



**EAST**  
CAMPUS LIBRARY

# Creating an Online LGBTQ+ Archive Using Pressbooks

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*Society of American Archivists  
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## Introduction

- The idea for this collaborative project, featuring a mix of student research and primary source gathering, grew from the Indiana University Primary Source Immersion Program.
- The IU Primary Source Immersion Program connected faculty with special collection librarians and archivists in order to incorporate more primary source research into the classroom.
- Dr. Travis Rountree wanted his Eng-W270 argumentative writing course to address rhetorical constructions of LGBTQ identities in the Richmond, IN area using primary resources.
- Richmond or Wayne County didn't have any type of LGBTQ collection available anywhere and the LGBTQ community has been mostly closeted.
- So, the course was adapted to have the students build and contribute to the first LGBTQ archive collection for Richmond and the surrounding areas.

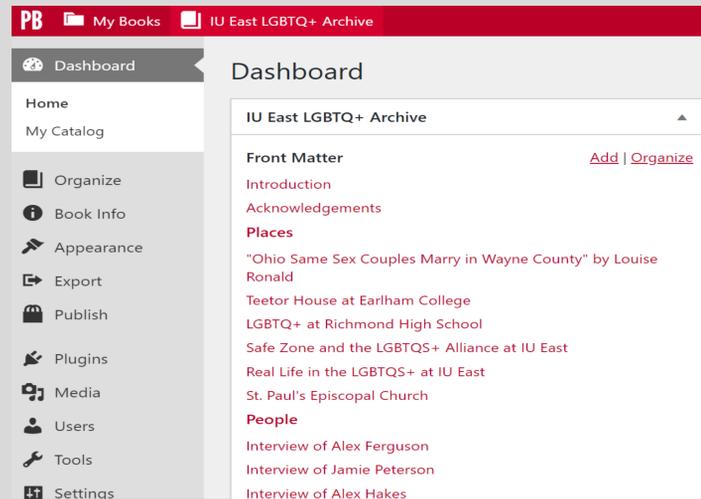


Archivist Beth South and Dr. Travis Rountree at the Primary Source Immersion Program at IU Bloomington.

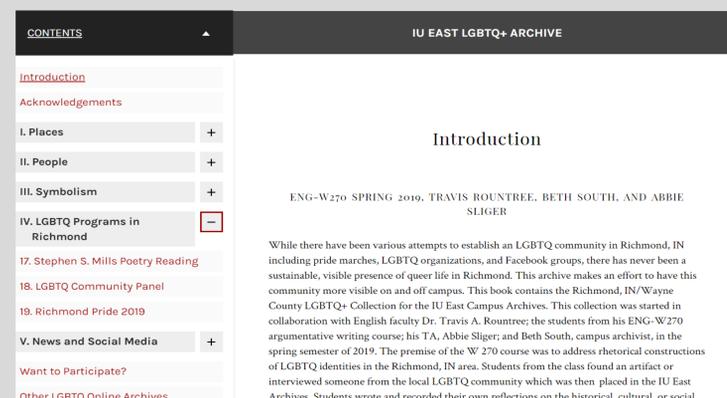
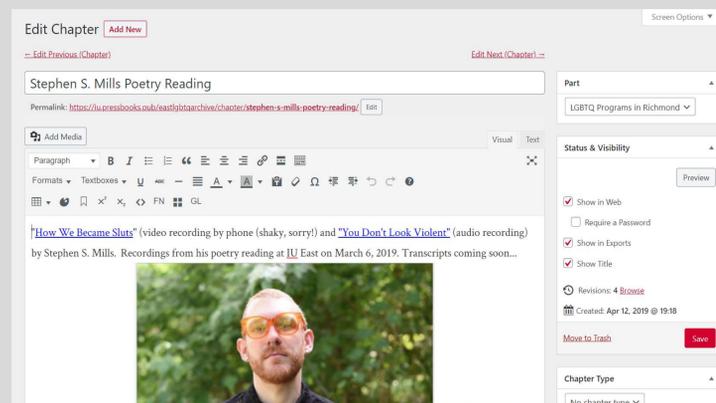
## Student Assignments

- Collecting artifacts: students went out into the community and collected news articles, fliers, photographs, and interviews of local LGBTQ+ members or allies who worked with the community.
- Students were required to write a rhetorical analysis on how these objects or interviews functioned within the community.
- They did an audio recording that explained what the artifact was, how it circulated, and how it projected forward into their research. It also provided a wonderful opportunity for students to add their unique voices to the archive.
- After the rhetorical analysis, students then discovered how their artifact relates to broader LGBTQ themes, issues, concerns, etc. in Indiana
- Archivist assisted the students with Deed of Gifts and Copyright Releases for artifacts and audio gathered and uploaded online.

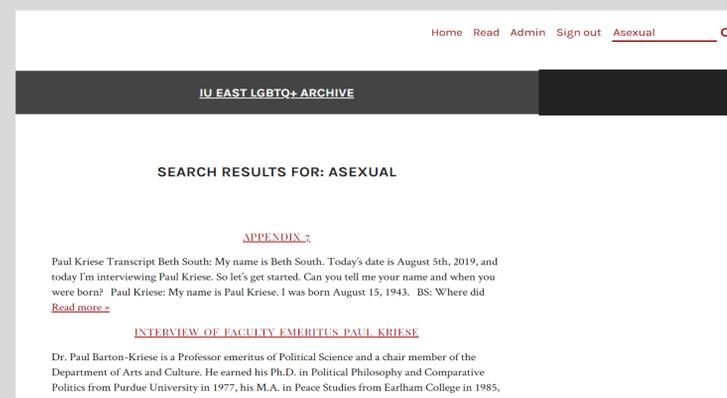
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Pressbooks admin dashboard (top) and page creation toolbar (bottom).



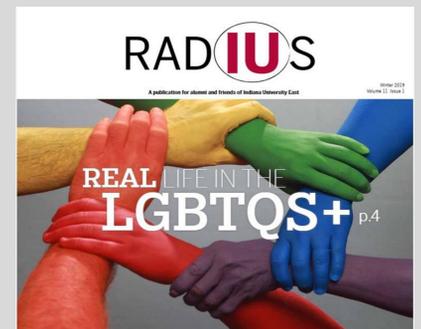
Introduction page of the collection and TOC.



Search feature of Pressbook.

## Pressbooks

- For us, it was an easy and readily available tool provided by IU, so it was also sustainable.
- It allows multiple authors, so students can easily contribute to it by creating their own pages and uploading files.
- Because Pressbooks is similar to WordPress and other authoring and content management tools, students new to navigating online authoring tools will be equipped to use other platforms in their future work or studies.
- This was a writing class, so placing their work in an ebook platform was a good way for them to start thinking about their scholarship, their intellectual contribution, and if they desire, to link to it.
- The e-book format allows the collection to be easily accessible to the public, with chapters denoting different themes.
- It can be easily searched for those wanting to find specific content.



The cover of IU East's Radius magazine.

## Reception

- Positive feedback from students and administration. Students were excited about this project.
- Prompted Radius (IU East Alumni Magazine) to feature an article on LGBTQ+ faculty, staff, and alumni (Fall 2019).
- Library working with community partners to establish a LGBTQ teen workshop
- Even with the class now over, the archive collection continues to grow with more content being added to it.
- The collection is not comprehensive, but it is a work in progress, and it continues to reflect more aspects of the LGBTQ+ community in Richmond, IN and the surrounding areas.

