POSTER

LGBT Literature in Public Libraries?: The Perception of Information Science Students in Croatia

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Introduction

Nowadays the topic of same sex marriage is largely talked about in society. With that comes the topic of such couples having children. In today’s society that it is still a taboo topic. When it comes to libraries, their main goal is not to discriminate any of its users. We can’t help but wonder is the lack of literature related to same sex marriage a way of social discrimination and the cause of people still not supporting same sex marriage. "My rainbow family." is a picture book about homosexuality and same-sex parenthood.[[1]](#footnote-1) The fuss about this picture book in Croatia was raised when the conservative association Vigilare called the picture book a "homosexual propaganda" and called on the minister of education to ban in the schools, but the minister did not agree with that so the association replied that parents have the right to decide whether or not their children will read "My rainbow family." [[2]](#footnote-2)

Theoretical framework

It is known that public libraries should be a safe and welcoming place for all users, but many libraries do not realize the issues that the LGBT community face. LGBT acronym refers to the collective of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and transgender people. In modern society LGBT refers to the diversity of sexuality and culture based on gender identity sometimes used to describe someone who is not homosexsual instead of just describing it lesbians, homosexuals, bisexuals and transgenders and transsexuals. LGBT community is marginalized by society and often discriminated (Shankle, Michael D.). Librarians have the power to change something in society and support the LGBT community by having and promoting literature in their libraries that have a realistic and unobtrusive images of the LGBT community. Authors Sandra Hughes -Hassell, Elizabeth Overberg, and Shannon Harris said that LGBT community feels a sense of belonging into society when they see literature like that into libraries. That feeling of belonging can also encourage other members of society to accept the LGBT community (Hughes -Hassell, Sandra, Elizabeth Overberg, and Shannon Harris. 2013.).

Methodology

The aim of this study is to find out what the students of information science in Croatia think about the picture book “My rainbow family” and about including LGBT literature in libraries. Since this is a burning topic nowadays, it is important to get an insight to what the future librarians think about it as they will one day be the ones who will make decision about acquisition of this kind of literature into public libraries's collections. This study will try to answer three research questions:

1. What do information science students think about the picture book “My rainbow family”?

2. Would they include LGBT literature in libraries?

3. What is their opinion about gay couples adopting children?

Results

Results of this research will be presented at the conference. These results will show whether students of information science are positive or negative about this topic.

Discussion

This research is underway and results will be presented at the conference. Also, discussion about this topic and opinions of students will be held at the conference.

Conclusion

This research will show what students of information science in Croatia think about the inclusion of LGTB materials into the library collections, in particular in relation to their personal opinion about LGTB life styles. This research will make a clearer picture and perception of young people and students about this popular topic.

Literature

1. Hughes -Hassell, Sandra, Elizabeth Overberg, and Shannon Harris. "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) -Themed Literature for Teens: Are School Libraries Providing Adequate Collections?" School Library Research 16 (August 24, 2013).

2. "'Hoćete li dopustiti ulazak slikovnice o tzv. istospolnim obiteljima u vrtiće i škole?'" Večernji List. January 4, 2018. Accessed April 11, 2018. <https://www.vecernji.hr/vijesti/udruga-vigilare-blazenka-divjak-istospolne-zajednice-1217836>.

3. My rainbow family. „Picture book“ Accessed February 24, 2018. <https://www.dugineobitelji.com/>

4. Shankle, Michael D. The Handbook of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Public Health: A Practitioners Guide to Service. New York: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group, 2012.

1. Usp. My rainbow family. „Picture book“ Accessed February 24, 2018. <https://www.dugineobitelji.com/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Usp. "'Hoćete li dopustiti ulazak slikovnice o tzv. istospolnim obiteljima u vrtiće i škole?'" Večernji List. January 4, 2018. Accessed April 11, 2018. <https://www.vecernji.hr/vijesti/udruga-vigilare-blazenka-divjak-istospolne-zajednice-1217836>. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)