

Canadian Census Data as a Tool for Evaluating Public Library Holdings of Award-Winning Lesbian Fiction

Les données du recensement canadien comme outil d'évaluation du fonds documentaire composé d'ouvrages de fiction lesbienne primés dans les bibliothèques publiques

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Abstract: This article reports on a case study of library holdings, using Canadian census data, with the census metropolitan area (CMA) as the unit of analysis. In particular, we focused on a question, introduced for the first time in the 2001 census, which asked gay and lesbian common-law couples to self-identify. Statistics Canada reports these data at the CMA level. We identified 83 public libraries whose service areas corresponded to the boundaries of the CMAs and which had on-line, publicly accessible and searchable English-language catalogues. We evaluated these libraries' holdings of the 38 adult, lesbian fiction titles that won Lambda Literary Awards from 1988 to 2002. We found significant relationships (at the 0.01 level) between (1) the number of Lambda Award-winning lesbian titles held by the public libraries whose service area corresponded with a given CMA and the number of same-sex couples as a percentage of all couples in that CMA, and (2) the number of copies held by the public libraries whose service area corresponded with a given CMA and the absolute

population of that CMA. Despite its limitations, the CMA can be a useful unit of analysis for both community analysis and holdings studies. However, libraries are cautioned not to rely only on demographics when assessing community needs. Suggestions for additional research are included.

Résumé : Cet article présente une étude de cas du fonds documentaire des bibliothèques, en utilisant les données du recensement canadien, avec les régions métropolitaines de recensement (RMR) comme unité d'analyse. Nous nous sommes concentrées plus particulièrement sur une question, introduisant pour la première fois le recensement de 2001, qui demandait aux couples d'homosexuels et de lesbiennes en union de fait de bien vouloir le déclarer. Statistique Canada a présenté ces données au niveau des RMR. Nous avons identifié 83 bibliothèques publiques dont les zones de service correspondaient aux délimitations des RMRs et parmi celles-ci nous avons déterminé lesquelles offraient des catalogues publics en ligne de langue anglaise, accessibles et interrogeables. Nous avons évalué si ces bibliothèques disposaient des 38 titres de fiction lesbienne ayant reçus le prix littéraire Lambda de 1988 à 2002. Nous avons discerné des rapports significatifs (au niveau de 0.01) entre (1) le nombre de titres de fiction lesbienne ayant reçu le prix littéraire Lambda en collection dans les bibliothèques publiques dont la zone de service correspondait à une RMR donnée et le nombre de couples de même sexe comparativement au pourcentage de tous les couples de cette RMR, et (2) le nombre d'exemplaires en collection dans les bibliothèques publiques dont la zone de service correspondait à une RMR donnée et la population absolue de cette RMR. Malgré ses restrictions, la RMR peut être une unité d'analyse utile, à la fois pour l'analyse communautaire et pour les études sur un fonds documentaire. Cependant, les bibliothèques doivent être mises en garde contre l'utilisation unique des données démographiques pour déterminer les besoins de la collectivité. Des suggestions pour des recherches complémentaires sont incluses.

Introduction

Public libraries and other public institutions have long used census data for community analysis in the planning of collections and services (Katz 1980). The use of census data can assist in the development of need-based services. In Canada, for example, census data have been used to plan strategies for the provision of mental-health services according to need (Kelly and Jones 1995). However, the applicability of the Canadian census as a community-analysis tool changes as the census instrument is adapted. Recent changes to the census questionnaire allow for the collection of data on social and demographic factors that have previously been hidden. In 1996, for example, the census included questions on the amount of unpaid work done by Canadians (Stone and Swain 2000). In 2001, for the first

time, Statistics Canada allowed for a more inclusive definition of "common-law" relationships by providing census respondents with the option to self-identify as members of a same-sex common-law relationship: "two people of ... the same sex who live together as a couple, but who are not legally married to each other" (Statistics Canada 2001a).

Such changes to the scope of the census provide an opportunity for performing more comprehensive community analyses. These alterations could assist public libraries in assessing and identifying diverse populations for the provision of more inclusive collections and services and, thereby, of service in line with the Canadian Library Association's position that libraries are responsible "to guarantee and facilitate access to all expressions of knowledge and intellectual activity, including those which some elements of society may consider to be unconventional, unpopular or unacceptable" (1985).

This article demonstrates some of the strengths and weaknesses of census data for evaluating public library holdings, by reporting on a specific example. We used same-sex couple data from the 2001 census in order to evaluate public library holdings of award-winning lesbian fiction (winners of the annual Lambda Literary Awards) in relation both to the size of the population served and to the proportion of same-sex couples self-reporting in the community. Specifically, this article asks the question, Do public libraries in areas of Canada where there are known numbers of self-reported same-sex couples provide access to award-winning adult lesbian fiction? This study therefore fulfils two functions. First, it builds on previous studies of gay- and lesbian-themed holdings of public libraries (e.g., Rothbauer and McKechnie 1999; Spence 1998; 1999; 2000). Second, it serves as a case study in the use of the census metropolitan area (CMA) as a unit of analysis for public library holdings studies.

Literature review

Services for gay, lesbian, and bisexual (GLB) library users have received a great deal of research attention over the past 15 years. Studies of gay and lesbian library users have found that these users understand the public library as a place to seek answers for their queries and questions but often consider services to be unsatisfactory (Creelman and Harris 1990; Raaflaub 1991; Whitt 1993; Joyce and Schrader 1997). For example, Creelman and Harris suggest that lesbian users are discouraged by the irrelevant, impractical, or negatively themed materials found in public libraries (39). Several studies have examined the recreational reading needs of GLB populations (Whitt 1993; Joyce and Schrader 1997; Norman 1999). Joyce and

Schrader suggest that gay male users predominately want to access gay-related material for entertainment purposes, and that fiction material is a popular public library resource for this population. Norman found that reading for pleasure was respondents' most frequent reason for using the public library's GLB collection and that gay fiction was the most frequently borrowed item. These findings suggest a desire of the GLB community to see representations of their lives in fictional materials and indicate that the accessibility of fiction from the library may be a main concern of the GLB user.

Although research indicates that gay and lesbian users are aware of the public library as a source for addressing their information and leisure-reading needs, few studies have analysed public library holdings of gay-, lesbian-, and bisexual-themed materials as an indicator of service to users. Spence (1998) surveyed 10 American and 9 Canadian public library systems to determine the holdings of 222 gay-related titles: nominees for and winners of the Lambda Literary Awards and the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Book Award and titles listed under the subject headings of "homosexuality," "lesbianism," and "bisexuality" in the H.W. Wilson *Fiction Catalog*. The libraries sampled were chosen for their similar characteristics, including large populations and geographical locations, and Spence had hypothesized that the number of titles held within the libraries sampled would not vary across systems (1998, 4). He found that there is, in fact, inconsistency in the holdings of gay-related books across library systems (1998, 22), and that the Canadian libraries surveyed carried fewer titles and copies per capita than the American libraries sampled. Spence (1999) found similar patterns in the same libraries' holdings of the 99 titles included in a well-researched and comprehensive bibliography of young-adult gay fiction. Spence (2000) also surveyed the catalogues of 101 public library systems, including Canadian systems, for the presence of gay-related children's picture books, broadly defined as described in annotated bibliographies as featuring homosexual characters or implying a "queer" social context. An example of the latter criterion is the book *Losing Uncle Tim* (Jordan 1989), in which a character not explicitly identified as a gay man is dying of AIDS. Results from this study indicated that libraries' holdings of sampled materials increased when sampled titles had received attention in the reviewing media. Rothbauer and McKechnie (1999) randomly selected 40 titles from a published list of young-adult novels with gay or lesbian content and checked these against the holdings of 40 medium and large Canadian public libraries. They found that the holdings of young-adult material in public libraries were limited and that "there was a great deal of variation in the number of titles held for both

large and medium libraries" (1999, 34). A regression analysis found a weak and non-significant relationship between population served (independent variable) and number of titles held (dependent variable).

This study builds on the work of Spence (1998, 1999, 2000) and Rothbauer and McKechnie (1999) by incorporating Canadian census data about the prevalence of same-sex common-law couples. Specifically, holdings data for individual library systems are aggregated on the level of the CMA. Using the CMA as the unit of analysis allows for the analysis of holdings in relation to the census same-sex couple data. Specifically, we selected a list of award-winning lesbian fiction titles and evaluated the holdings of these titles in the catalogues of public libraries whose surrounding communities corresponded to CMAs.

Methodology

The survey method used within this study was a quantitative style of research that included the use of content analysis, performed using a systematic "checklist" and coding system.

Generating the list of libraries

We used a two-step process to compile the list of library systems within CMAs. First, we used 2001 Canadian census data to identify the numbers and percentages of same-sex common-law couples by CMA (Statistics Canada 2001b). A "CMA" is defined as one or more adjacent municipalities centred on a large urban core, which has a population of 100,000 or more (Statistics Canada 2002, 341). Overall twenty-seven CMAs have been designated within Canada, twenty-four of which are considered here. We identified the individual library systems within the CMAs first by using Statistics Canada's listing of the municipalities comprising each of the CMAs and then by identifying the individual library systems serving those municipalities. The tools used to identify the libraries were *LibDex* (Scott 2003), an on-line index of 18,000 libraries, the *American Library Directory* (2002), and official municipality Web sites. As this method presents challenges specific to using the census data, municipal Web sites, especially those which provided specific details about each library and its location, library Web sites, and maps of the areas were necessary tools to present an accurate picture of the libraries operating within the boundaries of each CMA.

There are several challenges in using the CMA as a unit of analysis, as the jurisdictions of the CMA do not always correspond consistently with the boundaries of public library systems. The biggest challenge was the pres-

ence of regional or province-wide library systems or union catalogues serving a region larger than that within the boundaries of the CMA. For instance, in Alberta, the jurisdictions of the Marigold Library System (Calgary CMA) and the Yellowhead Regional Library System (Edmonton CMA) extended beyond the boundaries of their respective CMAs.

Another difficulty was associated with Alberta, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland and Labrador, where provincial library systems with union catalogues allow for sharing of resources throughout the province. In both of these cases, we used maps of the region, locations of the libraries, and information from municipality Web sites to identify the library branches or systems within each CMA and to ensure that only the libraries lying within the boundaries of the CMA were included. Then we evaluated only those holdings belonging to the libraries within each CMA. For example, although the Alberta Library Online provides Alberta users with access to materials through an inter-library-system loan service, the libraries that were physically located within the boundaries of the Calgary and Edmonton CMAs were identified through mapping and searched individually, and we counted only books held within those libraries as holdings within each CMA. Urban areas were less complex, as municipalities in these regions generally have a public library system that is incorporated under the municipality, and the whole municipality is incorporated under the CMA. Specific criteria were applied to the libraries for inclusion in this study. The libraries were assessed for the presence of an on-line (Internet-available), publicly accessible and searchable catalogue. As the Lambda Literary Awards are granted to English-language titles, the libraries were selected based on there being a population that supported an English-language catalogue. Four of the 27 CMA's (Sherbrooke, Quebec, Trois-Rivières, and Chicoutimi-Jonquière) reported French as the first language of the majority of residents and were, therefore, not included in this study (Statistics Canada 2001c). Montreal, Ottawa-Hull, and Greater Sudbury were the only CMAs included that incorporated libraries from French-language areas. This study does not attempt to represent areas from all parts of Canada or all public libraries from across Canada, as data collection has been dictated by the CMAs. As a result, holdings from smaller municipalities are excluded, including other areas outside Quebec with significant francophone populations.

The number of libraries within each CMA varied, but libraries related by CMA were aggregated in order to interpret the data and determine conclusions at the level of the CMA. The final number of CMAs included in this study was 23, and the final number of libraries was 83 (see Appendix A for this listing).

Generating the booklist

The booklist for this study consists of all Lambda-Literary-Award winners from the various lesbian award classifications for 1988 to 2002. The Lambda Literary Awards recognize works of outstanding literary merit with a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender theme, and the titles considered for these awards must be works available in the United States and written in the English language (Lambda Literary Foundation 2002). The specific titles won awards in the Lambda-Literary-Award categories of Lesbian First Novel/Debut (awarded 1988–1990), Lesbian Science Fiction / Fantasy (awarded 1988–1992), Lesbian Mystery (awarded 1988–2001), and Lesbian Fiction (awarded 1988–2001). A total of 38 titles have received Lambda Awards in these categories, and all were included in our study (see Appendix B for the book list).

Although the Lambda Literary Foundation is American, two of the award-winning titles are significant with regard to Canadian publishing practice. *Ninth Life* has a Canadian author, Lauren Wright Douglas, and *Beyond the Pale*, by Elana Dykewomon, was originally published by the Vancouver-based Press Gang Publishing and was republished, with a new author preface, by Raincoast Books (Dykewomon 2003). Holdings of these titles will be discussed separately.

Data collection and analysis

The presence or absence of titles in individual libraries was recorded. In deciding whether a title counted as a holding, we did not include titles listed in the library catalogues yet identified as “missing” or “lost,” but we did include books listed as “in storage,” “on order,” or “in processing,” on the assumption that users could request these titles or put them on hold. We also assessed the number of copies held in each library, along with details of any titles collected by the libraries in alternative formats, including large-print and audio books, or different languages. The data from the individual libraries were then aggregated by census CMA for analysis in relation to the same-sex-couple data. Individual library catalogues were searched between December 2002 and February 2003, and our findings, therefore, reflect library holdings at that time.

Findings

Descriptive analysis

Holdings of titles, copies, formats, and translations by CMA
These descriptive statistics demonstrate the variation among CMAs in

number of titles held, but they do not reflect demographic differences (e.g., absolute population, number of self-reporting same-sex couples) among the areas. Table 1 illustrates three characteristics of holdings by CMA: number of titles held, number of copies held, and holdings in translation and alternative formats.

For the 38 titles, public library holdings within CMAs varied from 3 to 37 titles. The average number of titles held by all the majority-English CMAs was 17.04 (or 44.8% of the booklist. Of the 23 CMAs, 8 (or 34.7%) held 50% or more of the award-winning titles. Only 3 CMAs (Vancouver, Ottawa–Hull, and Toronto) held over 75% of the titles, whereas 5 CMAs (or 21.7%) (Thunder Bay, Kingston, St. John's, Saint John, and Greater Sudbury) held 9 titles or fewer (23.7%).

The total number of copies of all titles in standard-print and alternative formats held by each CMA ranged from 3 to 406. The three CMAs holding the highest number of titles also held the highest number of copies. Conversely, the three CMAs holding the lowest number of titles also held the lowest number of copies, those being St. John's, Saint John, and Greater Sudbury.

In addition, 9 of the CMAs (39.1%) collected some of the award-winning titles in audio-book format, and 19 (or 82.6%) collected at least one copy of the titles in a large print format. Four of the 23 CMAs (17.39%) did not collect any type of alternative format. These included Abbotsford, St. Catharines–Niagara, St. John's, and Thunder Bay.

TABLE 1: Aggregated list of holdings per CMA

CMA	Titles Held		Total Copies (n)	Copies French Titles (n)	Copies Audio Books (n)	Copies Large-Print (n)
	(N = 38)	(%)				
Vancouver CMA	37	97.36%	301	0	4	5
Toronto CMA	33	86.84%	406	0	1	1
Ottawa - Hull CMA	33	86.84%	137	18	6	8
Edmonton CMA	26	68.42	110	0	4	4
Victoria CMA	24	63.15	95	0	2	6
London CMA	22	57.89	73	0	1	2
Calgary CMA	20	52.63	84	0	2	3
Hamilton CMA	19	50.00	73	0	1	4
Kitchener CMA	18	47.36	51	0	0	1
Halifax CMA	18	47.36	31	0	0	2
Abbotsford CMA	17	44.73	71	0	0	0
Windsor CMA	16	42.10	45	0	0	1
Winnipeg CMA	16	42.10	43	0	0	1
Saskatoon CMA	16	42.10	32	0	0	1
Montreal CMA	14	36.84	106	83	0	1
St. Catharines - Niagara CMA	12	31.57	22	0	0	0
Oshawa CMA	11	28.94	31	0	0	1
Regina CMA	11	28.94	25	0	0	1
Thunder Bay CMA	9	23.68	19	0	0	0
Kingston CMA	8	21.05	31	0	0	1
St. John's CMA	6	15.78	8	0	0	0
Saint John CMA	3	7.89	8	0	1	1
Greater Sud- bury CMA	3	7.89	3	0	0	1

Four of the 38 titles (*Cavedweller*, by Dorothy Allison; *Written on the Body*, by

Jeanette Winterson; *Tipping the Velvet*, by Sarah Waters; and *The Beverly Hills*, by Katherine V. Forrest) were collected as French-language translations. Two CMAs (Ottawa–Hull and Montreal, 8.69% of all CMAs) collected copies of the French-language titles. Libraries in the Montreal CMA held copies of all the translated titles, whereas libraries in the Ottawa–Hull CMA held only one title. Both of these CMAs had individual libraries that were located in a predominately French-speaking region. French titles were held only in areas with significant French-speaking populations, but it is important to note that not all libraries in French-language areas provide access to French-language titles. For example, 29.5% of respondents from the Greater Sudbury CMA listed either French, or French and English, as the first language spoken and still understood. (Statistics Canada 2001c).

Holdings by title

All of the titles on the book list were held by at least one CMA. The title that was collected least often was *Skiptrace*, by Antoinette Azolakov. This title won the Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Science Fiction / Fantasy in 1992 and was held only by the Vancouver CMA. The most collected title was *Cavedweller*, by Dorothy Allison. This title won for Lesbian Fiction in 1992 and was collected by all of the 23 CMAs, in English or French. The next most collected titles were *The Intersection of Law and Desire*, J. M. Redmann, and *Written on the Body*, by Jeannette Winterson. Both of these titles were collected by 19 of the 23 (82.61%) CMAs (see Table 2 for a listing of the specific titles collected by CMA).

TABLE 2: Titles collected per CMA

Title	# of CMAs
<i>Cavedweller</i>	23
<i>Intersection of Law and Desire</i>	19
<i>Written on the Body</i>	19
<i>Hunting the Witch</i>	18
<i>Merchant of Venus</i>	18
<i>Small Sacrifice</i>	17
<i>Murder by Tradition</i>	16
<i>Robber's Wine</i>	16
Table 2 continued	
<i>Tipping the Velvet</i>	16

<i>Days of Awe</i>	14
<i>The Beverly Malibu</i>	14
<i>Autobiography of a Family Photo</i>	13
<i>Blue Place</i>	13
<i>Revolution of Little Girls</i>	13
<i>Divine Victim</i>	12
<i>Gaudi Afternoon</i>	12
<i>Gifts of the Body</i>	11
<i>What did Miss Darrington See?</i>	11
<i>Beyond the Pale</i>	10
<i>The Gilda Stories</i>	9
<i>Father Forgive Me</i>	8
<i>Mommy Dearest</i>	8
<i>Out of Time</i>	8
<i>Ammonite</i>	7
<i>Trash</i>	7
<i>Two-Bit Tango</i>	7
<i>Memory Mambo</i>	6
<i>Running Fiercely Toward a High Thin Sound</i>	6
<i>Valencia</i>	6
<i>Bird-Eyes</i>	5
<i>Her</i>	5
<i>Crazy for Loving</i>	4
<i>Ninth Life</i>	4
<i>The Bar Stories</i>	4
<i>Gossamer Axe</i>	3
<i>Shaman's Moon</i>	3
<i>The Names of the Moons of Mars</i>	2
<i>Skiptrace</i>	1

Titles significant to Canadian publishing
Ninth Life, which was written by a Canadian, was held by 17.4% of the

CMAs; Ottawa–Hull, Toronto, Vancouver, and Victoria. Of these 4 CMAs, it is interesting to note that 3 of them collected over 75% of the titles. The Canadian-published *Beyond the Pale* was collected by 10 CMAs (or 43.5%). These CMAs included the 6 highest collecting CMAs, as well as Hamilton, Kingston, Regina, and Winnipeg.

Although these descriptive statistics give an idea of variation across CMAs, they provide no indication of the relationship between library holdings and factors such as population or percentage of self-reported same-sex couples.

Inferential analysis: Testing the relationship between variables

The most interesting and significant findings were discovered through inferential analysis. As this study set out to determine whether public libraries in areas with known numbers of self-reported same-sex couples collect Lambda Award-winning adult lesbian fiction, we examined the relationships among the number of titles held, the number of copies held, and the population statistics for each CMA. Multiple regression analysis was used to test for a relationship between the number of titles held (dependent variable) and three independent variables—the absolute population of a given CMA, the absolute number of same-sex couples in that CMA, and number of same-sex couples as a percentage of all couples in that CMA. This testing found a strong relationship between the number of titles held and number of same-sex couples as a percentage of all couples per CMA ($r = 0.701$), and it was found to be significant at the 0.01 level. Figure 1 illustrates this finding.

A second multiple regression analysis tested for the existence of a relationship between the number of copies held (dependent variable) and the same three independent variables (the absolute population of a CMA, the absolute number of same-sex couples in that CMA, and the number of

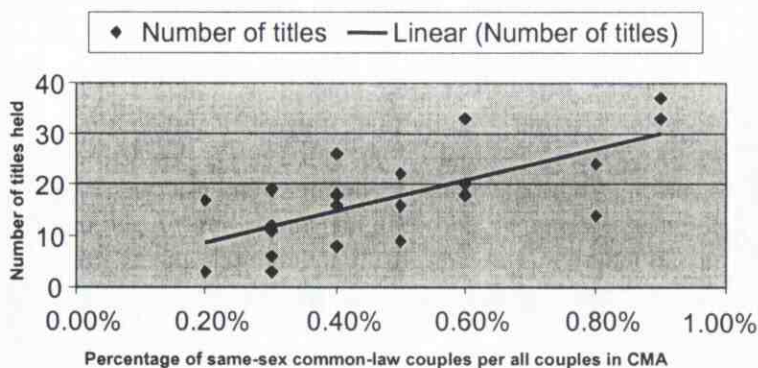


FIGURE 1: Relationship of number of titles held to percentage of same-sex common-law couples per all couples

same-sex couples as a percentage of all couples in that CMA). This test identified a strong relationship between the number of copies held and the absolute population of the CMA ($r = 0.843$), and this relationship was found to be significant at the 0.01 level. Figure 2 indicates this relationship.

A significant relationship, therefore, exists between the number of copies held and the absolute population of the CMA, and this finding is logical and intuitive, in that both larger cities and their larger library collections are likely to be more diverse than their smaller counterparts. This finding

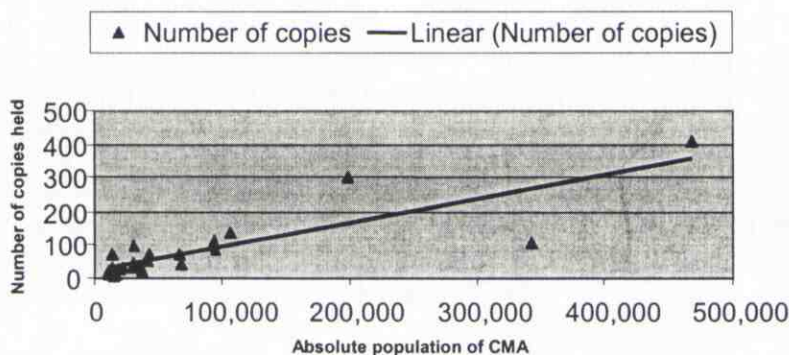


FIGURE 2: Relationship showing the number of copies held to the absolute population of each CMA

demonstrates the value of census data for planning for collection development within libraries, as libraries can use the data to predict the breadth and quantity of titles needed for a given facility in order to satisfy the population of library users.

The most important finding of this study is the relationship between the number of self-identified same-sex couples and public library holdings of award-winning lesbian fiction. This study offers a potential explanation for Rothbauer and McKechnie's (1999) finding that absolute population alone did not account for variations in the size of gay- and lesbian-themed young-adult fiction collections in Canadian public libraries. It also provides an answer to the research question posed by this study, in that it illustrates that Canadian public libraries in areas with a larger population of self-identified same-sex couples do collect a larger number of Lambda Award-winning adult lesbian fiction titles than those with lower same-sex couple numbers. Finally, this finding suggests that Canadian public libraries are being responsive to their user populations when developing collections and that libraries seem to be considering the various user groups within their communities.

Discussion

An important purpose of this study was to provide a case study in the use of Canadian census data aggregated at the CMA level for community analysis. Changes to the Canadian census offer a more diverse picture of Canadian society and these results are essential to public libraries for determining the composition of the user community. With the inclusion of the same-sex couple question in 2001, the census data provide statistical acknowledgement of the presence of gay and lesbian couples within Canada. Libraries can, therefore, configure collections and services to offer increased access to titles with gay or lesbian themes. It is encouraging to note that, although same-sex couple data were not available until the release of the 2001 census, our findings indicate that Canadian public libraries have been acknowledging the presence of gay and lesbian library users through their collections. As data about "invisible" populations become available, public libraries can use census findings to verify their user populations and can thereby better understand the varied components that comprise their user populations.

Although this research indicates that public libraries seem to be reflecting lesbian, gay, and bisexual members of their user populations and are collecting a specific genre of fiction materials for this group, previous qualitative studies of lesbian and gay library users have found the contrary: that public libraries lack print materials (Creelman and Harris 1990), that fiction materials are sought after but not found (Whitt 1993), and that fiction material is demanded for entertainment purposes but cannot always be located (Joyce and Schrader 1997). These personal feelings and observations from gay and lesbian library users and non-users must not be ignored, but the user perspective may be used to complement the findings of community-analysis studies of population. The feedback provided to libraries from both types of research is necessary to address the needs of library users and to ensure collection of materials for all users.

There are several limitations to this study. First, the wording of the 2001 census question only includes those who identify as a member of a same-sex couple. The census, therefore, fails to represent gay and lesbian individuals who do not consider themselves to be either part of a "couple" or members of a "common-law" relationship. The population of single lesbians and gay men within the CMAs is unknown. Despite the confidentiality promised by the Canadian census, it is possible that some same-sex couples were reluctant to identify themselves and that numbers, therefore, under-represent the true proportion of same-sex couples in each CMA. Finally, the census questionnaire does not allow for the documentation of other marginalized sexualities, including bisexuals and transgen-

dered individuals. With these limitations taken together, it is very likely that the census data under-report the number of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered individuals in Canada. Second, it is important to note that only one literary award has been studied here. Further research is necessary to determine whether these results would apply to other award-winning adult GLB fiction; for example, titles from the American Library Association's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Book Award or The Ferro-Grumley Awards for Fiction. Also, this study could be replicated using other award-winning and non-award-winning fiction titles, for example gay men's fiction or fiction for gay and lesbian youth, non-fiction, or alternative information sources. Further, as Rothbauer and McKechnie (2000) and Spence (2000) have found, the existence of reviews of a lesbian-themed title increases the likelihood that that title will be held by public libraries. It is likely that a similar pattern applies to award-winning adult lesbian fiction titles, which may receive more attention within the reviewing media than those not winning awards. If librarians are not proactive in collecting for the variety of people within their user base and do not take extra steps to make themselves aware of the available material, the library may rely on published material that highlights award-winning titles. It is possible, then, that the recognition associated with the Lambda Literary Awards and the consequent increase in media coverage and number of advertisements in publishers' catalogues or book industry publications has led to preferential collection of award-winning titles over other lesbian fiction titles. Our findings are, therefore, likely to over-represent the holdings of adult lesbian fiction titles in Canadian public library collections.

Finally, the results of this study reflect only the majority-English CMAs and the public libraries operating within them. Therefore, additional research is necessary to determine whether these findings would hold true for other areas of Canada. Other census regions with known populations of gay, lesbian, or bisexual individuals could be studied to verify these results, although until same-sex self-report data are released beyond the CMA level, such studies would not have the advantage of these freely available figures.

At the time of writing, same-sex marriages are legally permitted in Ontario and British Columbia and the legal definition of "marriage" is before the Canadian Parliament and the Supreme Court of Canada. The outcome of this decision is likely to affect the 2006 Canadian census, and differing or additional categories may be included to describe intimate and binding relationships between Canadians. Although changes to the census survey mean that the results of this study may not be consistent with future cen-

sus measures, the work presented here does communicate the importance of census data as they represent and acknowledge the diversity of Canadian society, and this work demonstrates the usefulness of the CMA as an alternative or additional unit of analysis for holdings studies.

Not all user groups within the public library are visible, and libraries, therefore, must be more conscious of including these groups in the social structure of the library. Although the Canadian Library Association's *Position Statement on Intellectual Freedom* (1985) implores all libraries, including public libraries, to perform this type of inclusive service, it has been shown that gay and lesbian users feel that they are often excluded. This research indicates that the Canadian public libraries studied here have collected materials of potential interest to at least one group of invisible users and suggests that they have analysed their communities. This work finds that the demographic data collected in the Canadian census should be employed, as they will help to provide a more accurate picture of the community that the public library serves. Libraries, though, are cautioned not to rely solely on demographic statistics for community analysis, as these may not reflect all user groups and user needs within the community.

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Appendix A: Listing of CMAs and Associated Libraries**Abbotsford CMA (1)**

Fraser Valley Regional Library

Calgary CMA (2)

Calgary Public Library

Marigold Library System

Edmonton CMA (5)

Edmonton Public Library

Fort Saskatchewan Public Library/

Strathcona County Library System

(shared catalogue)

Yellowhead Regional Library System

St. Albert Public Library

Northern Lights Library System

Greater Sudbury CMA (1)

Sudbury Public Library

Halifax CMA (1)

Halifax Regional Library

Hamilton CMA (3)

Burlington Public Library

Hamilton Public Library

Grimsby Public Library

Kingston CMA (1)

Kingston Frontenac Public Library

Kitchener CMA (4)

Cambridge Public Library

Kitchener Public Library

Waterloo Public Library

Waterloo Regional Library

London CMA (3)

Elgin County Public Library

London Public Library

Middlesex County Library

Montreal CMA (11)

Bibliothèque publique de LaSalle

Montreal Public Library

Westmount Public Library

Centre régional de services aux bib-

liothèque publiques de la Montérégie

Bibliothèque de Verdun

Bibliothèque de Pointe-Claire

Bibliothèque de Sainte-Catherine

Bibliothèque de Sainte-Therese

Bibliothèque de Brossard

Bibliothèque de Mont Royal

Bibliothèque de Robert Bourassa

(Outremont)

Oshawa CMA (3)

Oshawa Public Library

Clarington Public Library

Whitby Public Library

Ottawa-Hull CMA (3)

Aylmer Municipal Library

Bibliothèque municipale de Gatineau

Ottawa Public Library

Regina CMA (2)

Regina Public Library

Southeast Regional Library

Saint John CMA (1)

New Brunswick Public Library Service

Saskatoon CMA (2)

Saskatoon Public Library

Wheatland Regional Library

St. Catharines-Niagara CMA (3)

Niagara Falls Public Library

St. Catharines Public Library

Welland Public Library

St. John's CMA (1)

Provincial Resource Library (St. John's City Library)

Thunder Bay CMA (1)

Thunder Bay Public Library

Toronto CMA (19)

Vaughan Public Libraries
Richmond Hill Public Library
Ajax Public Library
Aurora Public Library
Bradford West Gwillimbury Public Library
Brampton Public Library
Caledon Public Library
Georgina Public Library
Halton Hills Public Library
Markham Public Library
Milton Public Library
Mississauga Library System
New Tecumseth Public Library
Newmarket Public Library
Oakville Public Library
Pickering Public Library
Toronto Public Library
Uxbridge Township Public Library
Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library

Vancouver CMA (10)

Port Moody Public Library
Richmond Public Library
Surrey Public Library
West Vancouver Memorial Library
Burnaby Public Library
North Vancouver District Public Library
Coquitlam Public Library
North Vancouver City Library
Vancouver Public Library
New Westminster Public Library

Victoria CMA (2)

Greater Victoria Public Library
Vancouver Island Regional Library

Windsor CMA (2)

Essex County Public Library
Windsor Public Library

Winnipeg CMA (1)

Winnipeg Public Library

Total Number of Libraries Sampled:

83

Appendix B: Book List of Lambda Award–Winning Adult Lesbian Fiction

Lesbian First Novel/Debut (1988–1990)

<i>Bird-Eyes</i>	Madelyn Arnold	Seal Press (1988)
<i>The Names of the Moons of Mars</i>	Patricia Roth Schwartz	New Victoria Press (1989)
<i>Her</i>	Cherry Muhanji	Aunt Lute Foundation (1990)

Lesbian Science Fiction/Fantasy (1988–1992)

<i>Skiptrace</i>	Antoinette Azolakov	Banned Books (1988)*
<i>What Did Miss Darrington See?</i>	Ed. Jessica Amanda Salmonson	Feminist Press (1989)
<i>Gossamer Axe</i>	Gael Baudino	Roc Books (1990)
<i>The Gilda Stories</i>	Jewelle Gomez	Firebrand Books (1991)**
<i>Ammonite</i>	Nicola Griffith	Del Ray (1992)

Lesbian Mystery (1988–2001)*

<i>The Beverly Malibu</i>	Katherine V. Forrest	Naiad Press (1989)
<i>Gaudi Afternoon</i>	Barbara Wilson	Seal Press (1990, TIE)
<i>Ninth Life</i>	Lauren Wright Douglas	Naiad Press (1990, TIE)
<i>Murder By Tradition</i>	Katherine V. Forrest	Naiad Press (1991)
<i>Two Bit Tango</i>	Elizabeth Pincus	Spinsters Book Company (1992, TIE)
<i>Crazy for Loving</i>	Jaye Maiman	Naiad Press (1992, TIE)
<i>Divine Victim</i>	Mary Wings	Dutton (1993)
<i>Small Sacrifice</i>	Ellen Hart	Seal Press (1994)
<i>Intersection of Law and Desire</i>	J.M. Redmann	W. W. Norton (1995)
<i>Robber's Wine</i>	Ellen Hart	Seal Press (1996)
<i>Father Forgive Me</i>	Randye Lordon	Avon (1997)
<i>Blue Place</i>	Nicola Griffith	Avon (1998, TIE)

<i>Shaman's Moon</i>	Sarah Dreher	New Victoria (1998, TIE)
<i>Hunting the Witch</i>	Ellen Hart	St. Martin's (1999)
<i>Mommy Dearest</i>	Jean Marcy	New Victoria (2000)
<i>Merchant of Venus</i>	Ellen Hart	St. Martin's (2001)
Lesbian Fiction (1988–2001)		
<i>Trash</i>	Dorothy Allison	Firebrand (1988)
<i>The Bar Stories</i>	Nisa Donnelly	St. Martin's (1989)
<i>Out of Time</i>	Paula Martinac	Seal Press (1990)
<i>Revolution of Little Girls</i>	Blanche McCrary Boyd	Knopf (1991, TIE)**
<i>Running Fiercely toward a High Thin Sound</i>	Judith Katz	Firebrand Books (1992)
<i>Written on the Body</i>	Jeanette Winterson	Alfred A. Knopf (1993)
<i>Gifts of the Body</i>	Rebecca Brown	HarperCollins (1994)
<i>Autobiography of a Family Photo</i>	Jacqueline Woodson	Dutton (1995)
<i>Memory Mambo</i>	Achy Obejas	Cleis (1996)
<i>Beyond the Pale</i>	Elana Dykewomon	Press Gang (1997)
<i>Cavedweller</i>	Dorothy Allison	Dutton (1998)
<i>Tipping the Velvet</i>	Sarah Waters	Riverhead (1999)
<i>Valencia</i>	Michelle Tea	Seal Press (2000)
<i>Days of Awe</i>	Achy Obejas	Ballantine (2001)

Total Number of Titles in Sample: 38

- * In 1988, the award category was Lesbian Science Fiction / Mystery. The title *Skiptrace* belongs expressly to the science fiction (SF) genre; therefore, it is included only in the SF category for the purposes of this study and the category Mystery has no entry for 1988.
- ** In 1991, the title *The Gilda Stories* won for Lesbian Science Fiction / Fantasy and tied with *Revolution of Little Girls* in the Lesbian Fiction category. For the purposes of this study, *The Gilda Stories* is counted only under the Lesbian Science Fiction / Fantasy category.

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