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## Overview

2SLGBTQIA+ is the acronym adopted by the Government of Canada to refer to sexual and gender diverse communities. While **sex** is a set of biological attributes in humans and animals, **gender** is our socially constructed roles, behaviours, expressions and identities ([Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#)). **Sexual orientation** is completely different; it's about who you're attracted to and who you feel drawn to romantically, emotionally, and sexually ([Planned Parenthood](#)). In sum,



Sexual orientation is about who you want to be with.  
Gender identity is about who you are.

The following guide provides resources for learning more about the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, both for **members** (those who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+) and **allies** (those who support the community without identifying as sexually or gender diverse themselves). Whether you're conducting academic research or fulfilling a personal pursuit, this guide will have something for you.

## Introduction to the 2SLGBTQIA+ Community

2SLGBTQIA+ is an acronym for the many different types of identities within the community. These identities are distinct from one another and may be referring to someone's gender or sexual orientation. Identities may also overlap, such as a transgender person (gender identity) who also identifies as lesbian (sexual orientation). The majority of the definitions below are provided by the [Government of Canada](#), although the plus sign ("and more") is defined by [The Center](#), a service oriented organization for 2SLGBTQIA+ folks based in the United States.

### 2S: Two-Spirit

An English term used to broadly capture concepts traditional to many Indigenous cultures. It is a culturally-specific identity used by some Indigenous people to indicate a person whose gender identity, spiritual identity and/or sexual orientation comprises both male and female spirits.

### L: Lesbian

Typically a woman who is sexually and/or romantically attracted to other women.

### G: Gay

A person who is sexually and/or romantically attracted to people of their same sex or gender identity. Traditionally this identity was reserved for men, but it has been adopted by people of all gender identities.

### B: Bisexual and/or Biromantic

A person who is sexually and/or romantically attracted to two or more genders.

### T: Transgender (or "Trans")

A person whose gender identity differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth.

### Q: Queer

Historically a derogatory term used as a slur against 2SLGBTQIA+ people, this term has been reclaimed by many 2SLGBTQIA+ people as a positive way to describe themselves, and as a way to include the many diverse identities not covered by common 2SLGBTQIA+ acronym.

## I: Intersex

An umbrella term to capture various types of biological sex differentiation. Intersex people have variations in their sex characteristics, such as sex chromosomes, internal reproductive organs, genitalia, and/or secondary sex characteristics (e.g. muscle mass, breasts) that fall outside of what is typically categorized as male or female.

## A: Asexual

A person who lacks sexual attraction or interest in sexual expression. An asexual person's sexual and romantic orientations may differ (e.g. biromantic asexual), and they may have sexual and/or romantic partners.

## +: and more

The 'plus' is used to signify all of the gender identities and sexual orientations not explicitly mentioned in the acronym (asexual, nonbinary, pansexual, etc.) and those that letters and words cannot yet fully describe.

## Resources on Allyship

Allyship refers to the active and intentional support of individuals who identify with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. An ally is someone who stands in solidarity with the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, advocating for their rights, promoting inclusivity, and challenging discrimination. For more information about allyship and how to be an ally, check out the resources below.

- Egale
  - [Tips on How to Practice 2SLGBTQI Allyship](#)
  - [Pronoun Usage Guide](#)
  - [Affirming and Inclusive Language](#)
- The Gay Center
  - [Allyship](#)
  - [Pronouns](#)
  - [What is Intersectionality?](#)
- LGBTQIA Resource Center
  - [How to Be an Ally](#)
  - [Pronouns & Inclusive Language](#)

## How to Search

Depending upon the information you are looking for, you may want to search the library catalog with one or more of the following keywords:

- Sexual orientation
- Sexual minority community
- Asexuality
- Bisexuality
- Gays
- Lesbians
- Gender identity
- Gender nonconformity
- Intersex
- Transgender
- Queer theory
- Gay rights
- Non-monogamous relationships



To combine keywords and **narrow** your search to results matching both criteria, use "AND":

Lesbians AND "Gay rights"

0 selected

To combine keywords and **broaden** your search to results matching either criteria, use "OR":

Lesbians OR "Gay rights"

Results: 624,663

Relevance

For more information on searching the library catalog with keywords, refer to the "Search Tips: Connectors" section of UCW's guide on finding sources.

## Print Resources

### Vancouver House

+ Fiction & Narrative Non-Fiction

+ Non-Fiction

### West Pender

+ Fiction & Narrative Non-Fiction

+ Non-Fiction

## Digital Resources

### Databases

#### Canadian Points of View

Canadian Points of View Reference Source covers hundreds of topics, each with an Overview (objective background/description), Point (argument) and Counterpoint (opposing argument).

Depending on the topic of your research, you may want to read about the following issues:

- [LGBT Conversion Therapy](#)
- [Transgender Athletes](#)
- [Gender Identity on Government Documents](#)
- [Same-Sex Marriage](#)
- [Transgender Protection](#)
- [Transgender Washroom Use](#)
- [Alberta Schools' Gender Expression Guidelines](#)
- [Alberta Gay-Straight Alliances Ac](#)

#### SocIndex

SocIndex is a sociology research database containing over 480 active, full-text, non-open access journals and magazines covering social justice, criminal justice, social psychology, gender studies, racial studies, political sciences, and others.

Search the database by keyword. (For more information on how to develop keywords for your research, see the library's [Brainstorm: Developing Your Topic guide](#).) Once you find a resource relevant to your needs, take a look at the subject terms.

**Subject terms** are supplied by librarians, and they link materials with similar content. By clicking on a subject term, SocIndex will perform a new search using that subject term. The new search will take place in the same window, so be sure to save the content you need before clicking on subject term.



The screenshot shows a library article page for "Negotiating the New Urban Sporting Territory: Policing, Settler Colonialism, and Edmonton's Ice District." A red circle highlights the "Subject Terms" section in a callout box, which includes: Colonies, White supremacy, Police, Gentrification, Hockey, Ice, and History of sports. Other sections visible include "Document Type" (Article), "Geographic Terms" (Edmonton (Alta.)), and "Company/Entity" (National Hockey League).

## The ArQuives

Since 1973, The ArQuives has been acquiring and preserving material documenting LGBTQ2+ history. Their mandate is to acquire, preserve, organize, and provide public access to information and materials, in any medium, by and about LGBTQ2+ people, primarily produced in or concerning Canada.

## (Points to the Past) Gale Archives of Sexuality and Gender

The Archives of Sexuality and Gender program provides a robust and significant collection of primary sources for the historical study of sex, sexuality, and gender. With material dating back to the sixteenth century, researchers and scholars can examine how sexual norms have changed over time, health and hygiene, the development of sex education, the rise of sexology, changing gender roles, social movements and activism, erotica, and many other interesting topical areas. This growing archival program offers rich research opportunities across a wide span of human history.

To access the archives, connect to "Points to the Past" database through UCW's database page: <https://www.myucwest.ca/cms/?p=2035>. On the first "Points to the Past" screen, select "LGBTQ and Gender Studies" (circled in red in the following screenshot). A link to the Archives of Sexuality and Gender will pop up.

The screenshot shows the "Points to the Past" database interface. A red circle highlights the "LGBTQ and Gender Studies" link in the navigation menu. A red arrow points from this link to a callout box on the right. The callout box displays the "GALE PRIMARY SOURCES ARCHIVES OF SEXUALITY AND GENDER" logo and a description: "Archives of Sexuality and Gender. Research a robust and significant collection of primary sources for the historical study of sex, sexuality, and gender. More info."

## Journals

Links to these journals will bring you to a webpage on EBSCOhost. You may need to sign in with your MyUCW portal login before being directed to the correct page. Scroll down to see the title of the journal. Just under the title, you should see "search within this publication." Use this search bar to find articles within a specific journal.

The screenshot shows the EBSCOhost page for the "Journal of Sex Research". It includes the journal title, a description: "Presents articles, review articles and commentary on a wide variety of issues involved in the scientific study of sexuality.", and a search bar labeled "Search within this publication".

Alternatively, in the general search bar, you can type the following:

Format

Searching: Academic Search Ultimate

JN "[Journal Title]" AND "[keyword search term]"

All filters (0) Full Text Peer Reviewed All time Source type

Example

Searching: Academic Search Ultimate

JN "Culture, Health & Sexuality" AND "colonialism"

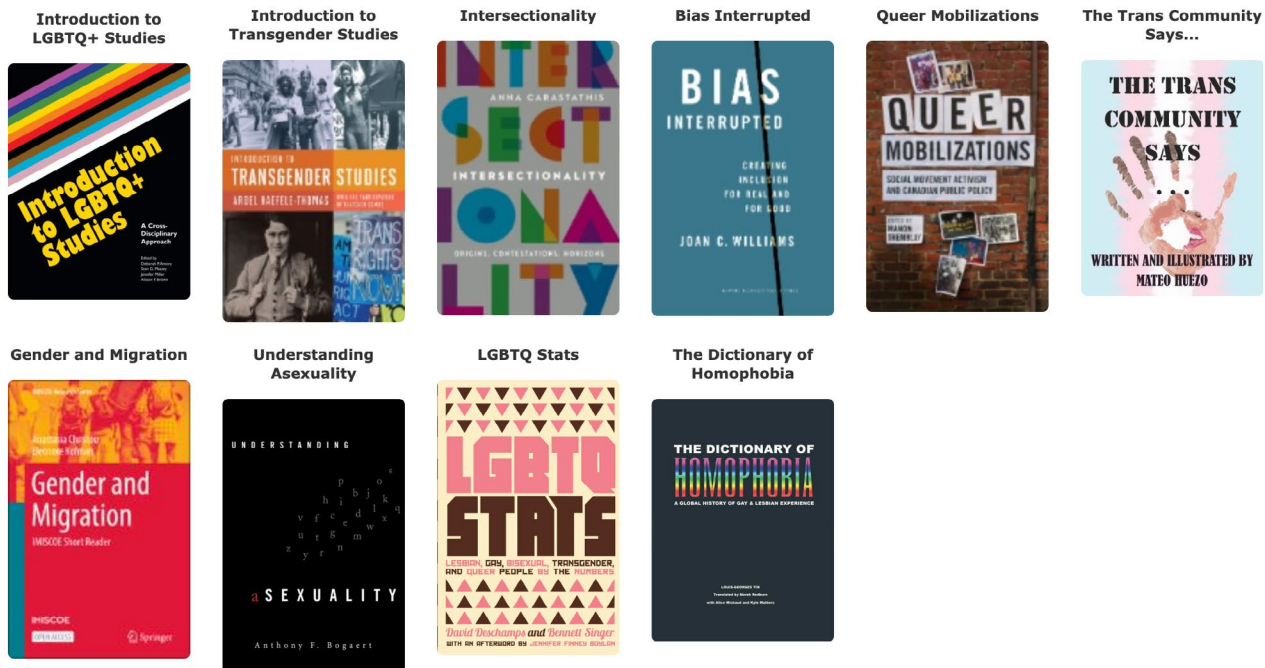
All filters (0) Full Text Peer Reviewed All time Source type

Journal Title	Subjects	Publisher
<a href="#">Journal of Sex Research</a>	Sex & Sexuality	Routledge
<a href="#">Journal of the History of Sexuality</a>	Sex & Sexuality	University of Texas Press
<a href="#">Sexuality and Culture</a>	Sex & Sexuality; Social Commentary & Opinion	Springer Nature
<a href="#">Sexuality and Disability</a>	Disabilities; Sex & Sexuality	Springer Nature
<a href="#">The Canadian Journal of Human Sexuality</a>	Sex & Sexuality	University of Toronto Press
<a href="#">Psychology and Sexuality</a>	Psychology; Sex & Sexuality	Routledge
<a href="#">Studies in Gender and Sexuality</a>	Gender Studies; Sex & Sexuality	Taylor & Francis Ltd
<a href="#">Journal of Gender Studies</a>	Gender Studies	Routledge

This is just the start of the collection. To find more journals specifically tailored to research about the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, search the [A-to-Z List](#) of UCV publications.

### Digital Books

The following is a small selection of digital books about 2SLGBTQIA+ folks that are available to you. Use [UCanSearch](#) and [A-Z List](#) to find more books that fit your research interests.



## Case Studies

Before accessing SAGE case studies, you must [sign into the database](#). Once logged in, click on the links to the case studies below.

Title	Source	Subjects	Location
<a href="#">Leveraging Sports Events for LGBTQ2+ Inclusion: Supporting Innovation in Organizational Culture and Practices</a>	SAGE	Sports Management, Diversity, Equality & Inclusion (general)	Canada
<a href="#">The Making of LGBTQ+ Leaders in an International Bank: Obstacles and Strategies to Career Progression</a>	SAGE	Diversity, Equality & Inclusion (general), Cross-Cultural Leadership, Organizational Behavior	Northern Ireland, United Kingdom of Great Britain
<a href="#">Dealing With Small Business Conflicts: Celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride or Avoiding Customer Prejudice</a>	SAGE	Managing Conflict, Diversity, Equality & Inclusion (general), Employee, Industrial & Labor Relations	Massachusetts, United States of America
<a href="#">Richmond, Virginia Is Out: A DMO Case Study of LGBT Marketing</a>	SAGE	Marketing Strategy, Tourism, Events & Hospitality Marketing, Diversity, Equality & Inclusion (general)	Virginia, United States of America
<a href="#">Creating a Gender-Neutral Environment in the Hospitality Industry Through Growth and Understanding</a>	SAGE	Gender & Diversity, Diversity, Equality & Inclusion (general)	North Carolina, United States of America
<a href="#">Plight of Flight: Evaluating Challenges for Trans Pilots in India</a>	SAGE	Diversity, Equality & Inclusion (general)	India
<a href="#">LGBT Issues at Exxon Mobil Corporation</a>	HBP*	BUSINESS & ECONOMICS / General	United States of America

\* Harvard Business Publishing

## Grey Literature

According to the [Grey Literature International Steering Committee \(GLISC\)](#), grey literature is

information produced on all levels of government, academics, business and industry in electronic and print formats not controlled by commercial publishing i.e. where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body.

Key sources of grey literature for research on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community include:



### Egale

Provides reliable information for 2SLGBTQIA+ people & communities, service providers, schools, and companies.

[Access Research](#)



### Pride at Work

Empowers Canadian employers to build workplaces that celebrate all employees regardless of gender expression, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

[Access Research](#)



### Women and Gender Equality Canada

Committed to advancing equality with respect to sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression in Canada's economic, social, and political life.

[Access News & Reports](#)



# Community Resources

In addition to the list below, check the UCW Student Life page on [Sexual & Gender Diversity](#).

## Public Libraries

<b>The Vancouver Public Library (VPL) Rainbow Collection</b>	A special collection of fiction and non-fiction books for and about the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. For more information about VPL, visit our page on <a href="#">Public Libraries</a> .
<b>Out on the Shelves</b>	A non-profit, community library built and cared for by volunteers, librarians, and librarians-in-training who are committed to anti-oppressive social justice work.

## Service-Oriented Nonprofits

<b>Sher Vancouver</b>	Founded in 2008 to provide arts and cultural, and social service programs and services to queer South Asians and their friends, families, and allies in Metro Vancouver.
<b>QMUNITY</b>	Empowers queer, trans, and Two-Spirit individuals to be their best selves through free counseling, support groups, and access to gender-affirming chestwear. QMUNITY also offers 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusivity training & workshops, educational resources, and consulting services.
<b>Rainbow Refugee</b>	Promotes safe and equitable migration and communities of belonging for people fleeing Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and HIV+ persecution.
<b>Salaam Canada</b>	Offers discussion, support, and social spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ Muslims, with regional groups in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, and Vancouver--all of whom organize events and do social justice advocacy work locally.

## Annual Events

<b>Queer Film Festival</b>	Since 1988, the Vancouver Queer Film Festival has provided a platform for convening safer spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ people and communities to be seen, heard, and celebrated through art, dialogue, and film.
<b>Pride Festival and Parade</b>	Aims to produce events that reflect the pride the 2SLGBTQIA+ community has in itself, by strengthening the sense of togetherness, and contributing to the vibrancy, health and overall well-being of all persons who wish to celebrate.

The following websites list additional organizations that help support and advocate for the 2SLGBTQIA+ population:

- [The Vancouver Public Library](#) (expand "Advocacy Organizations" to see the list)
- [The City of Vancouver](#)
- [What's On Queer BC](#)
- [The University of British Columbia](#)

