

BAY AREA LESBIAN ARCHIVES

What We're Collecting

BALA is collecting and making accessible materials that document Bay Area lesbian lives, art and community. These are materials that represent lesbians who have lived in the Bay Area at any time. We are currently focusing on the 1960's, 70's and 80's because those are the materials most at risk of being lost.

Our Archives has limited storage space. We are currently taking donations on an "emergency" basis only. Materials most at risk of being lost (due to death, illness or relocation), or destroyed because of how they are being stored (for example, in a garage or basement). We reserve the right to limit our donations based on the following criteria: condition; size; number; whether the item is rare or limited edition; lesbian content and/or relevance. Please contact us when you are ready to donate materials so that we may determine whether or not your situation constitutes an emergency, and your materials are appropriate. Materials we are collecting:

Personal Collections:

Diaries, journals, notebooks, appointment books, correspondence (letters, cards, postcards, printed emails), phone/address books, and unpublished manuscripts that document or reflect Bay Area lesbian lives.

Business/Organization Records:

Minutes, agendas, financial/budget records, reports, correspondence, bylaws, articles of incorporation, project files, printed emails, conference materials and other documentary materials from lesbian organizations, groups and businesses.

Audio and Video Materials (analog):

Photographic prints, negatives, slides, celluloid (Super 8, 16mm), video tape (all formats), vinyl, reel to reel tape, audio cassettes (all formats).

Audio and Video Materials (digital): CDs, DVDs, digital files

Printed materials: Academic papers, chapbooks, catalogues, newspaper clippings, brochures pamphlets, programs, rare and limited edition books, posters

Periodicals: Journals, magazines, newsletters, zines, newspapers

Ephemera: Flyers, protest signs, banners, bumper stickers, matchbooks, postcards, club flyers

Clothing: T-shirts, caps, hats, sweat shirts, buttons/pins

Artifacts: art, jewelry, spiritual objects (on a case by case basis)