

## Collection Management of Special Libraries: An Experience with Kinsey Institute Library

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### Scope of the collections: rare books, periodicals, ephemera, archives

- Research publications of studies of human sexuality
- Historical collection, pre-20<sup>th</sup> century writings about sexual behavior, customs, cultures and attitudes. (law, medicine, history, etc.)
- Sex magazines, cartoons, comics, pulp fiction
- Erotic literature Collection: first ed. and the classics
- English, German, French, Japanese, Chinese and other languages, from past four centuries to the present

### Continued: Films, videos and etc.

- 8,000 film titles, from 1915 through the 1970s; a variety of formats including super 8, 8mm, 16mm and 35mm.
- Historical stag films; peepshow; sex education; animal sex behavior, art/exploitation, and pornographic feature films.
- 4,000 beta, VHS and DVDs, from 1970 to present, documenting heterosexual and homosexual behavior, sex education and therapy, transgender, and sadomasochism/bondage.

### Dr. Kinsey and his vision for his research Library

- Collection of over 7.5 million specimen of gall wasps and other insects (American Museum of Natural History in New York)
- Collections of 18,000 individual histories, the core of the Kinsey archives. His goal was to collect 100,000
- Collection of books, diaries, fictions and films and objects
- All collections are considered evidence of research

"We are recorders of facts – not judges of the behavior we describe" – Alfred Kinsey

### Collection sources: Kinsey's researchers, donors and collaborators

- Robert Latou Dickinson, "Father of American Gynecology"
- Emily Mudd, founder of academic marriage counseling
- Frances Shields, N.Y gynecologist
- Glenn Westcott, playwright
- Harry Benjamin, pioneer sex researcher

### Confidentiality and legal protection of Kinsey's research data and materials

- Private, not for profit organization, established in 1947
- Protection the privacy of the 18,000 and more individuals, subjects and donors
- US vs. 31 Photographs, the legal battle; Indianapolis customs officers and the winning verdict, 1957

### Collection management challenges and issues

- Used by Kinsey and his staff only before 1960
- Accessible by outsider users in 1960s
- Donor restrictions
- Collection within collections
- Anonymous collection and subject access
- Knowledge of the field, authorities and historical background

### Conclusions: Kinsey collection management and beyond

- Understand the history of the special collections.
- Anticipate the change and embrace the change
- Modify strategies
- Create a vision that include preservation, growth and access and financial stability.