Stakeholder Interviews and Academic Collections: Expanding the Audience for University Holdings

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Who We Are

- Kristen Iemma
  - PhD Student in American Studies and MA Candidate in Public Humanities
- Julia Renaud
  - MA Candidate in Public Humanities
- Nicole Sintetos
  - PhD Student in American Studies (MA Public Humanities)
- Maddie Mott
  - MA Candidate in Public Humanities
- Steven Lubar
  - Professor, American Studies, History, and History of Art and Architecture
- Christopher Geissler
  - Former Director of the John Hay Library and Special Collections
Collecting Plan

● Mandate
  ○ To create a collecting plan for the John Hay Library LGBTQ Collection that expands the Hay’s holdings beyond the white gay cis-male experience
  ○ To acquire materials towards this goal using a budget of $5,000

● How to do this?
  ○ Long-term collecting plan created as a result of research, consideration, and stakeholder interviews
Stakeholders

● Who constitutes a stakeholder?
  ○ Who has this traditionally been? Can it be expanded?

Goals

● Include a range of opinions, needs, and interests in our collecting recommendations

● We hope that by meeting with members of the broader Providence community, the public will feel welcome in the collection and comfortable voicing their research needs
Successes and Challenges

Pedagogical Value - Graduate Student Experience
Community Value - Black Lavender Experience

How do we decenter capitalist-laden notions of “value” within the archive?
Market value vs. Collecting Value

University Collections as “Public” Collections