docket books of the court of Quarter Sessions (ref. [JQS/D](#)) for the offence of “(Gross) indecency”. A full [list of our court collections](#) is available on our online catalogue.

Prison records: Multiple cases of ‘buggery’ are listed in the gaol delivery fiats from 1741-1771 (ref. [JQS/GD/1](#)). Transcriptions of these are available on [Rictor Norton's website](#). A full [list of our prison collections](#) is available on our online catalogue.

Town Clerk's administrative papers: (ref. [TC/Adm](#)): The Town Clerk was one of the two most senior officers of the Corporation of Bristol, the predecessor of Bristol City Council. The records of the Town Clerk's office include documents relating to law and justice. Similar to the court records, there are references to “disorderly house[s]” throughout the collection including in ref. [TC/Adm/Box/22/17](#) and ref. [TC/Adm/Box/73/7](#). A more unusual example is an information (witness statement) used in the trial of two men convicted of buggery (ref. [TC/Adm/Box/6/9/1](#) – see the case study on [page 13](#)).

Printed notice entitled 'A list of persons executed at Bristol since the year 1741, being a space of 94 years', c 1835 (ref. [12967](#)) which includes pairs of men hanged for “unnatural crimes”.

Further research may reveal LGBTQ+ relevant material being found in the following legal collections:

Judicial records of the **Diocese of Bristol** (ref. [EP/J](#)): Consistory (church) courts historically had jurisdiction over a wide range of legal matters including sexual behaviour, although cases relating to sexuality would have been a small proportion of the court's business.

Police records of **Bristol Constabulary** (1836-1974) and **Avon & Somerset Constabulary** (1974-) (ref. [Pol](#)): It can take time to find relevant material within these records, although newspaper reports may be useful for identifying cases to investigate.

Medical and health records

Homosexuality and gender dysphoria has historically been treated as a mental disorder, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries (and sometimes in the 21st century). We hold records for a number of hospitals and asylums in the Bristol area. However, records of individuals may be restricted under data protection legislation. A list of [health and welfare collections](#) is available on our online catalogue

Material related to HIV/AIDS and the LGBTQ+ community can be found in the following collections:

The library collection of the **Bristol Racial Equality Council (BREC)** (ref. [43129/Lib](#)) contains published material on topics of relevance to BREC's work from a wide range of sources and organisations. In particular, material from the Terrence Higgins Trust, Aled Richards Trust and other HIV/AIDS organisations can be found under ref. [43129/Lib/He/3](#). LGBTQ+ relevant material can also be found in other parts of the library collection such as Employment (ref. [43129/Lib/E](#)) and Social Services (ref. [43129/Lib/SS](#)).

Minutes of **Bristol City Council**, particularly the Health and Public Protection Committee (ref. [M/BCC/HPP](#)) whose minute books provide an index at the front of each volume.

Literature and papers relating to HIV/AIDS in the records of the **Diocese of Bristol's** Board for Social Responsibility (ref. [EP/addtl2002/J1/5](#)).

Miscellaneous material relating to HIV/AIDS can also be found across the collections of the various Bristol LGBTQ+ organisations held at Bristol Archives (see above for [organisational records](#)).

Political records

Committee minutes for **Bristol City Council** (ref. [M/BCC](#)) may record discussions and decisions relating to LGBTQ+ issues made by the council. For example, the issue of children of lesbian and gay parents being bullied in schools is discussed by the Equalities Committee in March 1992 (ref. [M/BCC/EQU/1/4](#)). Minutes are arranged chronologically but are often unindexed. Knowing the date that a topic was discussed by a committee is helpful. Historic newspapers can be a useful resource for establishing this information (see the Corn Exchange case study on [page 14](#)).

Material about LGBTQ+ politics and events can be found in the various **Labour Party** and **Liberal Party** collections we hold – particularly in minutes, correspondence, and printed materials. Examples include motions concerning LGBTQ+ issues and publicity about LGBTQ+ organisations and demonstrations. However, these records are not thematically organised and LGBTQ+ material is scattered throughout the collections. Additionally, some political collections have restricted access. A [list of political collections](#), including political parties, activist and trades union collections, is available on our online catalogue.

British Empire and Commonwealth Collection (BECC)

Bristol Archives is home to the [British Empire and Commonwealth Collection](#) – a collection of objects, artworks, photographs, films, papers and sound archives donated by British people who lived and worked in many parts of the former empire and Commonwealth. Two examples of LGBTQ+ lives are given here; it is probable that there will be further material across the collection. Evidence is likely to be obscure or use outdated terms which are now considered offensive.

Chisman collection 8: Scenes in New and old Delhi, 1940s (ref. [2006/005/1/8](#)): This 1940s film includes a segment featuring street performers, one of whom may be a Hijra, a third gender person.

Wright collection: Diaries, 1940s (ref. [2000/084/1/2/5](#)): Wright worked in East Africa and on 4 April 1940 recalls accompanying a “hermaphrodite who wanted P.T [poll tax] exemption to Lowenthal to be examined and photographed.”

Newspapers, publications and media

Historic newspapers for the city are held at Bristol Reference Library and are also available on the [British Newspaper Archive](#) (see [online resources](#) above for more information). Some of our archive collections include newspaper cuttings and scrapbooks, but we do not systematically collect published sources.

Examining historic newspapers can provide evidence of LGBTQ+ stories, but this research requires time and diligence. You may also find noteworthy Bristol stories reported in newspapers elsewhere in the UK and overseas. Colonial newspapers were able to report British news with fewer restrictions. [Trove](#) contains Australian newspapers and American newspapers can be found on the Library of Congress [Chronicling America website](#). As with other sources, terminology may be obscure, euphemistic, or offensive.

Case studies

The following case studies are intended to demonstrate how archive sources can be used to explore LGBTQ+ lives.

Men hanged together for ‘unnatural crimes’

Some people convicted of ‘unnatural crimes’ in the 19th and 20th centuries were pairs of men caught having sex. Researching this topic can be difficult because of euphemistic language used in records. The term ‘unnatural crimes’ referred to various crimes, including sex between men, but detail is challenging to find. A project by [Outstories](#) in 2013 found that records relating to punishment proved to be more useful source for LGBTQ+ history research.

Bristol Archives holds a notice printed circa 1835 titled ‘A list of persons executed at Bristol since the year 1741, being a space of 94 years’ (ref. [12967](#)). Two pairs of men, ‘Arnold and Critchley [sic]’ (1753) and ‘B Loveday and J Burke’ (1781), are listed as being hanged together for ‘unnatural crime’. Historian [Rictor Norton](#) cites contemporary newspaper reports which confirm that all four men were convicted for homosexual activity. He also found the men listed in Gaol Delivery Fiats (ref. [JQS/GD](#)) of which the earlier entries (1741-1799) have been [transcribed by Bristol Record Society](#).

Since the OutStories research, a further reference to two of these men – William Critchard and Richard Arnold has been found at Bristol Archives (ref. [TC/Adm/Box/6/9/1](#)). This is the witness statement of the landlord of the Swan Inn who states he saw Critchard and Arnold engaged in a sexual act.

The Radnor Hotel

‘The Radnor’ on St Nicholas Street is thought to be [Bristol’s first gay bar](#). Outstories researchers used a combination of trade directories (ref. [Dir](#)) and licensing documents (ref. [JMag/J/3](#)), to put together a history of landlords and license-owners for the venue. They also collected first person testimony from Peggy Hancock who worked in the pub for many years.

Building plans (ref. [Building plan/Volume 181/62y](#)) and historic photographs of the site (ref. [35529/22](#)) helped to confirm and augment stories told through oral histories. For instance, it was said that for a time before the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality in 1967, LGBTQ+ customers could take advantage of the pub’s two bars – the ‘front bar’ being in view of the window onto the street, but the ‘back bar’ being behind a curtain and in which LGBTQ+ clientele felt more comfortable.

Bristol Gay Centre at the Corn Exchange

OutStories were able to research an incident in the 1970s when a Conservative councillor unsuccessfully objected to Bristol Gay Centre hiring the Corn Exchange for a meeting. The indexes of the Minutes of Bristol City Council committee meetings were checked (Ref. [M/BCC](#)) but no relevant references were found. Newspapers at Bristol Reference Library provided the date of the incident ('Councillor fails again to halt festival', *Bristol Mercury* 6 April 1978). This allowed the relevant entry to be found, by date, indexed under council motions simply as 'Corn Exchange' (ref. [M/BCC/BC/1/96](#)).

Grave of Ellen Drew Braysher and Amelia Blanford Edwards

Ellen Drew Braysher was the partner of the writer, traveller and archaeologist, Amelia Blanford Edwards. They were buried together at St Mary's church in Henbury in 1892 under a single memorial which names Ellen as 'for more than thirty years the beloved friend of B Amelia Edwards'. In 2016, their grave was given listed status and the [Historic England listing](#) includes a transcription of the inscription on the memorial. Their burials are recorded in the parish burial register (ref. [P.Hen/R/4/d](#)) and bishop's transcript (ref. [EP/V/4](#)). Their relationship is acknowledged in an index of Henbury burials (ref. [P.Hen/R/4/e](#)).

Useful websites

[Finding records of sexuality and gender identity history](#) - Guide by The National Archives, including guidance on historical language.

[List of documents related to LGBT history](#) at The National Archives, identified by theme.

The National Archives also provide a free teaching pack re this topic [LGBTQ+ history in the archives - The National Archives](#)

[OutStories Bristol](#) – Bristol’s LGBTQ+ history society. Website includes profiles of important LGBTQ+ icons and allies, historic local venues and a history of Pride in Bristol.

[Lesbian and Gay Newsmedia Archive \(LAGNA\)](#) – an online catalogue of the LAGNA collection at the Bishopsgate Institute comprising approximately 200,000 newspaper cuttings as well as photos, badges, t-shirts, books and more.

[Digital Transgender Archive](#) – an online hub for digitised records relating to transgender history from archives around the world.

Rictor Norton’s [Gay History & Literature](#) website includes sourcebooks of LGBTQ+ people in primary sources from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

[Studies in Scarlet: Marriage and Sexuality in the US & UK, 1815-1914](#) – narratives drawn from the Harvard Law School Library’s trial collections

The [Log Books podcast](#), based on records of the Switchboard LGBT+ helpline at the Bishopsgate Institute

The [Homosaurus](#) - an international linked data vocabulary of LGBTQ+ terms

[Exploring LGBTQ+ history at National Trust places](#) - a guide to the National Trust’s work on highlighting LGBTQ+ histories relating to their properties and collections including case studies of historical figures.

[Queer Heritage and Collections Network](#) - a Subject Specialist Network with institutional members across all nations and regions of the UK, founded in May 2020 to increase the understanding of, access to, and engagement with LGBTQ+ heritage.

Further reading

The following is a non-exhaustive list of LGBTQ+ research guides or books with specific Bristol LGBTQ+ content. Those listed here with a reference number are available to view at Bristol Archives.

A practical guide to searching LGBTQIA historical records by Norena Shopland, 2020 (ref. [Bk/2741](#))

Free To Be Me – Celebrating 21 years of Freedom Youth by Rosa Fanti and Lori Streich (ref. [45795/IM/PM/1](#))

Gateway to heaven: fifty years of lesbian and gay oral history by Clare Summerskill, 2012 (ref. [Bk/2740](#))

Gay West: civil society, community and LGBT history in Bristol and Bath *1970 to 2010* by Robert Howes, 2011 (ref. [Bk/2500](#))

Pride Pop and Politics: Music, Theatre and LGBT Activism, 1970 – 2022 by Darryl W Bullock

Out of the ordinary: a life of gender and spiritual transitions, the autobiography of Michael Dillon, 2016

The women who built Bristol, 1184-2018 by Jane Duffus, 2018 (ref. [Bk/2661](#))

The women who built Bristol, volume two by Jane Duffus, 2019 (ref. [Bk/2706](#))

Other LGBTQ+ History material in Bristol

Bristol Museums

Queens Road, Bristol, BS8 1RL

Tel 0117 922 3571

Email bristolmuseums@bristol.gov.uk

Website www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/collections

Material related to Bristol's LGBTQ+ community from the 1970s onwards, including oral history interviews collected through the OutStories project. Interviewees include Peter Main (Bristol's first openly gay Lord Mayor), Daryn Carter (a director of Bristol Pride), Dale Wakefield, the female founder of Switchboard and historians, Andy Foyle and George Gosling. Summaries of these can be found by searching the catalogue using the keyword 'outstories'.

Bristol Reference Library

Bristol Central Library, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TL

Tel 0117 903 7202

Email refandinfo@bristol.gov.uk

Website www.bristol.gov.uk/libraries-archives

For historic newspapers collections and other local history material.

Feminist Archive South

Special Collections, University of Bristol Arts and Social Sciences Library,
Bristol, BS8 1QU

Tel 0117 928 8014

Email special-collections@bristol.ac.uk

Website feministarchivesouth.org.uk

Feminist Archive South's blog on their website has an 'LGBT' tag showing their LGBTQ+ collections and projects.

Theatre Collection

University of Bristol, Vandyck Building, Cantocks Close, Bristol, BS8 1UP

Tel 0117 331 5045

Email theatre-collection@bristol.ac.uk

Website www.bristol.ac.uk/theatre-collection

The Theatre Collection holds museum, archive and library collections related to the history of theatre and theatrical practice in the UK and internationally. The collections include those of playwright Kevin Elyot, whose work often examined gay relationships, as well as the designer Oliver Messel, whose collection contains personal papers as well as design material.

Other significant LGBTQ+ collections in the UK

The following two organisations have particularly large LGBTQ+ collections but material relating to LGBTQ+ history may be held by archives, libraries, museums and other organisations all over the country.

Bishopsgate Institute Special Collections and Archives

230 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4QH

Tel 020 7392 9270

Email library@bishopsgate.org.uk

Website www.bishopsgate.org.uk/archives

One of the most extensive collections on LGBTQ+ history, politics and culture in the UK.

London Metropolitan Archives

40 Northampton Road, London EC1R 0HB

Tel 020 7332 3820

Email ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Website www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma

Social media <http://www.facebook.com/lgbthistory>

London Metropolitan Archives holds personal and public records of LGBTQ+ history.