**POSTER**

**Queer literature in public libraries in Croatia**

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**Introduction**

The services of the public library are provided on the basis of equality of access for all, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, nationality, language or social status (IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto 1994). Civil society is important part in functioning of modern democratic society, and inclusion of citizens in social and political aspects is crucial for vital democracy (Seligman 1992). Civil society and public libraries are natural partners, they have same goal to create individuals able for active communication, participation in all aspects of social activity (Kranich 2002). Regarding IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision - making and cultural development of the individual and social groups. According that definition we can view importance of public libraries as institutions which have power to increase emancipation and conscience of society in whole. Considering that, public libraries can be pillars for actualisation of queer rights and strengthening tolerance in society through literature and programmes.

**Theoretical framework & Research questions & Methodology & Research Results & Discussion & Conclusion**

This study deals with the representation of queer literature in public libraries. The goal is to examine presence of titles in public libraries in Zadar County, Šibenik-Knin County and Split- Dalmatian County proposed by the checklist.

Methodology used in this poster is checklist approach. The checklist is based on the list of titles composed of experts in this area which could be a template for creating the core literature since there is no official established bibliography for this subject in Croatia. Five queer activist and theorists of queer where participating in this creation of a template for core literature. A list gathers fifty five titles (fiction and nonfiction).

Research questions are how many titles from proposed core list is present in public libraries. Research was held in forty three public libraries. The results show that the presence is insufficient. Main county public libraries (Public Library in Zadar, Public Library Marko Marulić in Split and the Public Library Juraj Šižgorić in Šibenik) have 60 - 80% titles from proposed core list. Speciality are small places in county which are in origin more closed for different groups and their special needs in society. They have even smaller percentage. Considering that and a fact of a lack of online library catalogues in those places visibility of queer literatures is small scale as well as free circling informations.

Open dialogue and cooperation between public libraries and NGOs is the key for success in development of quality collections, and at the end in creating more liberal society for straightening tolerance, empathy development and progress through the prism of creating collections in public libraries.

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