

THE
LONDON
LIBRARY

A guide to LGBTQI+ titles

A note on terminology

This guide will use the terms LGBTQI+ and queer to acknowledge all sexualities and gender expressions. LGBTQI+ is an acronym developed to encompass various queer identities. The Q+ acknowledges the breadth and diversity of the community, the fluidity of gender and sexuality, and the potential for something to be queer without falling specifically into the categories of LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex). Whilst the term is at times contended, it has been reclaimed and adopted by many members of the community as an umbrella term of inclusion where once it was used to exclude and deride.

General information

The London Library's location near to the centre of queer London is perhaps an underappreciated and as yet unexcavated facet of the institution's history. Over the years many queer luminaries have passed through the doors of the London Library, including Virginia Woolf, W. Somerset Maugham and Jan Morris.

This guide is slightly different to others created to explain the library's collections, in that we do not have any specific sections on LGBTQ+ art, history, literature or theory as things stand. Instead, these subjects are spread throughout the Library's collections, across all manner of subjects in what can be read as a testament to the far-reaching and influential contributions that LGBTQ+ writers have made to every facet of intellectual life.

For this reason, there is a guide overleaf on how to use our Catalyst system to search for books by subjects beyond our shelfmarks, so that all our collection may be available to you.

Shelfmarks

The Library's collection of LGBTQ+ writings is split broadly across three main sections: in Science and Miscellaneous, under the shelfmarks S. Sex and S. Gender and Sexuality; in Literature, under shelfmarks like L. Literature, Hist. of, and L. English Literature; and in Biography across the whole collection. We also have writings by queer authors in our Fiction section, and works by queer artists fall across the whole Art section.

Shelfmark locations

Backstacks – Science and Miscellaneous

S. Gender and Sexuality - Floor 4

S. Sex - Floor 6

Central Stacks - Literature

L. Literature, Hist. of. – Floor 2

L. English Literature – Floor 2

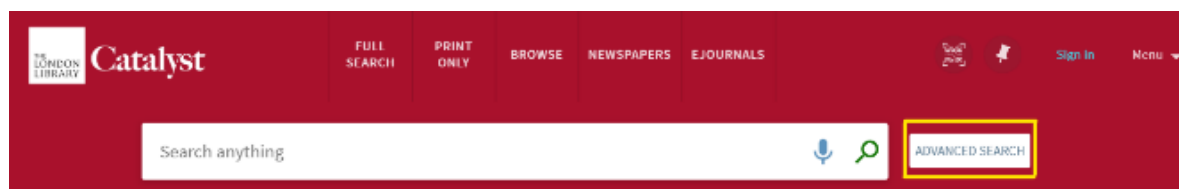
Central Stacks – Biography

Shelved by biographical subject across Floors 3 and 4

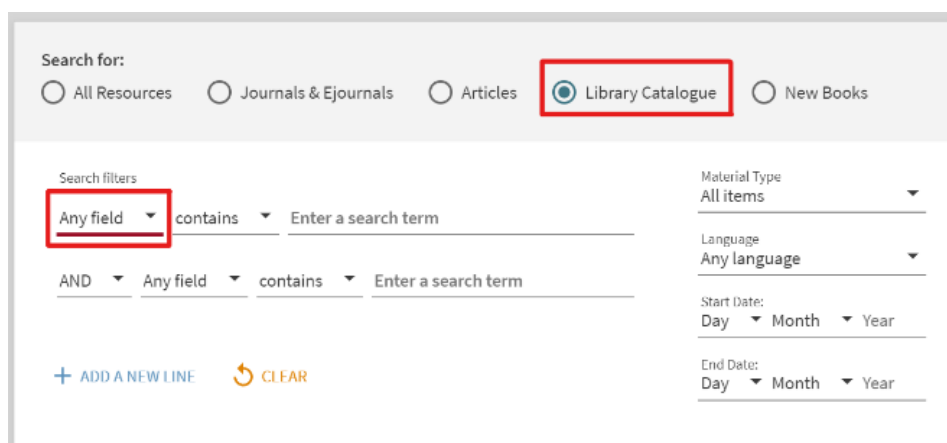
The Library's collection of electronic journals, newspapers and eBooks may also be used for LGBTQ+ research (through JSTOR and Overdrive) and include titles such as *Stonewall uprising* by Alex Hardy (Newsvault), *Gender euphoria* edited by Laura Kate Dale, and *LGBTQ spaces* by Ben Walters.

Searching the catalogue

Due to the library's lack of specific LGBTQ+ sections, the surest way to search for such material in our catalogue is to search by subject rather than shelfmark. Whilst the library uses its own bespoke shelfmarking system, all books are still catalogued in line with the Library of Congress subject headings. In the context of LGBTQ+ literature, this makes it possible to search for all titles in the collection that may pertain to queer subjects, irrespective of their location on the shelf. To do this, use the 'Advanced Search' option to the right of the Catalyst Search bar:



On that page, ensure you have selected 'Library Catalogue' so you are only presented with items held in the library. On the left hand side, click the 'Any field' option and select 'Subject' from the drop down menu.



Once these settings have been selected, you can search for any Library of Congress subject you choose. The Library of Congress subject headings currently used at the Library are:

Bisexuality

Gender dysphoria

Lesbians

Campaign for homosexual equality

Gender expression

Male homosexuality

Cross-dressers	Gender Identity	Queer theory
Cross-dressing	Gender nonconforming people	Sex differentiation
Drag queens	Gender nonconformity	Sexual freedom
Female-to male-transsexuals	Gender transition	Sexual minorities
Gay community	Homophobia	Sexual orientation
Gay Liberation movement	Homosexuality	Transgender men
Gay men	Lesbian Feminism	Transgender people
Gay Rights	Lesbianism	Transsexualism
Gays		

An example search: when one searches for 'Homosexuality', a LC subject heading from the list above, using the steps outlined, our catalogue returns 515 results (including eBooks), from disparate sections such as:

The pink line: the world's queer frontiers by Mark Gevisser (S. Sex &C.)

Hollinghurst, camp and closet by Serkan Ertin (L. English Lit., Hollinghurst)

Britannia's glory: a history of twentieth century lesbians by Emily Hamer (Biographical Colls.)

Queer London: gay London from the Romans to the present day by Peter Ackroyd (T. London)

Oscar Wilde prefigured: queer fashioning and British caricature, 1750-1900 by Dominic Janes (A. Caricature)

The politics of everybody: feminism, queer theory, and Marxism at the intersection by Holly Lewis (S. Political Science)

By using the search guide above it is possible to excavate relevant literature from across our collection, in a way that would not be feasible were one to stick strictly to a linear scan of our shelves.