

# Conducting a Community Needs Assessment of LGBTQ Youth for Kitsap Regional Library

Jay Logan MLIS

Sponsor Leigh Ann Winterowd

Special Thanks to Megan Carlin & The Q Center

## Description

Kitsap Regional Library seeks to learn directly from the community it serves what it is they need and aspire to. To support this work I have conducted a community needs assessment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, & queer-identified (LGBTQ) youth, who have historically been underserved in our society, and have needs that are rarely investigated directly. This work will then determine what existing or new library services might help to address those needs.

## Methodology

- *Survey*: Print & online surveys administered using Survey Monkey with targeted questions derived from Teen Librarian input, Linville (2004), and Gorman & Suellentrop (2009)
- *Personal Conversation*: Questions adapted from the *Libraries Transforming Communities Community Conversation Workbook*.
- *Distribution*: Survey shared with the Sylvan Way Library Teen Advisory Board, the Q Center, Coffee Oasis, and school counselors, librarians, and Gay/Straight Alliance advisors throughout Kitsap County.

## Learning Outcomes

- *Fluid Gender & Sexual Identities*
- *Recreational Reading Primary Library Use*
- *Friendly Library Staff, Yet Have Social Anxiety*
- *Confident Searching Skills & Finding Relevant Results*
- *Generally Don't Use Library for LGBTQ Info; Have Access at Home*

## Next Steps

- Develop book collection targeting reading interests, particularly with LGB and Transgender characters
- Develop online presence through social media to be more effective online resource
- Create programming or resource guide to address social anxiety

## References

- Gorman, Michelle & Tricia Suellentrop. *Connecting Young Adults and Libraries: A How-to-Do-It Manual for Librarians*, 4th edition. Chicago: Neal-Schuman, 2009.
- Linville, Darla. (January 01, 2004). Beyond Picket Fences: What Gay/Queer/LGBTQ Teens Want from the Library. *Voice of Youth Advocates : Voya*, 27, 183-186.

