

University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections

Finding Aid - Archives Collective collection (RBSC- ARC-1014)

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University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Irving K. Barber Learning Centre
1961 East Mall
Vancouver
British Columbia
V6T 1Z1
Telephone: 604-822-2521
Fax: 604-822-9587
[Email: rare.books@ubc.ca](mailto:rare.books@ubc.ca)
<http://rbsc.library.ubc.ca/>
<http://rbscarchives.library.ubc.ca/archives-collective-collection>

Archives Collective collection

Table of contents

Summary information	3
Administrative history / Biographical sketch	3
Scope and content	4
Notes	4
Access points	5
Physical condition	4
Series descriptions	5
, Subject Files, 1919-1989, predominant 1973-1989	5
, Archives Administration, 1977-1987	8

Summary information

Repository:	University of British Columbia Library Rare Books and Special Collections
Title:	Archives Collective collection
Reference code:	RBSC-ARC-1014
Date:	1919-1989, predominant 1973-1989 (date of creation)
Physical description:	1.09 m of textual records
Dates of creation, revision and deletion:	Arrangement and Description completed by Matthew White, August 2023
Note [generalNote]:	Content Warning: Researchers should be aware of homophobic materials throughout the fonds.

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The intention of the Archives Collective was to acquire knowledge of the heritage of gay people, and in so doing develop “that sense of pride and security which is so vital to the building of self-confidence.” Run by a BC based group of librarians and archivists, such as Archives Collective founder James Thomas, Ron Dutton, and Rob Joyce, the Archive was founded in 1976 to collect and preserve materials by and about gay groups and individuals in the Pacific Northwest. Many of these items were immediately transferred to other organizations which were better suited for the long-term preservation of the materials. The Archives Collective “placed several thousand items in some twenty archival collections, but mainly in the Canadian Gay Archives... and in UBC Special Library Collections.” After the group disbanded in the late 1980’s, Ron Dutton continued his practice of collecting materials related to gay and lesbian life in BC, and in 2018 his collection was donated to the Vancouver Archives as the BC Gay and Lesbian Archive.

Custodial history

Archives Collective founder James Thomas and other Archives Collective members held collected materials prior to deposit into RBSC and other repositories, such as the Canadian Gay Archives (now ArQives). Materials were donated directly to the Archives Collective by community members and gay organizations.

Scope and content

Collection contents include materials related to various lesbian and gay organizations in Vancouver and Toronto, as well as political activities in the New Democratic party, left-wing organizations, presses and radio. The Gay Liberation movement is widely represented, with Labour, Socialist and Marxist, Women's Liberation, and First Nations organizations peppered throughout the collection. Significant attention is given to Gay Alliance Towards Equality, the John Damien, Gay Tide and Body Politic legal battles, and Anita Bryant. There is also a significant presence of materials relating to CRFO Co-op Radio.

It was collected and donated by James Thomas, Founder of the Archives Collective. Significant donations were made to the Archives Collective by Randy Notte, a writer and gay advocate based out of Victoria and then Toronto and Vancouver; these donations document his wide range of involvement in the NDP and Socialist groups throughout Canada, especially as they have to do with gay and lesbian rights at that time. Files 2-20 to 6-07 are related to Notte's activities. The collection is divided into two series, Subject Files (1919-1989) and Archive Administration (1979-1989).

Collection includes materials in the form of letters; pamphlets; posters; political materials, including a number of NDP related items collected by Randy Notte; materials relating to the functions of Gay and Lesbian organizations in Vancouver, Victoria and globally; newspapers and newspaper clippings; and other ephemera.

Notes

Title notes

- **Source of title proper:** Title based on name of organization

Physical condition

Some papers contain water damage resulting in ink spreading. Some newspapers in poor condition and paper is flaking.

Immediate source of acquisition

Collection received from James Thomas, founder of Archives Collective, at various intervals, including donations in 1980, and 1987. Randy Notte also made a donation in 1990 of a significant portion of the existing archive.

Related material

Material associated with the Archives Collective can be found in the BC Gay and Lesbian Archive at the Vancouver Archives, and at ArQuives in Toronto, Ontario.

Materials relating to Archives Collective can be found in the Gay Alliance Towards Equality fonds at UBC Rare Books and Special Collections.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** published

Access points

- Archives Collective
- Communications (subject)
- Cultural groups (subject)
- Family and personal life (subject)
- Organizations (subject)
- Sexuality and gender (subject)

Series descriptions

Subject Files

Date: 1919-1989, predominant 1973-1989 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series contains files related to the activities of queer organizations and activists in Vancouver, Toronto and other parts of Canada and the United States. A significant portion of this series is related to the political activities of Randy Notte, a contributor to the collection. Contents include informational pamphlets and brochures, legal cases, reports and statement papers, political materials, meeting minutes, organizational ephemera, newspaper clippings, periodicals, newsletters, and posters.

Physical description: 1 m of textual records.

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1014-1-01	File - The Gay Alliance Towards Equality v. The Vancouver Sun	1979		
RBSC-ARC-1014-1-02	File - [newsletters from Dignity, Integrity and other groups]	1980-1981		
RBSC-ARC-1014-1-03	File - [materials related to advocacy and organizing]	1980-1981		
RBSC-ARC-1014-1-04	File - Transsexual [subject file]	1971-1979		
RBSC-ARC-1014-1-05	File - [political and legal actions, community organizations]	1973-1981		
RBSC-ARC-1014-1-06	File - Archives Collective - Addendum	1980-1982		

RBSC-ARC-1014-1-07	File - Archives Collective - Addendum [SPAG related materials]	1982
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-01	File - Canadian Lesbian and Gay Rights Coalition	1976-1980
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-02	File - National Gay Task Force, U.S.	1979-1980
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-03	File - Body Politic, Toronto	1979-1980
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-04	File - Gay Archives	1979-1986
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-05	File - B.C. Human Rights Commission	1979-1981
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-06	File - Search, Vancouver	1980
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-07	File - Misc. Gay Serials	1976-1981
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-08	File - Misc. Ephemera	1973
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-09	File - Canadian Human Rights Comm.	1980-1981
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-10	File - Misc. Gay Materials - International	1979-1980
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-11	File - Misc. Gay Materials - Canada	1981
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-12	File - Misc. Gay Materials - U.S.	1974-1984
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-13	File - Gay Alliance Toward Equality - Vancouver	1973-1980
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-14	File - Misc. Left-Wing Groups	1979-1984
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-15	File - International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1979
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-16	File - La Communaute GAIE et la Police de la CUM	1979
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-17	File - [BC Human Rights Code Cases]	1975-1979
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-18	File - Discrimination and the Gay Minority	1978
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-19	File - Sexual Orientation: A Policy Planning Report - Prepared for the Canadian Human Rights Commission	1979
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-20	File - Socialist League [writing drafts]	ca. 1985
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-21	File - Gay Rights Union	1984
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-22	File - Gay People's Alliance (Victoria)	1974
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-23	File - St. George - NDP	1976-1979
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-24	File - Target - Island Gay Community Centre Society News	ca. 1984
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-25	File - B.C. New Democratic Party	1974
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-26	File - Dovercourt NDP	ca. 1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-27	File - Rosedale NDP	1979
RBSC-ARC-1014-2-28	File - New Democratic Party - Federal	1976
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-01	File - NDP Gay Caucus	1976-1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-02	File - Ontario New Democratic Party	1976
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-03	File - Native People's Struggle	1975-1976
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-04	File - National Gay Rights Coalition	1976
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-05	File - Misc.	1987
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-06	File - Liberation News Service - New York	1976
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-07	File - League for Socialist Action - Y.S.	1976
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-08	File - Joyce, Rob	1983
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-09	File - Government Acts	1969-1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-10	File - International Socialists	1978
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-11	File - Homophobic Organizations	1980
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-12	File - NAMBLA	1981-1984
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-13	File - Gays of/O' Ottawa	1975
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-14	File - Revolutionary Marxist Group	1975

RBSC-ARC-1014-3-15	File - Gays for Equality (Winnipeg)	1975
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-16	File - Gay Social Services - Toronto	[ca. 1975]
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-17	File - Quebec	1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-18	File - Ont. Human Rights Code	1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-19	File - Revolutionary Workers League	1977-1978
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-20	File - Right To Privacy Committee	1981-1984
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-21	File - RCMP	1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-22	File - S.E.A.R.C.H. - Vancouver	1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-23	File - Sex Articles	1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-24	File - Socialist League	1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-3-25	File - [Co-op Radio (CFRO)]	1985-1988
RBSC-ARC-1014-4-01	File - [Co-op Radio (CFRO)]	1985-1987
RBSC-ARC-1014-4-02	File - [Co-op Radio (CRFO)]	1984-1987
RBSC-ARC-1014-4-03	File - [Co-op Radio (CRFO) - incl. Radio Waves Magazine]	1985-1988
RBSC-ARC-1014-4-04	File - VCR - Board + Committee Minutes	1985-1988
RBSC-ARC-1014-4-05	File - VCR + CRTC	1987-1988
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-01	File - FLAG [Free Lesbians And Gays]	1978
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-02	File - Correspondence - S. Russel	1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-03	File - Coalition To Stop Anita Bryant	1978
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-04	File - Correspondence - Wilson	1980-1983
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-05	File - Correspondence - R. Dayman	1974-1976
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-06	File - Correspondence - D. Thorstad	1976-1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-07	File - Correspondence - M. Flood	1973-1978
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-08	File - Correspondence - W. Bruno	1977-1978
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-09	File - The Gay Church	1977-1980
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-10	File - AIDS	1983-1989
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-11	File - ADGQ - Montreal	1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-12	File - Gay Alliance Toward Equality - Vancouver	1974
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-13	File - Gay Alliance Toward Equality - 1978 -	1978-1979
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-14	File - Gay Alliance Toward Equality (Toronto) 1976-1977	1976-1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-15	File - Gay Alliance Toward Equality (Toronto) 1974-1975	1974-1975
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-16	File - Gay Activists Alliance / New York Gay Movement	1977-1978
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-17	File - FFLAG [Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays]	1981
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-18	File - Damien 1978	1977-1978
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-19	File - Community Homophile Assoc. of Toronto	1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-20	File - Committee to Defend John Damien	1975-1979
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-21	File - Anita Bryant	1977-1978
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-22	File - Angola	1976
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-23	File - The Body Politic	1974-1978
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-24	File - British Gay Movement	1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-25	File - Margaret Campbell	1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-26	File - (Spartacist) Trotskyist League	1975-1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-27	File - Workers' World Party	1977
RBSC-ARC-1014-5-28	File - Coalition for Gay Rights Ontario	1973-1981

RBSC-ARC-1014-6-01	File - Women's Liberation	1978
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-02	File - Trade Unions	1976
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-03	File - TRI-AID	1978
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-04	File - Toronto Municipal Politics	1978-1980
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-05	File - Toronto - Misc.	1981-1983
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-06	File - News	1919, 1978-1981
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-07	File - Theoretical Documents + Notes	1975-1979

Archives Administration

Date: 1977-1987 (date of creation)

Scope and content:

Series covers the internal workings of the Archives Collective, especially the activities of James Thomas. Contents are mostly related to various archival or historical networks that the Collective was a part of, or correspondence dedicated to collecting materials from organization and subsequently housing the collected materials. Series contains letters, newsletters, lists of organizations, and donation receipts.

Physical description: 9 cm of textual records

Publication status:

published

File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-08	File - Lesbian/Gay History Researchers Network	1980-1981		
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-09	File - Misc. US Archives	1981-1988		
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-10	File - Gay Archivist	1977-1988		
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-11	File - AC Misc. [Archives Collective]	1979-1982		
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-12	File - Canadian Lesbian and Gay History Network	1980-1987		
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-13	File - Archives Letterhead	[Ca. 1980]		
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-14	File - Canadian Gay Archives	1977-1989		
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-15	File - Correspondence - Undated - Archives Collective	[1980s?]		
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-16	File - Correspondence - 1978 - Archives Collective	1978		
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-17	File - Correspondence - 1979 - Archives Collective	1979		
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-18	File - Correspondence - 1980 - Archives Collective	1980		
RBSC-ARC-1014-6-19	File - Correspondence - 1981 - Archives Collective	1981		
RBSC-ARC-1014-7-01	File - Correspondence - 1982 - Archives Collective	1982		
RBSC-ARC-1014-7-02	File - Correspondence - 1985 - Archives Collective	1985		

RBSC-ARC-1014-7-03	File - Correspondence - 1986 - Archives Collective	1986
RBSC-ARC-1014-7-04	File - Correspondence - 1983-1984 - Archives Collective	1983-1984
RBSC-ARC-1014-7-05	File - Correspondence - 1987 - Archives Collective	1987