

**Manuscripts and Archives Division
The New York Public Library**

International Gay Information Center collection

The International Gay Information Center (IGIC), founded in 1979 as the International Gay History Archive, had a mission to document the entire history of gay culture. Initially a committee of the Gay Activists Alliance, the IGIC collected books, periodicals, organizational records, personal papers, pamphlets, newsletters, press releases, and ephemera related in any way to gay rights, history, or culture. The IGIC collected historical material as well as contemporary items and operated as both an academic repository and a public resource. In 1989, the IGIC donated its entire holdings to the New York Public Library.

In the subsequent years, the collection has changed. As the New York Public Library continued to collect material related to gay rights, history, and culture, some materials were added to the collection. Other materials amassed by IGIC were separated out of the collection and cataloged individually. Such materials include organizational records, like the [Gay Activist Alliance records](#) and the [Mattachine Society of New York](#) records, and personal papers, including the [Arthur Bell papers](#). These collections can be found listed in the [Gay and Lesbian collections subject guide](#) maintained by the Manuscripts and Archives Division.

The International Gay Information Center collection is divided into the following categories:

[Sound and video recordings, 1956-1989](#)

321 items. Collection consists of audio recordings of interviews, meetings, lectures, radio and television shows, and live performances. There are also videotapes from the Open Channel cable show and several gay erotic films.

Books

Approximately 4,000 volumes. While most titles were published after 1950, some works date from the late 19th Century. Included are works of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, biography and erotica; the books are primarily in English, but the collection contains publications from numerous countries. Volumes are cataloged individually in the [Library's catalog](#). For a full list search [by call number](#) "mss div igic."

Ephemera

Approximately 150 linear feet. Most materials date from 1969 to the 1990s, but a few earlier items are included. This series contains flyers, programs, posters, announcements and mailings from around 400 organizations worldwide; articles and other printed materials topically arranged ("bars/baths," "philately," "religion"); postcards, comic and coloring books, and artifacts such as t-shirts, banners, and buttons.

- Artifacts
- [Bars](#)
- [Calendars, postcards, and greeting cards](#)
- [Gay guides](#)
- [Individuals](#)
- [Organizations](#)
- Posters
- [Subjects](#)

Periodicals

181.5 linear ft. See the [LGBT Periodicals collection](#).

Photographs, 1886-1990s

6.5 linear ft. The collection documents many aspects of the history and culture of gay men and lesbians, including activism, AIDS, erotica, pageants, parties and theatre. The collection includes snapshots, studio prints, movie stills, and slides. Although the bulk of the materials date from 1970-1979, there are several images from the 1950's. Photographers include Fred W. McDarrah and Richard C. Wandel. Photographs by [Bettye Lane](#) can be found in a separate collection.