

BIBLIOGRAPHER'S CORNER

BY LINDSEY SCHELL

The UT Libraries are pleased to announce the creation of the Black Queer Studies Collection. The collection, which is designated digitally through notes in library catalog records, is meant to feature, promote and increase the discoverability of the UT Libraries' unique holdings in the area of African-American Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies. Kristen Hogan, CWGS Instructor and iSchool graduate student worked with Matt Richardson, English Dept., to craft the original collection proposal and coordinated with the Libraries over the last year to make the collection a reality. The Black Queer Studies Collection is a groundbreaking project in librarianship in that it addresses standard obstacles posed by the Library of Congress Subject Headings and information retrieval systems to locating materials by and about Black Diasporic LGBTQ people.

Hogan writes in her proposal: "Current information organization practice frequently obscures access to materials by and about historically marginalized communities, particularly lesbian, gay, and transgender communities of color. This erasure results in a lack not only of appropriate materials in users' search results, but also of sufficient context for the incomplete list materials generated by a search. For example, *What We All Long For* (Knopf Canada, 2008), a book including a central Asian lesbian

character and written by well-known Black lesbian author Dionne Brand, features the four subject headings: "Toronto (Ont.) -- Fiction; Vietnamese -- Ontario -- Toronto -- Fiction; Female Friendship -- Fiction; Refugees -- Fiction." A keyword search in the catalog for "Black lesbian fiction" or "lesbian fiction" or even "lesbian" would not retrieve *What We All Long For*. Also, current U.S. cataloging practice does not consider the identity of the author as a subject; therefore, the author's identity does not affect subject headings assigned to their material. The virtual Black Queer Studies Collection begins to redress the erasure of Black diasporic lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender materials by the current absence of information organization tools, and this practice models a way for library professionals to counteract anti-professional claims to objectivity and take a rightful role in critical engagement with knowledge organization's production of meaning."

Here are a few details about the new collection which I want to highlight:

- The core collection is based upon 50 titles purchased between 2008-09 through a Liberal Arts Faculty Library Grant awarded to Matt Richardson
- Additional titles are being added to the collection with subject-designated library funds, including books, films and musical recordings
- Titles already owned by the Libraries are being retroactively added to

the collection through the guidance of "Carry the Word: A Bibliography of Black LGBTQ Books"

- The collection will be additionally supported by annual contributions from CWGS and CAAAS
- Titles designated for the collection carry this note, which is searchable in the library catalog (<http://catalog.lib.utexas.edu>): "Black Queer Studies Collection"

I will be creating a collection website in the next month to which you can point students to learn more about these unique holdings. If you have any questions about the Black Queer Studies Collection or other library matters, please contact me: schell@mail.utexas.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

Long-time CWGS supporter,



Jean Andrews, passed away on January 7, 2010. Jean Andrews, a scientist, gardener, explorer,

artist and cook who was known as "the Pepper Lady," was 86. A fifth-generation Texan, Andrews, known as "Dr. Jean" at the UT School of Human Ecology, where she was a distinguished alumna, was born in Kingsville in 1923.

Edward D. Vickery, Sr. passed away on April 29, 2010. Mr. Vickery's generosity helped the *Jody Conradt Excellence Fund in Equity and Leadership* off to a great start and he will always be remembered by CWGS. He was born on the 1st of May 1922 in Ft. Worth, Texas

