



Image: Children & Libraries, Dec 2013

Rainbow Family Connections: Embracing LGBTQ Families at YOUR Library

Wednesday, June 18, 2014
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

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Infopeople

Today's Topics

- ★ **Understanding Rainbow Family Compositions**
- ★ **Identifying Informational Needs & Developing Welcoming Environments**
- ★ **Planning Programs & Outreach Services**
- ★ **Selecting Materials**
- ★ **Recommended Professional Materials & Resources**



Creative Commons by [Earthworm](#)

Why Rainbow Families (LGBTQ Families)?

- ★ **Over 110,000 same-sex couples are raising children in almost every county (96%) in the U.S.**
 - ✓ **Areas with low numbers of same-sex couples and LGBTQ singles without children.**
- ★ **Approximately 2 million children are raised in LGBTQ families that most often live in rural areas.**



Sources: The Williams Institute, "As Overall Percentage Of Same-Sex Couples Raising Children Declines, Those Adopting Almost Doubles – Significant Diversity Among Lesbian and Gay Families," (January 25, 2012): <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/press-releases/as-overall-percentage-of-same-sex-couples-raising-children-declines-those-adopting-almost-doubles-significant-diversity-among-lesbian-and-gay-families/>; Urban Institute, "Gay and lesbian families in the census: Couples with children," (2003): <http://www.urban.org/publications/900626.html>. ; Movement Advancement Project, Family Equality Council and Center for American Progress, "All Children Matter: How Legal and Social Inequalities Hurt LGBT Families," (October 2011): <http://www.lgbtmap.org/all-children-matter-full-report>; Urban Institute, Gates, Gary J., and Jason Ost. The Gay and Lesbian Atlas. Washington, DC: Urban Institute Press, 2004.

How are “Rainbow Families” formed?

- ★ Divorce – kids from previous marriages
- ★ Adoption – by one or both partners
- ★ Surrogacy
- ★ Child birth
- ★ Single LGBTQ parents/caregivers
- ★ LGBTQ children



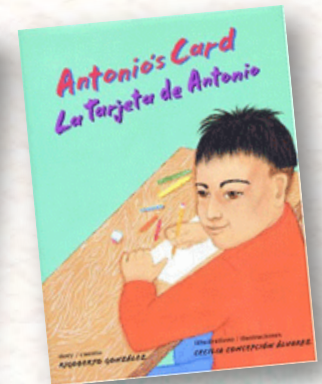
Creative Commons, Photo by [Simon Carrasco](#)

Books as Mirrors & Windows

It is important for the self-esteem of LGBTQ children and children with LGBT caregivers to see **themselves and their families** in the books they encounter

“Gay and lesbian kids need to read about people like themselves, just as kids in other minorities do.”

~ Nancy Garden, 2000



Children in Culturally Pluralistic Society



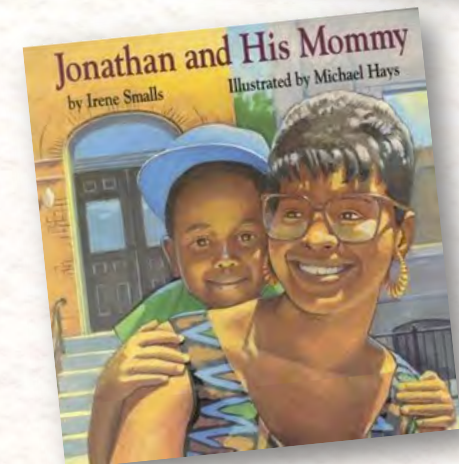
Source: www.thegimcrackmiscellany.com/2008/06/god-hates-fags/



Creative Commons, Photo [by Thomas](#)

Informational Needs of Rainbow Families

- ★ Developmentally appropriate, high-quality print and digital materials that normalize the experiences of LGBTQ families.
- ★ **Current, accurate information about local organizations serving LGBTQ families.**
- ★ Language in library programs inclusive of LGBTQ families
- ★ **Opportunities to learn about LGBTQ individuals via library displays, collections, and programs.**
- ★ Confidentiality in patron records and discretion when helping LGBTQ family members locate materials
- ★ **Ability to locate LGBTQ materials within the library's catalog and collections**



Creating Welcoming Spaces for LGBTQ Families

- ★ Recognize and address personal prejudices among library staff.
- ★ Respectful language in programs, readers advisory, and all services.
- ★ Confront instances of teasing and bullying between children, parents, or library staff.
- ★ Encourage LGBTQ caregivers to volunteer and participate in children's library programs.

The poster features a yellow background with the title 'Dragons & Dresses & Ducklings—Oh My!' in large, colorful letters. A blue dragon is perched on a stack of colorful books. A speech bubble from the dragon says 'Free! All Ages Welcome'. Below the title, there is a paragraph of text describing the performance. The date and time are listed as 'SATURDAY, MAY 14th @ 11:30AM'. The location is 'San Francisco Public Library Koret Auditorium—Lower Level 100 Larkin Street, SF, CA 94102'. There is also a small logo for the San Francisco Public Library at the bottom right.

Dragons & Dresses & Ducklings—Oh My!

Free! All Ages Welcome

Dragons & Dresses & Ducklings—Oh My! is a performance for and about families. Weaving together stories from eight children's picture books, with lesbian, gay, and transgender characters, students from SFSU illustrate a rich variety of family members and relationships. Rather than highlighting the differences of lesbian, gay, and transgender characters, this performance highlights the commonplace characteristics of family: love, diversity, and acceptance.

**SATURDAY, MAY 14th
@ 11:30AM**

San Francisco Public Library
Koret Auditorium—Lower Level
100 Larkin Street, SF, CA 94102

Used with permission
San Francisco State University

Creating Welcoming Spaces (Continued)

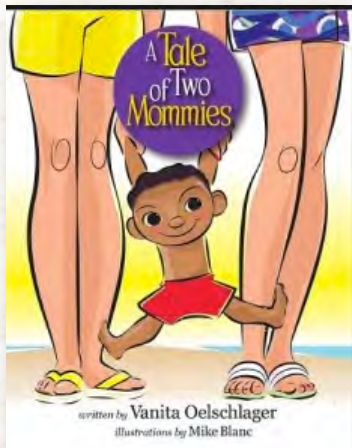
- ★ Collaborate with community agencies serving Rainbow Families.
- ★ Create visual displays and bulletin boards inclusive of all families.
- ★ Integrate LGBTQ children's books into regular storytimes and arrange on bookshelves alongside other children's books.
- ★ Examine library materials for stereotypes and biases such as gender stereotypes, sex role stereotypes, homophobia, etc.



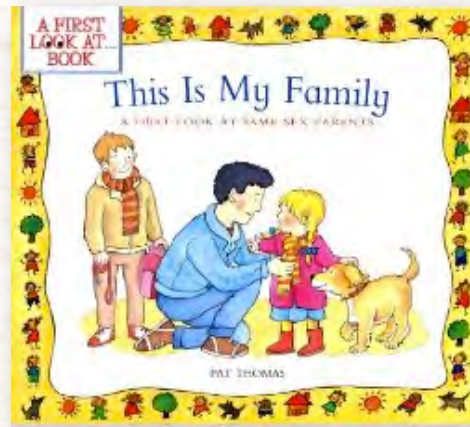
Poster source: www.rainbowfamilies.org.au/resources/whos-in-your-family/

Program Considerations

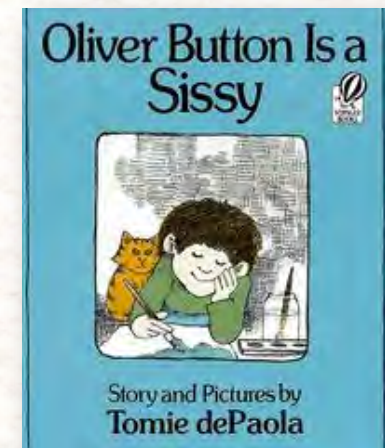
- ★ **Selecting Your Books & Program Type**
- ★ **Choosing Your Words Wisely**
- ★ **Knowing How to Respond to Children**
- ★ **Knowing How to Respond to Caregivers, Administrators, & Other Adults**



VS.



VS.



“Out and Proud” Program Examples

- ★ **Events in conjunction with LGBTQ Pride**
- ★ **Outreach at Rainbow Family Events: picnics, PFLAG meetings, etc.**
- ★ **Adoption workshops inclusive of LGBTQ topics.**
- ★ **Family film series with gay-friendly children’s films: Oliver Button is a Star, Buster’s Outdoor Journey’s, etc.**



Creative Commons, by [Arda](#)

“Under the Radar” Subversive & Inclusive Programming



Creative Commons, by [Michael Verhoef](#),

- ★ One of the best ways to serve children and caregivers in LGBTQ families.
- ★ You may not want to offer “Rainbow Storytimes” that single out LGBTQ families.
 - ✓ Fear of embarrassing Rainbow Families
 - ✓ Perceived programs being only for a specific population

Why Subversive (Inclusive) Storytimes?

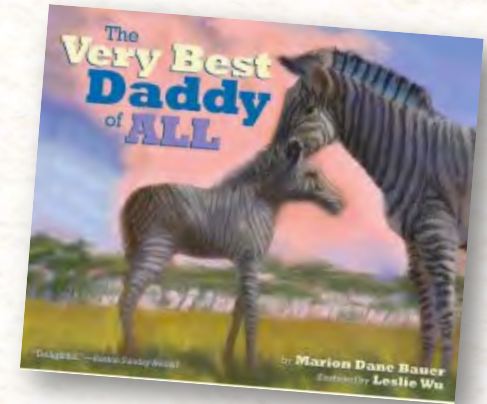
- ★ **Validates the existence of children and caregivers in Rainbow Families**
- ★ **Subverts views in the storyhour that all families have a mom and a dad and/or are heterosexual.**
- ★ **Normalizes the experiences of children and adults in Rainbow Families, providing a window for children and caregivers in other types of families.**



Creative Commons, By JJ

How to be Subversive

- ★ Change pronouns while reading a book with androgynous animal characters
- ★ Change character names to become androgynous: Jaime, Rene, Michele, Pat, Chris, etc.
- ★ Use terms such as “parent” or “caregiver” instead of “mother” or “father”
- ★ Using books with single parents
- ★ Share books with ambiguous family constructs: multiple parents, “friends” expressing love, etc.



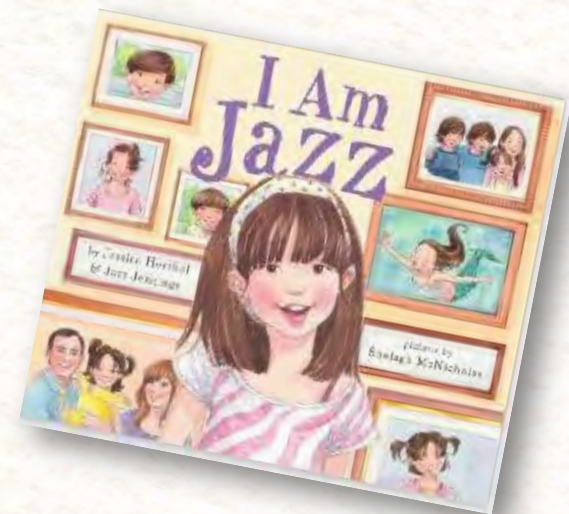
More Subversive Suggestions

- ★ Share “gender bending” books from all genres.
- ★ Invite “out of the box” guest speakers: Male teachers and nurses, female construction workers and business owners, etc.
- ★ Start a book and allow children to conclude the ending by inserting their own personal experiences via a written, oral, or visual story.



Considerations in Selecting LGBTQ- Themed Children' s Materials

- ★ How a child reacts when she/he learns that an important person in her/his life is LGBTQ. (Or, how children embrace their own LGBTQ identity)
- ★ How the sexual orientation of a LGBTQ character is explained.
- ★ How the narrative presents the lives of LGBTQ characters and families.
- ★ How LGBTQ characters are portrayed in illustrations.
- ★ How gender identity and gender diversity are described.



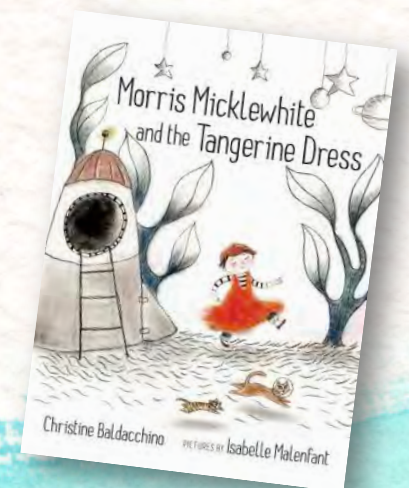
Example of Stereotyped Image



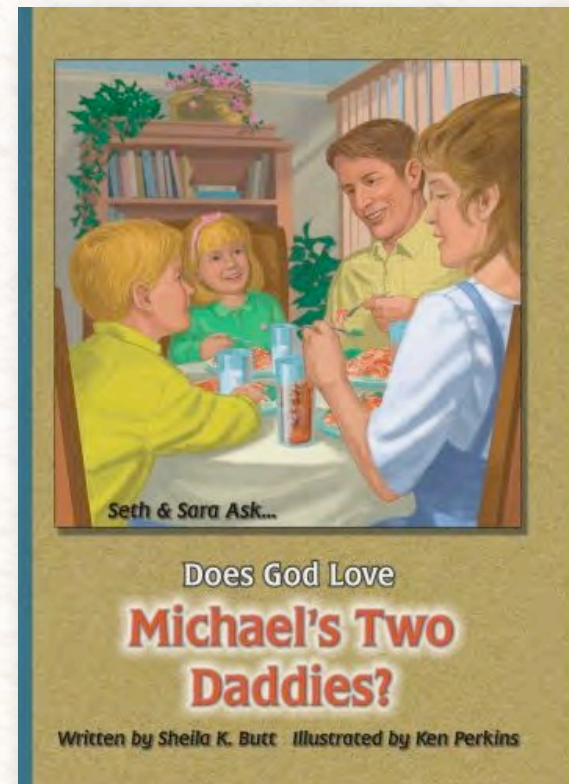
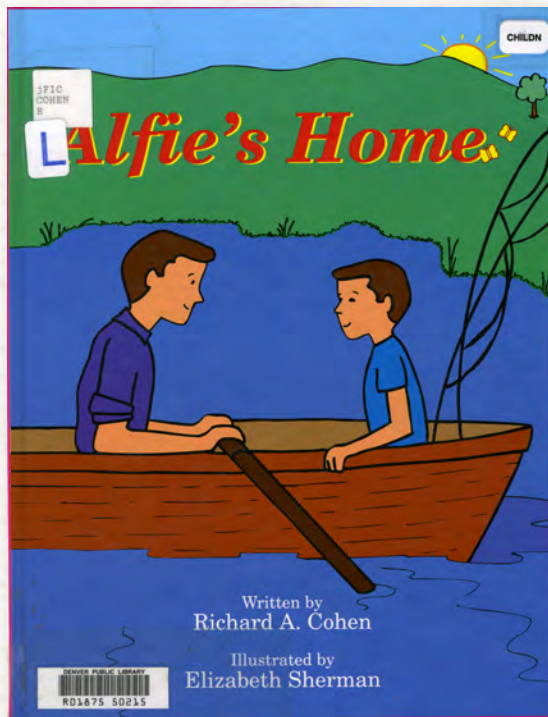
Illustration detail from *Uncle What-Is-It is Coming to Visit!* By M. Willhoite, 1993: Alyson Books.

Messages about Rainbow Families depicted in storytime materials

- ★ Are boys “sissies” if they play with dolls, dress up, or have mainly girl friends?
- ★ Are girls shown outdoors and active?
- ★ Are females only depicted in dresses and in female-stereotyped roles such as housewife, nurse, mother, etc.?
- ★ Are males depicted as fathers, elementary teachers, nurses, dancers, etc.?
- ★ Are families with 2 dads, 2 moms, or single parents represented?
- ★ Are same-sex parents stigmatized in your materials?
- ★ Are gender non-conforming children present?

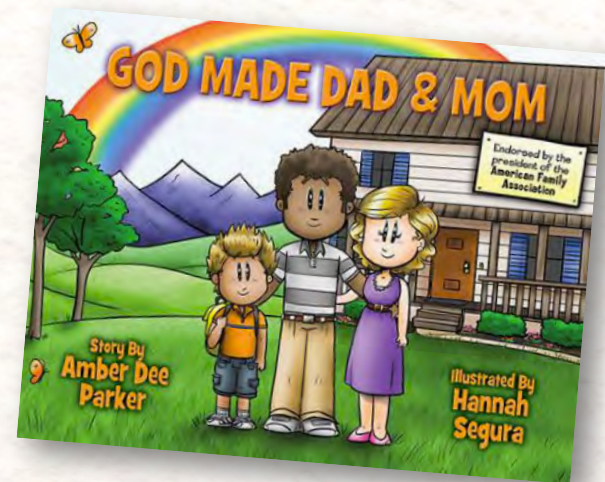


Balancing Act



Choosing Counter-LGBTQ Materials?

- ★ A balanced library collection of LGBTQ materials does **NOT** include anti-gay materials.
- ★ The balance to LGBTQ materials are **heterosexual** materials – which libraries already have a preponderance of.

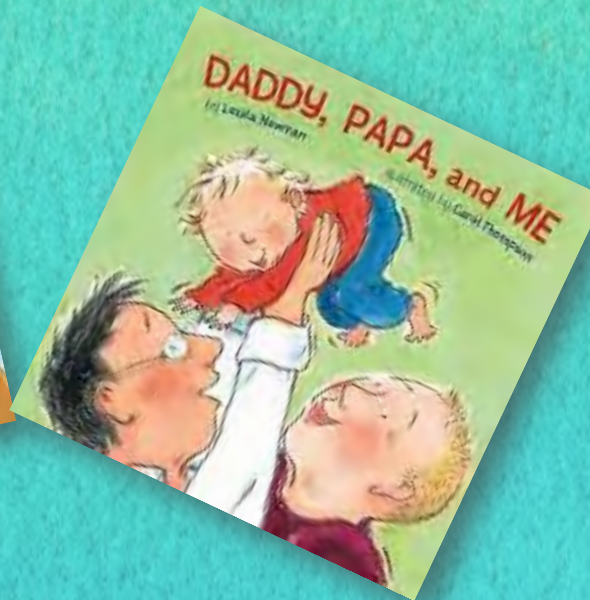


A Few Recommended Books

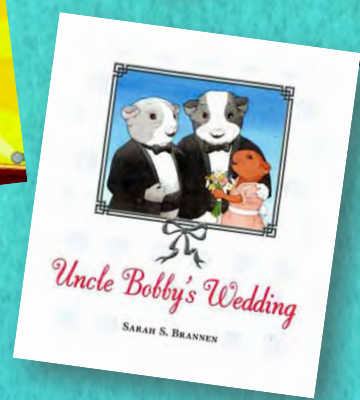
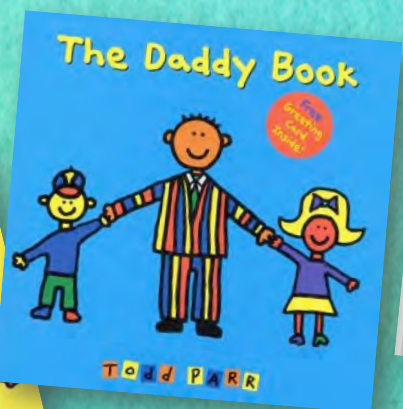
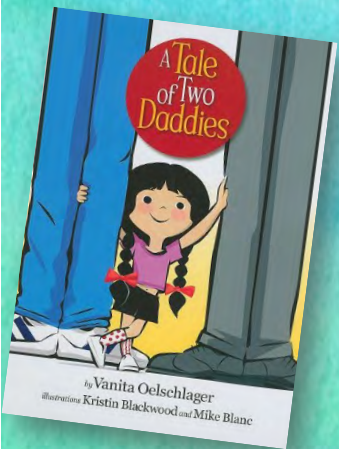


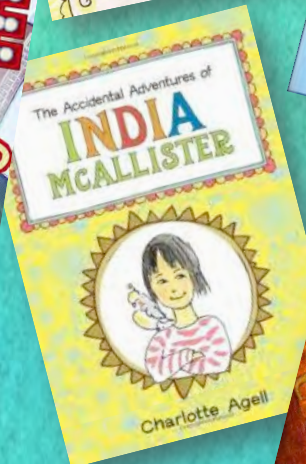
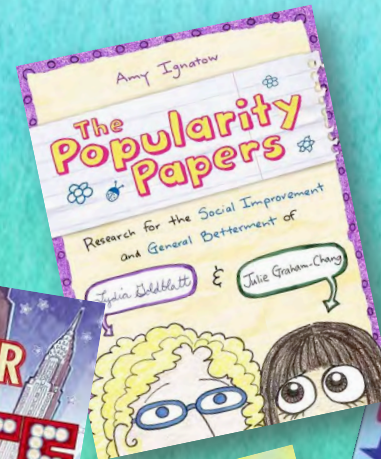
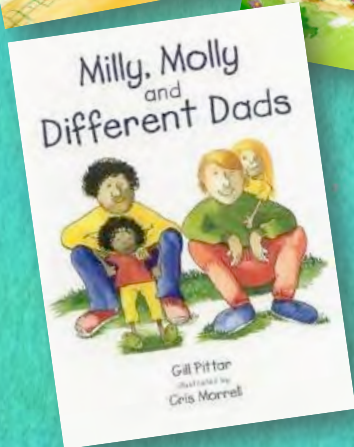
Super Daddy! – Me, Age 2

Recommended Board Books



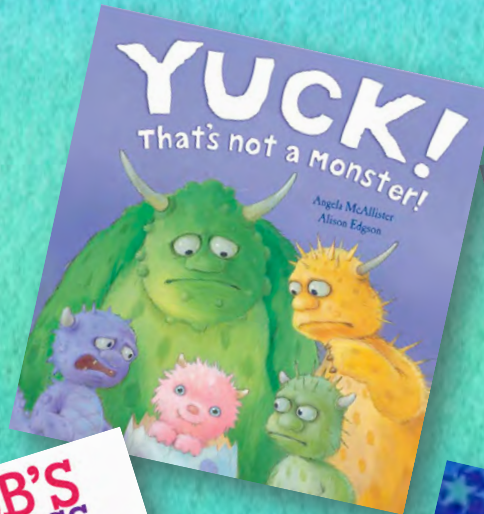
Recommended Picture Books



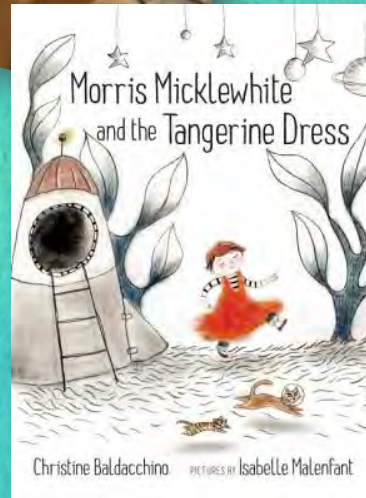


Recommended Easy Reader and Juvenile Novels

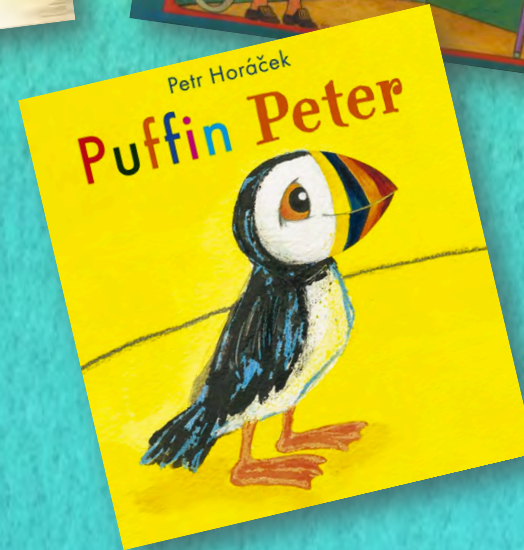
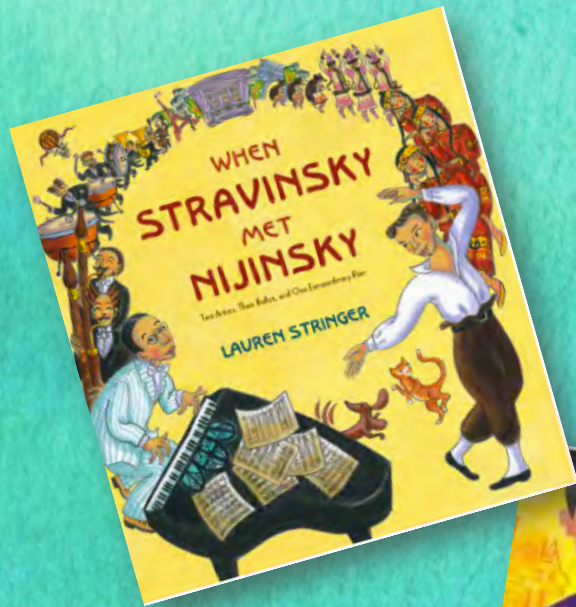
Gender-Bending Picture Books



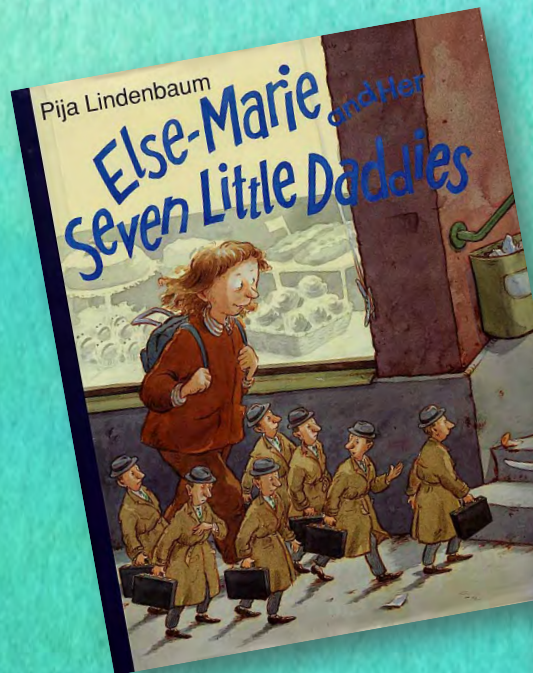
More Gender-Bending Books



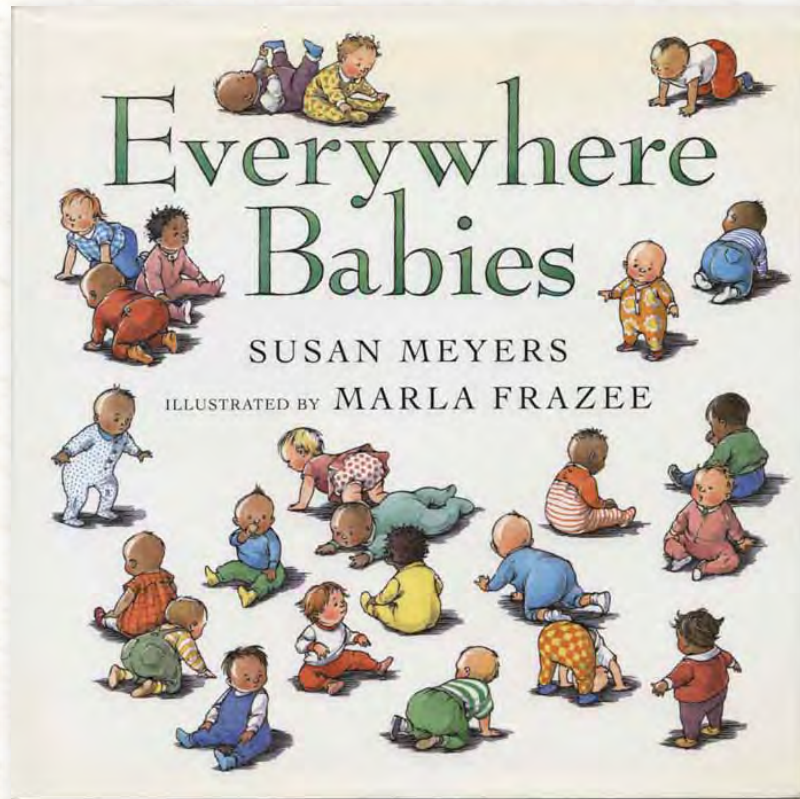
Same-Sex Friendships



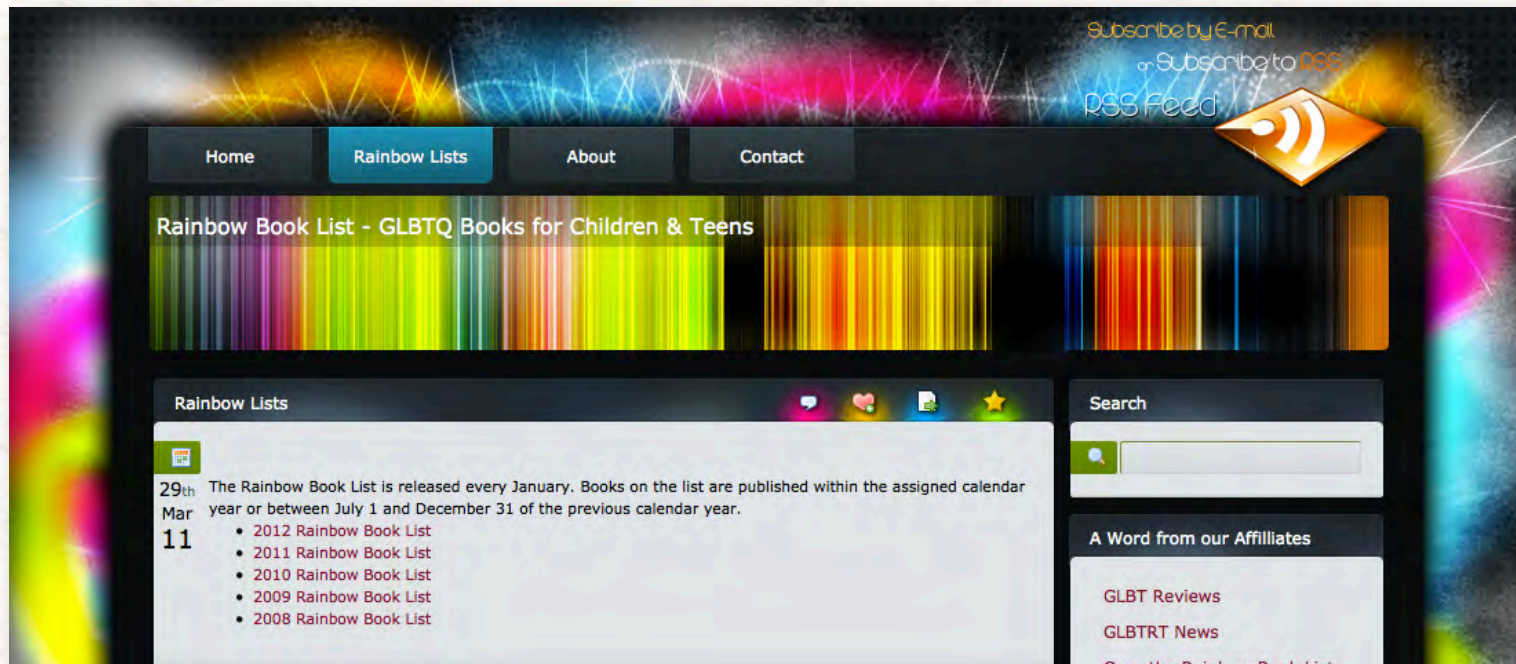
Ambiguous Family Constructs



Everywhere Babies for All Families



Book Awards – Rainbow Project



★ **Rainbow Books/Rainbow Project -**
glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks/rainbow-books-lists

Book Awards – Stonewall



The screenshot shows the ALA website's navigation bar with the logo and a search box. Below the navigation bar are buttons for 'Committees', 'Divisions', 'Offices', 'Publications', 'Related', 'Round Tables', and 'Contact Congress'. A breadcrumb trail reads 'You are at: ALA.org » GLBTRT » Stonewall Book Awards'. The left sidebar contains a menu with 'About GLBTRT' and 'Awards' (highlighted), with sub-links for 'Award List', 'Award Seal', 'History', and 'Suggest a Title'. Other sidebar items include 'Conferences', 'Fund Raising', 'Get Involved', 'Membership in GLBTRT', 'News', and 'Publications'. The main content area features the title 'Stonewall Book Awards' and the award logo, which is a black triangle with a pink heart containing the ALA logo and an open book. Below the logo, text describes the award as the first and most enduring for GLBT books, sponsored by the ALA's GLBTRT. It mentions the first award in 1971 and lists three specific award categories: Barbara Gittings Literature Award, Israel Fishman Non-Fiction Award, and Mike Morgan & Larry Romans Children's & Young Adult Literature Award. The text also notes that the award is announced in January and presented at the ALA Annual Conference in June or July.

★ **Stonewall Children's & YA Literature Award –**
www.ala.org/glbtrt/award

Book Awards – Amelia Bloomer



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Amelia Bloomer Project. At the top, the title "Amelia Bloomer Project" is displayed in a teal header, with the subtitle "Recommended Feminist Literature for Birth through 18" below it. The main content area is divided into several sections: "About" on the left, a central text block, and "Blogroll", "Current List", and "Our Affiliations" on the right. The "About" section features a portrait of Amelia Bloomer and a detailed welcome message. The central text block lists the 2011-2012 committee members. The "Blogroll" section contains links to "About Us", "Amelia Bloomer Project Book Criteria", "Amelia Bloomer Project Policies and Procedures", "WordPress.com", and "WordPress.org". The "Current List" section has a link to the "2012 Amelia Bloomer List". The "Our Affiliations" section has a link to the "American Library Association".

Amelia Bloomer Project

Recommended Feminist Literature for Birth through 18

About



Amelia Bloomer

Welcome to the Amelia Bloomer Project blog! We create an annual booklist of the best feminist books for young readers, ages birth through 18. We are part of the Feminist Task Force of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association!

2011–2012 Committee Members: Jennie Law, co-chair, Dekalb County Public Library (GA); Angela Semifero, co-chair, Marshall District Library (MI); Betsy Miguez, Edith Garland Dupré Library of the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (LA); Katie Mitchell, Caline District Library (MI); Lalitha Nataraaj, Escondido Public Library (CA)

Blogroll

- [About Us](#)
- [Amelia Bloomer Project Book Criteria](#)
- [Amelia Bloomer Project Policies and Procedures](#)
- [WordPress.com](#)
- [WordPress.org](#)

Current List

- [2012 Amelia Bloomer List](#)

Our Affiliations

- [American Library Association](#)

★ **Amelia Bloomer List -**
ameliabloomer.wordpress.com/

Book Lists – Patricia Sarles Blog

Gay-Themed Picture Books for Children

Picture books for children about the experience of knowing or having a gay parent, family member, or friend, as well as books for gender nonconforming kids.

- Home
- Lesbian mothers
- Gay fathers
- Trans People
- Aunts and Uncles
- Alternative Family Building
- Gay Marriage
- Family Diversity
- Mixed Race Families
- Gender Nonconformity
- Books About Being Different
- AIDS (Disease)
- Notable Gays and Lesbians
- Bullying
- Cross-Dressing
- Tomboys
- Gay Pride
- Homophobia
- Books in Other Languages

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2013

Punkpapporna i London



Punkpapporna i London

by Liz Wennberg

illus. by Jacob Segerstedt

Language: Swedish

col. ill ; cm.

ISBN: 9789186589332

Summary: Punkpapporna i London är en fristående uppföljare till Punkpapporna som kom 2010. Cornelia bor med sina 2 pappor, men hennes pappor är inte bara pappor de är punkare också! För ett år sedan flyttade Cornelia från London till Sverige med sina två pappor. Alla i byn blev jättenyfikna, för hur bär man sig egentligen åt när man är Punkare? Nu är det dags att åka tillbaka till London på besök, och Cornelia tar med sig kompisgänget. De lyckas

alltid ha nåeot fuffens för sig. Cornelia vill ha en hundvalb och Martin vill ha en tatuerine Den

SEARCH THIS BLOG

Search

PATRICIA A. SARLES, MA, MLS

This list serves three purposes: for parents who would like to find books for their children about the experience of being a child in a gay family, or having a gay friend or family member, two: for librarians who would like to develop collections on this topic, and three: for counselors and therapists who would like to use these books in their practices. Summaries included are either from the Library of Congress, Books in Print or book catalogs. The list will be annotated as books are reviewed.

booksforkidsingayfamilies.blogspot.com/

Book Lists CCBC

The screenshot shows the CCBC website interface. At the top left is the CCBC logo. To its right is the text: "Cooperative Children's Book Center, School of Education, University of Wisconsin-Madison". A search bar with "Quick Search" and "by Title" is present. Navigation links include "Hours", "Contact Us", and "Site Index". Below this is "A Library of the School of Education" and a row of links: "DPI | SOE | UW | UW-Library | UW-Catalog |". A red navigation bar contains "Home" and "ARE YOU A..." with sub-links for "K-12 Teacher", "Librarian", "Early Childhood Care Provider", and "UW Student / Faculty". Below this are several menu items: "Awards & Best-of-the-Year Lists", "CCBC Bibliographies & Booklists", "Charlotte Zolotow Award", "CCBC Online Presentations", "CCBC Podcasts", "CCBC Specialized Information", and "CCBC - Net".

**Gay and Lesbian Themes and Topics
in Selected Children's and Young Adult Books**

Compiled by Kathleen T. Horning
© 2009 Cooperative Children's Book Center; updated annually

This bibliography was designed to provide librarians, teachers, parents and others with suggested books for children and teens that provide information about or reflect the lives of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (GLBTQ) youth and gay- or lesbian-parented families.

The books in the bibliography are divided into four broad categories, most of which are divided by format (non-fiction, picture books, fiction):

- General Books about Gay Issues
- Gay and Lesbian Parents/Alternative Families*
- GLBTQ Teens
- Sex and Gender Identity

*This category includes books that reflect gay and lesbian family life, and books that reflect family differences in

ccbc.education.wisc.edu/books/detailListBooks.asp?idBookLists=446

Book Lists – Welcoming Schools



The screenshot shows the Welcoming Schools website. At the top left is a logo of a yellow school bus with the text "Welcoming Schools" and "A PROJECT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION". To the right of the logo is the text "Welcoming Schools" in a large, bold, blue font. Below this is a navigation bar with links for Home, About, Get Started, Teachable Moments, Resources, Experts in Your Area, and Blog. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation bar. Below the navigation bar is a "Resources" section. On the left side of the Resources section is a photograph of a young girl in a green shirt smiling. To the right of the photograph is a "Share with Friends:" section with social media sharing options for Facebook (32 likes) and Twitter (0 tweets). Below the photograph is a section titled "Bibliographies – Books to Engage Students" which contains a list of annotated lists of books selected for use in elementary schools that:

- [Highlight all kinds of diversity in families](#)
- [Include gay family members and characters,](#)
- [Look at gender stereotyping and identity,](#)
- [Engage students in discussion of bias and bullying,](#)
- [Are bilingual or are in Spanish.](#)

On the right side of the Resources section are two more sections: "New to Welcoming Schools?" with a "Get Started Now »" button, and "Find Out More" with a list of links:

- [Research](#)
- [Recursos en Español/Resources in Spanish](#)
- [Links and Additional Resources](#)
- [Lesson Plans](#)
- [Famous LGBT People](#)
- [Welcoming Schools Evaluation Toolbox](#)
- [Conveying the Need for a Welcoming School Environment](#)
- [Bibliographies – Books to Engage Students](#)
- [Academic Standards, Laws, Policies](#)
- [Research Basis for Safe and Welcoming](#)

www.welcomingschools.org/resources/

Web Resource – Welcoming Schools



WELCOMING SCHOOLS
www.welcomingschools.org

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE AS A LIBRARIAN TO DEVELOP A WELCOMING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR ALL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

“My feeling is that a library is to serve an entire population. It means you represent different families in a society — different religions, different beliefs.”

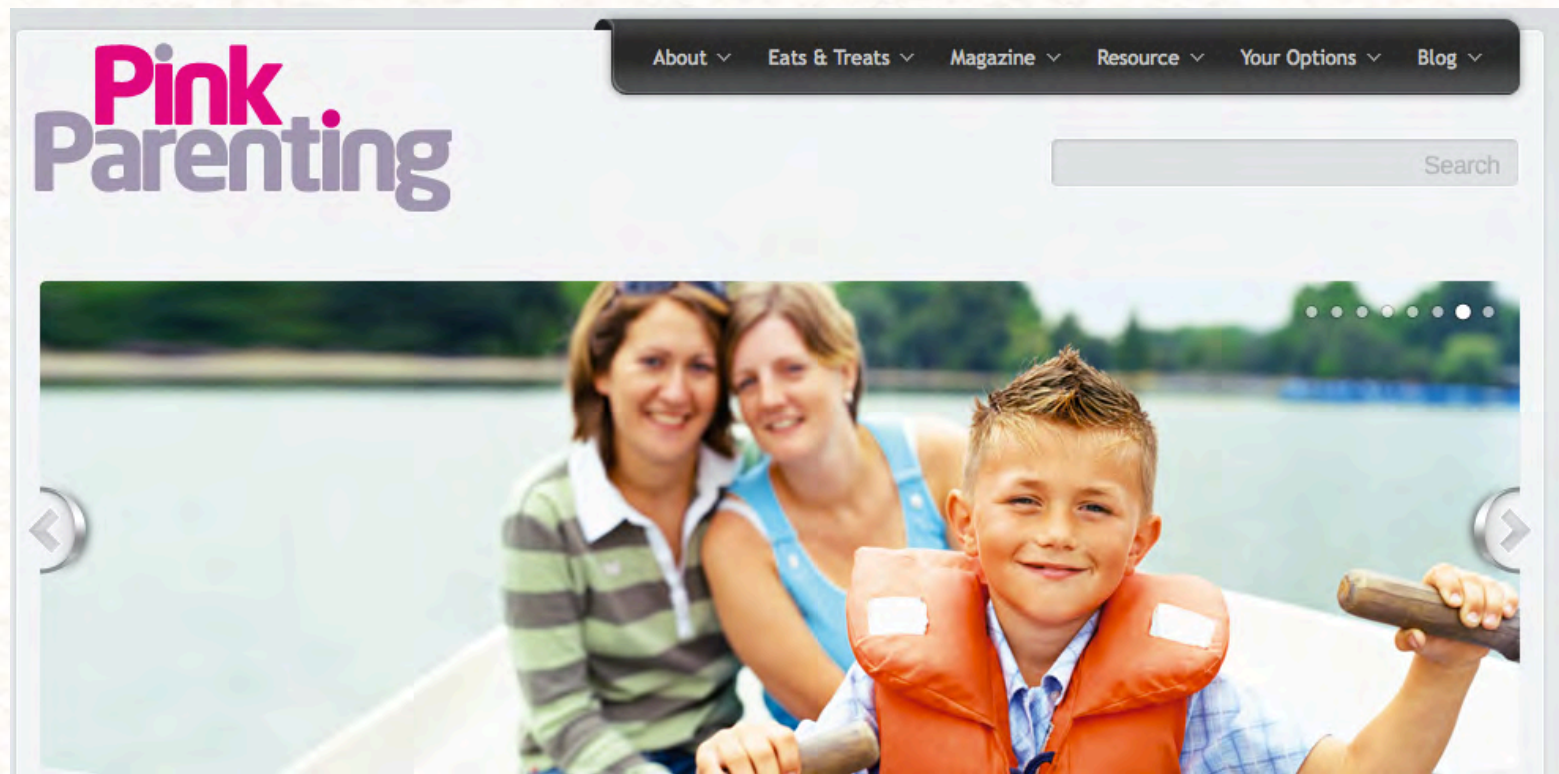
— School District Superintendent Jennifer Filyaw¹

MIRRORS FOR THEIR LIVES, WINDOWS TO THE WORLD: LITERATURE FOR STUDENTS

- Books provide an important mirror for children to see themselves reflected in the world around them. Books also provide a window into the lives of others and expand students’ personal experiences.
- Children who feel that they belong and are welcome in school are more highly motivated and engaged in learning and more committed to school.²
- Books can help students understand that families are unique while at the same time they share many common values, beliefs and traditions.

www.welcomingschools.org/pages/steps-you-can-take-as-a-librarian

Pink Parenting UK Magazine (Digital and Print)



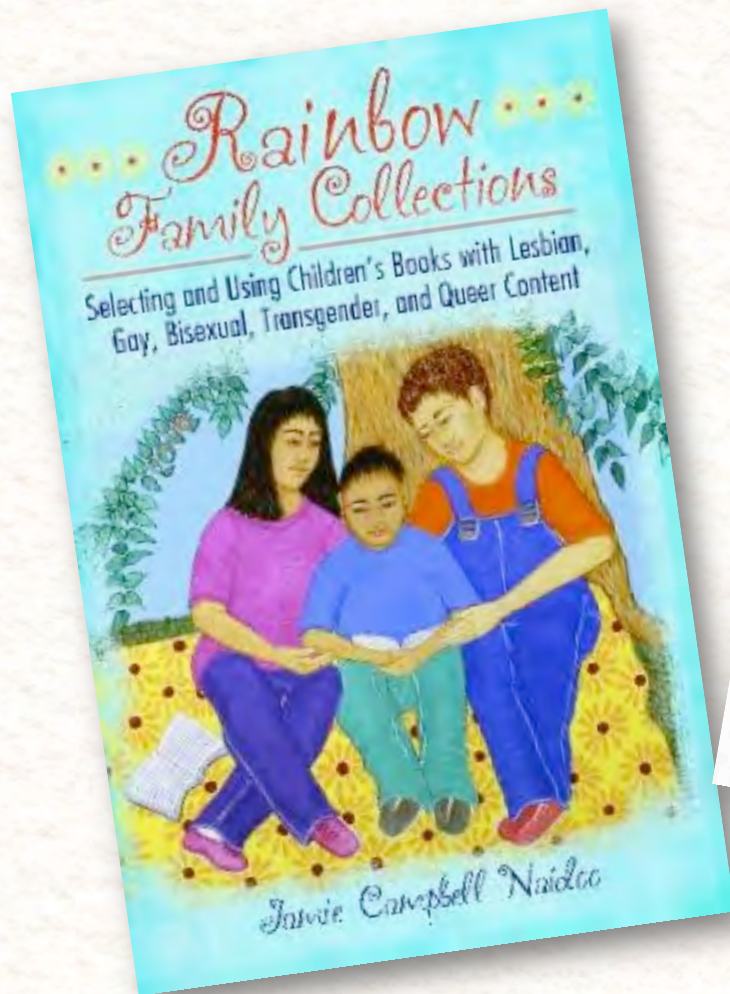
www.pink-parenting.com/

Rainbow Rumpus – Online Children’s Literary Magazine

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Rainbow Rumpus website. At the top left, it says "The MAGAZINE for YOUTH with LGBT Parents". The logo "rainbow rumpus™" is in the top right. A search bar is located below the logo. A navigation menu includes "Home", "Kids", "Teens", "Grown-Ups", "Our History and Mission", "About", "Contact", and "Donate". The main content area features a large graphic with a tree and a bird, and a text box that reads: "Welcome to Rainbow Rumpus! Rainbow Rumpus is the world's only online literary magazine for children and youth with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) parents. We provide a safe, fun, and empowering place for young people to create and enjoy art, break through isolation, build community, and take action to make the world a better place." Below this text are four circular photos of diverse children. To the right, there is an "Enewsletter" sign-up section and a "Connect" section with social media icons for Facebook and YouTube. A "DONATE NOW" button is at the bottom right.

www.rainbowrumpus.org/

Librarian Resources from the Author



Children & Libraries
Article – Dec 2013

Summing it Up – *New Yorker* Cartoon



Source: http://www.newyorker.com/humor/issuecartoons/2011/05/02/cartoons_20110425?fb_ref=social_fblike&fb_source=home_multiline#slide=11

QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?

Jamie C. Naidoo, Ph.D.
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Infopeople 

Infopeople *helping libraries think differently*

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