What role should the public library play in the lives of LGBTQ homeless youth?
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“Surviving queer, no matter how invisible, often requires knowing how to travel across hostile territory - whether it be physical, emotional, cultural or theoretical” (Ingram, 1997, p.27)

“We must create a home for our LGBT youth. This home is an inner and outer dwelling where life is understood and respected in a safe place within mainstream culture” (Goldman, 2008, Introduction, p.xxvii).

Introduction
- Bringing together the voices of librarians, professionals, and LGBTQ homeless youth, this research provides insight into the needs of these youth and the role of public libraries in meeting these needs. It is hoped these insights will prompt public librarians and supporters of public libraries to consider the rewards of addressing some of the challenges to this silent, courageous and vulnerable population. How public librarians choose to use their power and their spaces is a topic that has applications for the future of public libraries and the communities they serve. The emerging theory can help direct these choices.

Statistics
- There are approximately 1.6 million to 2.8 million homeless young people in the United States
- It is estimated that 20-40% of these identify as LGBTQ - compared to an estimated 5-10% of the overall youth population
- Over 30% said their major challenges were finding affordable housing and a job that would provide enough income to maintain it (over 45 %)

Method
- One-on-one long interviews
- Young adult librarians
- Professionals working with homeless LGBTQ youth
- LGBTQ homeless youth
- Grounded theory

Emerging Themes
- Build trust and create dialogue.
  *Examples*: Initiate conversations; be open and accepting; show interest; learn names; if appropriate, ask them how they identify; be flexible with fines and fees; offer resources

- Foster an affirming environment for LGBTQ homeless youth.
  *Examples*: Prominently display Safe Space posters/stickers; create and maintain an LGBTQ collection; provide LGBTQ-related programming; prohibit hate speech

- Community networking and reaching out.
  *Examples*: Get on community resource lists; join consortia; collaborate on programs; partner in funding; provide resource lists for homeless youth