THE DANGERS OF BEING FOUND

ETHICAL AND PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS OF TRANS+ METADATA AND DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Lara Wilson & Michael Radmacher
PRRLA Annual General Meeting
September 15, 2026

PRRLA PACIFIC RIM RESEARCH LIBRARIES ALLIANCE

UVIC LIBRARIES & ART COLLECTIONS





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TRANSGENDER ARCHIVES at UVic Libraries

- Part of UVic Libraries' Cultural Collections.
- Founded in 2007, officially opened in 2011.
- Community partnership with UVic's Chair in Transgender Studies.
- Collections:
  - span over 160 meters / 530 feet
  - go back 130 years
  - are in 15 languages from 23 countries on all continents
- World's largest collection of physical Trans+ history.

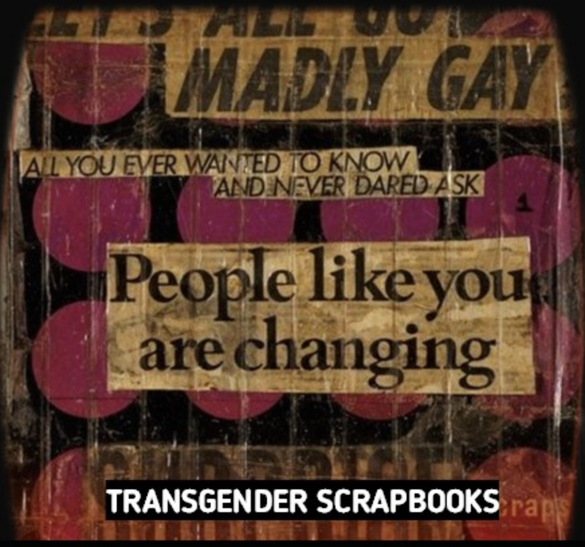



RED JORDAN AROBATEAU


TRANSVESTIA



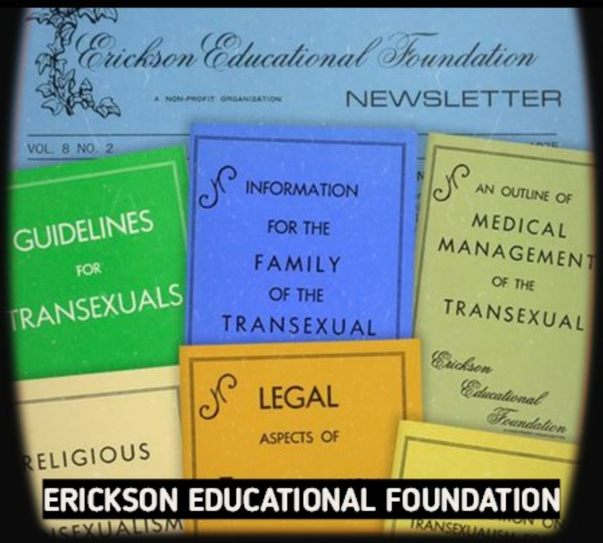
REED ERICKSON SCRAPBOOKS



TRANSGENDER SCRAPBOOKS

DIGITIZED TRANS+ COLLECTIONS


AIYYANA MARACLE



ERICKSON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION



FTM NEWSLETTER


RIKKI SWIN INSTITUTE MEDIA COLLECTION

Funded by a two-year $289,218 (USD) CLIR grant,
Digitizing Hidden Special Collections & Archives: Amplifying Unheard Voices.

Digitize, preserve, describe, and make accessible hundreds of at-risk, rarely seen, audio visual items from the **Rikki Swin Institute Media Collection**.

UVIC LIBRARIES & ART COLLECTIONS

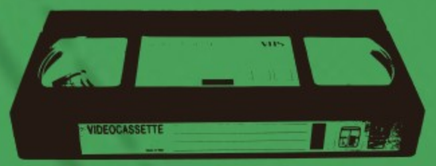
Chair in Transgender Studies 2016-2026 10th Anniversary

Council on Library and Information Resources





DIGITIZED



316 VIDEO TAPES



203 AUDIO TAPES

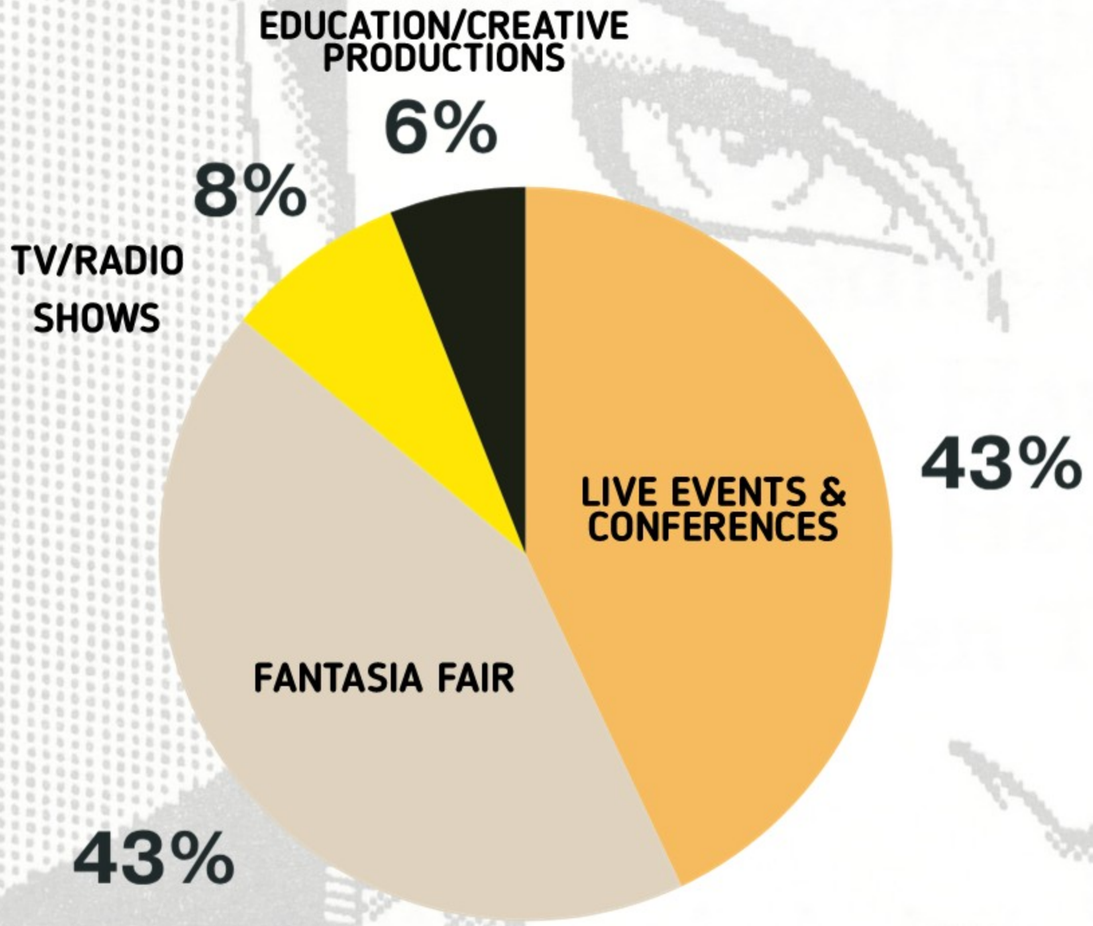


678 DIGITAL AV FILES



489 HOURS

1967-2003



FANTASIA FAIR

- North America's longest running Trans+ conference (1975-today)

LIVE EVENTS & PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

- Presentations & interviews with activists, educators, and physicians
- Gender & sexuality professional conferences
- + more

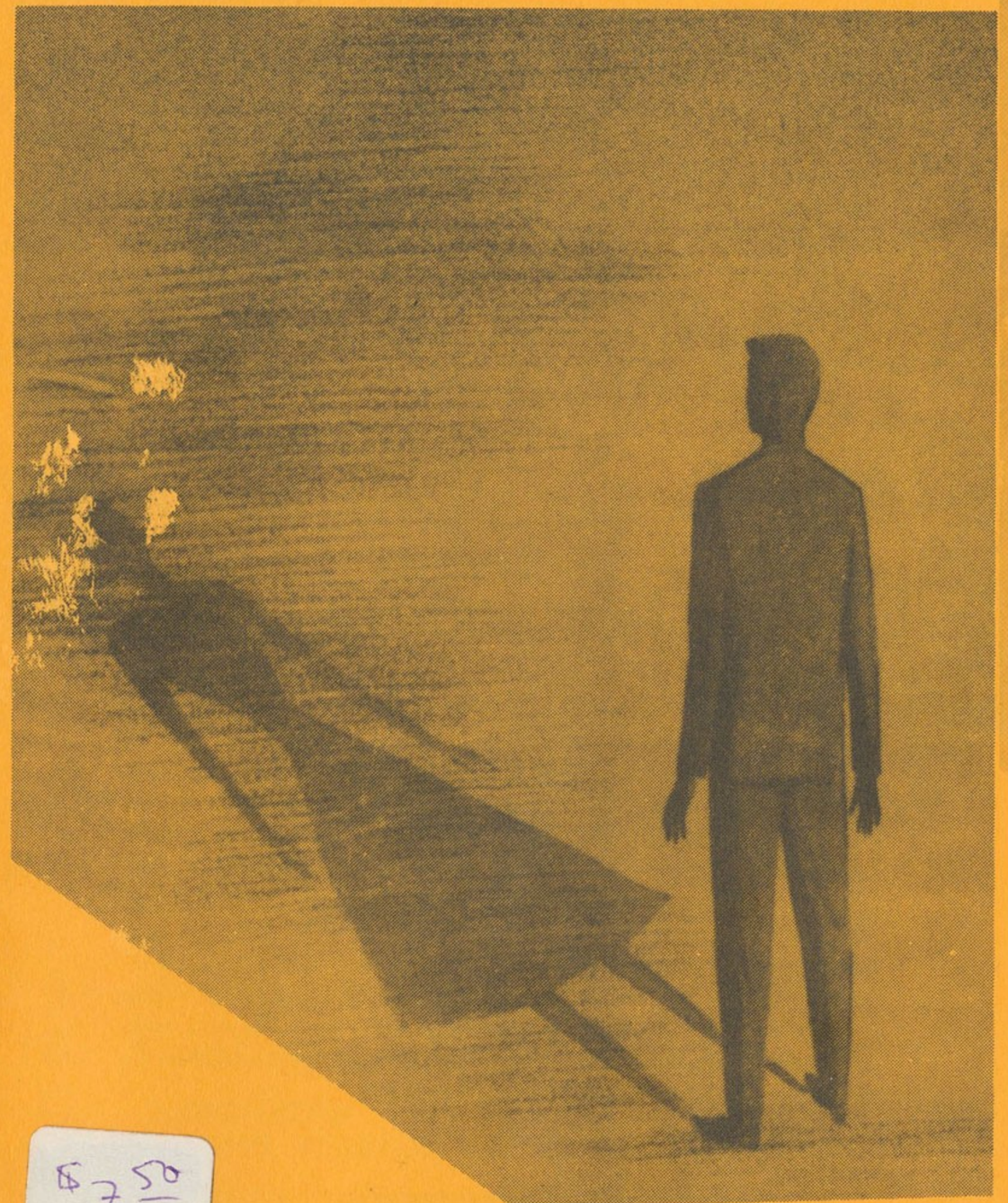
TV/RADIO SHOWS

- Trans+ activists interviewed on talk shows
- **Oldest material**: 1967 CBC audio interview with John Money (David Reimer, John/Joan case)
- + more

EDUCATION/CREATIVE PRODUCTIONS

- Gender 101 (IFGE)
- What Sex Am I (HBO)
- You Don't Know Dick: Courageous Hearts of Transsexual Men (Northern Lights)
- + more

FANTASIA FAIR 1990 AWARDS BANQUET



"All people need to know their history; even more so for people who have been so abject that, **through much of our history, our very survival has depended on our ability to keep our gender variance hidden.**"

Dr. Aaron Devor
Inaugural Chair in Transgender Studies
The Transgender Archives: Foundations for the Future

$7.50



FANTASIA FAIR 1993 PROGRAM

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Trans(formation) project stands on a foundation of Trans+ community partnerships, outreach, resources, best practices, and tools.

CHAIR IN TRANSGENDER STUDIES
CO-PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

INTERNATIONAL LGBTQ+
LINKED DATA VOCABULARY

HARM REDUCTION GUIDE

METADATA BEST PRACTICES
FOR TRANS AND GENDER
DIVERSE RESOURCES

TRANS+ ELDER INTERVIEWS

Speaking with people who were there (includes honoraria)

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The ArQuives (Toronto): world's largest independent 2SLGBTQ+ archives
UVic's Chair in Transgender Studies
TransWeek 2026 / Fantasia Fair

ETHICS

DO NO HARM

- Center **people**, not objects
- Talk to **Trans+ people** to understand context (especially those who were there)
- Use **culturally appropriate** descriptions of Trans+ people and communities
- Celebrate Trans+ people **AND** protect privacy
- Mistakes will be made – be **responsive**

ACCESSIBILITY

- Trans+ people, especially youth, are **hungry for their history** and deserve to know **community pioneers**.
- Trans+ **allyship** can increase when historical context is known
- **Generation responsibility** to balance the realistic risks of accessibility with the powerful impact of making Trans+ histories available



RISKS

PRIVACY

- Privacy of individuals depicted in online materials (accidentally “outing” someone)
- Names, faces, and voices

SENSITIVE CONTENT

- Treating sensitive content with Trans-informed care
- Changing identity vocabulary (offense vs. pride)
- Surgical procedures, talk of violence & self-harm

BAD-FAITH ACTORS

- Bad-faith actors using materials to manipulate and misrepresent Trans+ people, communities, and cultures

AI & SEARCH ENGINES

- AI harvesters & search engines crawl the digital collections, their descriptions and transcriptions.



JOURNAL OF GENDER STUDIES 1995


610 PEOPLE
531 Names 370 “Public” 240 “Private” / unknown
Are they a publicly known Trans+/ally person?
Did they knowingly participate in a production clearly intended for public broadcast?
Do they have a self-generated Trans+/ally presence online?

ACTIONS

WHAT'S POSTED ONLINE

STATEMENT OF CARE

Demonstrates our intent and signals potentially upsetting content

CONTENT WARNINGS

Enables self-selection while maintaining access for others

EDUCATIONAL USE RIGHTS STATEMENT

Demonstrates expectations of use and applies governing principles

ONLY PUBLIC NAMES

Post only names of known public people

TAKE-DOWN NOTICE

Enables people to request removal of material



OUTREACH INSTITUTE BROCHURE 1980?

ACCESS OPTIONS

SEARCH ENGINES

Only post public information used for discovery

AI BOT HARVESTING

Block known aggressive AI scraping bots

NO DOWNLOADS

Some materials users can stream but not download

MEDIATED ACCESS

Some materials require users to request access

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THANK YOU!

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CREDITS

Slide #1
Background: The Outreach Institute Catalogue
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/7p88cg54n)
Border: Fantasia Fair Directory (Oct. 16-26, 1986)
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/1544bp08d)
Slide #2
Logo background: Brochure for the Human Outreach and Achievement Institute
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/8g84mm373)
Photos: Lara Wilson, Michael Radmacher, UVic Libraries
Slide #3
Photos: Vault collection thumbnail (https://vault.library.uvic.ca/collections/a4c1f801-5899-453f-aef7-4220a874b1fe)
Slide #4
Photos: Vault collection thumbnail (https://vault.library.uvic.ca/collections/a4c1f801-5899-453f-aef7-4220a874b1fe)
Slide #5
Photos: https://news.uvic.ca/media-release/hidden-trans-digital-archives/
Slide #6
Background: Fantasia Fair 1992 Eighteenth Annual Awards Banquet
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/nz805z86n)
Slide #7
Background: Fantasia Fair 1990 Sixteenth Annual Awards Banquet
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/0p096701c)
Slide #8
Background: The Outreach Institute Catalogue
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/7p88cg54n)
Text box: Fantasia Fair Directory (Oct. 16-26, 1986)
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/1544bp08d)
Slide #9
Background: Fantasia Fair 1993 Nineteenth Annual Awards Banquet
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/0p096702n)
Slide #10
Background: Fantasia Fair Yearbook (October 1981)
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/d791sg209)
Slide #11
Background: The Journal of Gender Studies Vol. 17 No. 2
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/h702q645g)
Slide #12
Contact mikerad@uvic.ca
Slide #13
Background: Human Outreach and Achievement Institute Brochure A
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/6682x437v)
Slide #14
Background: The Outreach Institute Catalogue
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/7p88cg54n)
Border: Fantasia Fair Directory (Oct. 16-26, 1986)
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/1544bp08d)
Slide #15
Background: FanFair Follies Program: a Coarse Line (Oct. 22, 1992)
(https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net/files/8p58pc930)

