

# Working with Clueless Librarians

Meeting the Information Needs of  
the Transgender Community

John Otto, MLIS

# Who is John Otto?

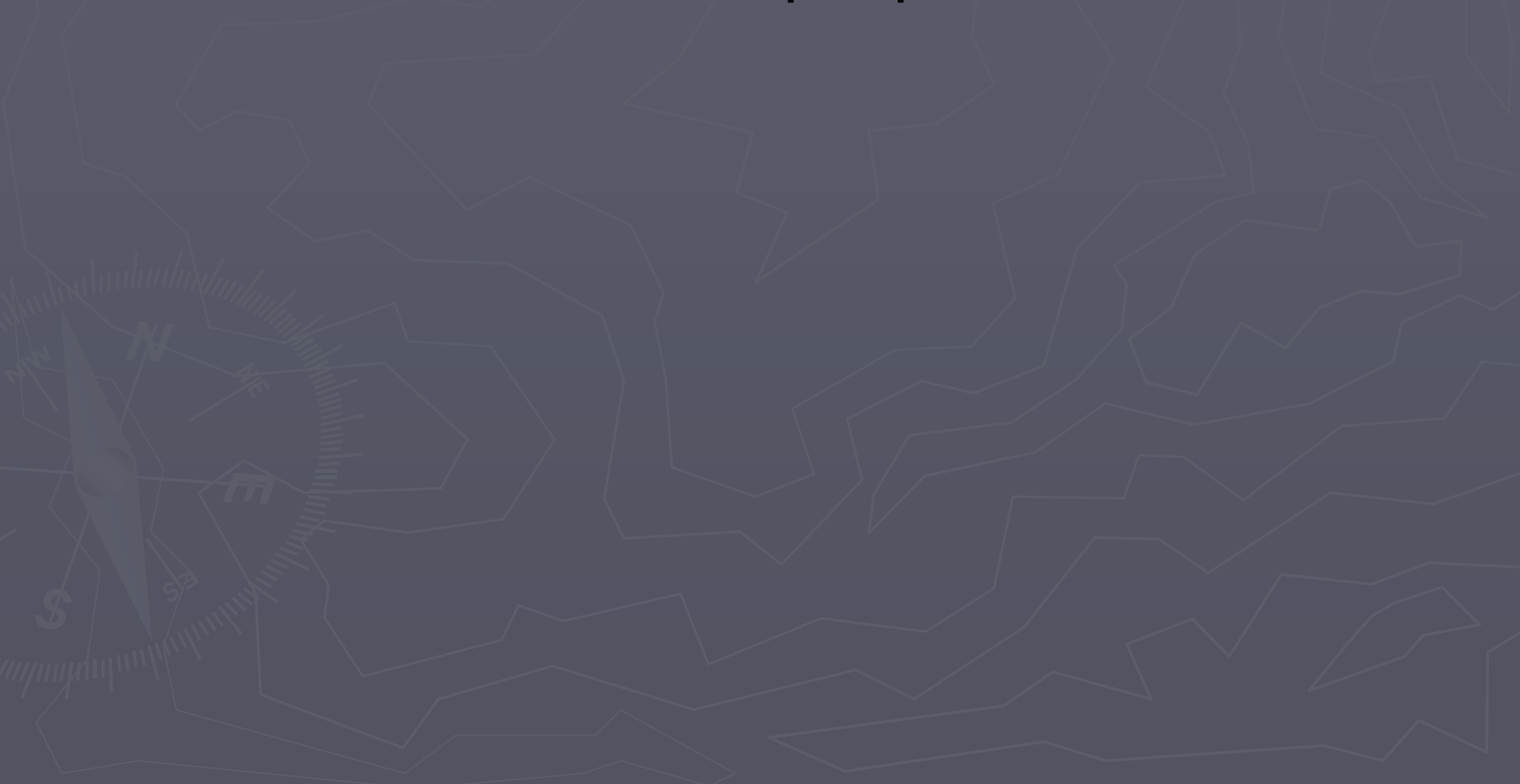
- ▶ [www.jotto.info](http://www.jotto.info)
- ▶ MLIS = Librarian
- ▶ Transgender studies
- ▶ Transactivist
  - ▶ facilitated in-person support groups
  - ▶ moderated email lists
  - ▶ presentations on a variety of topics
  - ▶ National Center for Transgender Equality

# Overview

- ▶ ALA Bill of Rights
- ▶ Accessing library resources
- ▶ Transgender libraries and archives
- ▶ FTM resources
  - Handouts
  - [www.jotto.info](http://www.jotto.info)
- ▶ Q & A

# American Library Association Bill of Rights

- ▶ Materials are for ALL people



# American Library Association Bill of Rights

- ▶ Materials are for ALL people
- ▶ Materials and information should represent all points of view

# American Library Association Bill of Rights

- ▶ Materials are for ALL people
- ▶ Materials and information should represent all points of view
- ▶ Libraries should challenge censorship of information

# American Library Association Bill of Rights

- ▶ Materials are for ALL people
- ▶ Materials and information should represent all points of view
- ▶ Libraries should challenge censorship of information
- ▶ Libraries should cooperate with individuals/groups opposing censorship

# American Library Association Bill of Rights

- ▶ Materials are for ALL people
- ▶ Materials and information should represent all points of view
- ▶ Libraries should challenge censorship of information
- ▶ Libraries should cooperate with individuals/groups opposing censorship
- ▶ Right to use libraries should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or view



# American Library Association Bill of Rights

- ▶ Materials are for ALL people
- ▶ Materials and information should represent all points of view
- ▶ Libraries should challenge censorship of information
- ▶ Libraries should cooperate with individuals/groups opposing censorship
- ▶ Right to use libraries should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or view
- ▶ Libraries should make meeting and exhibit space available regardless of beliefs or affiliation

# American Library Association Bill of Rights

Inherent in tenets...

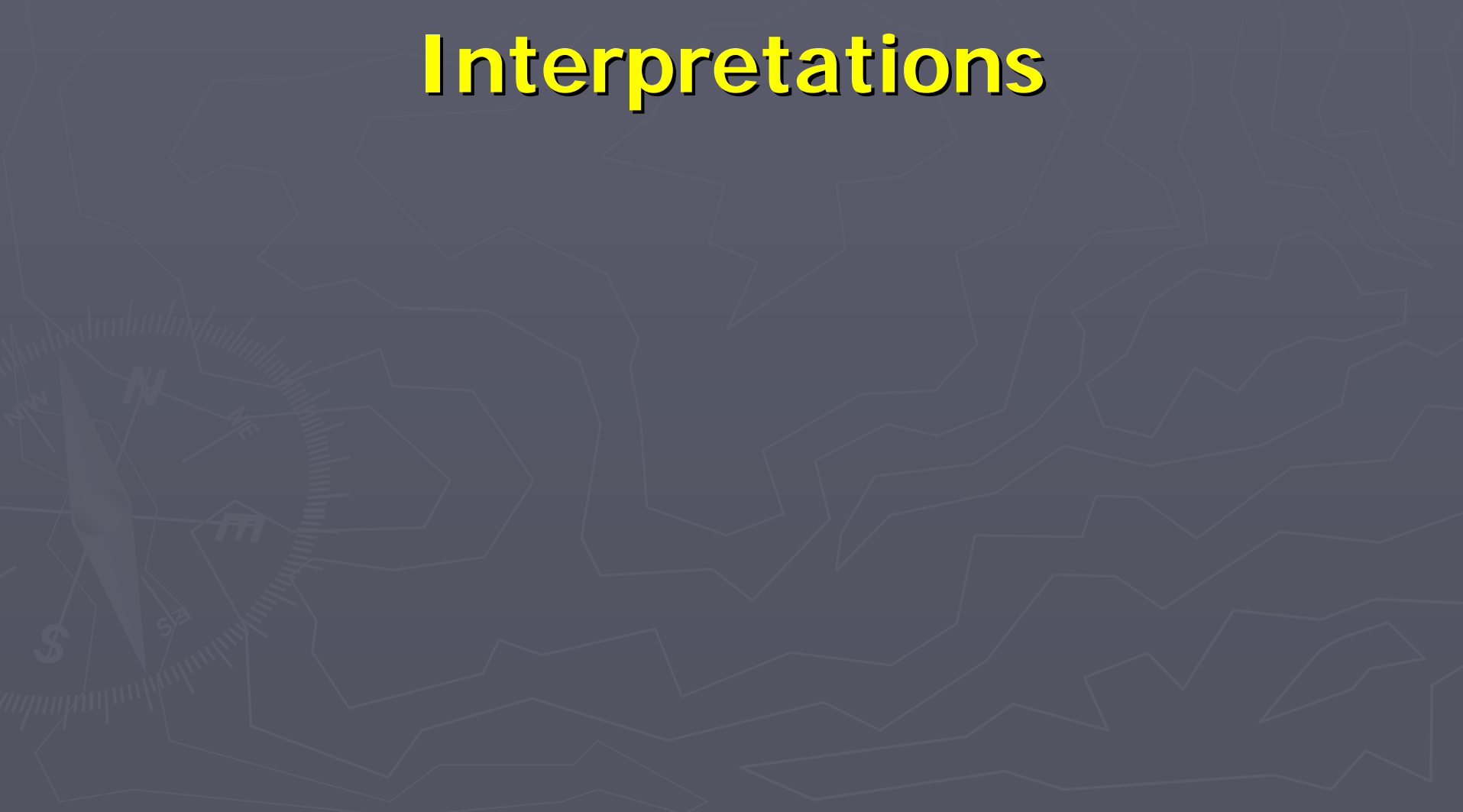
## Freedom of Speech

And it's corollary...

## Freedom to Receive Information

# American Library Association Bill of Rights

## **Interpretations**



# American Library Association Bill of Rights

## Interpretations

Access to library resources and services regardless of:

- ▶ **sex**
- ▶ **gender identity**
- ▶ **gender expression**
- ▶ **sexual orientation**

# Interpretations of ALA Bill of Rights

## Right to Privacy

Essential for:

- ▶ free speech
- ▶ free thought
- ▶ free association

# Interpretations of ALA Bill of Rights

Questions?



# Accessing Library Resources

**NO MORE CARD CATALOGS!**



# Accessing Library Resources

NO MORE CARD CATALOGS!

# OPAC

Online Public Access Catalog



# Accessing Library Resources

Catalog = database



# Accessing Library Resources

Catalog = database

Search methods:

Keyword

Subject heading

Title

Author

# Accessing Library Resources

## Trans Subject Headings



# Accessing Library Resources

## Trans Subject Headings

*Becoming a Visible Man*

By Jamison Green

[Green, Jamison, 1948-](#)

Transsexuals – United States – Biography

Sex role – United States

Gender identity – United States

[go to SFPL catalog demo](#)

# Accessing Library Resources

Online Holds  
&  
pick up at the branch  
you want

# Accessing Library Resources

## Problem:

What if the materials you want  
are not in the collection?

# Accessing Library Resources

## **SOLUTION:**

- ▶ Purchase requests
- ▶ interlibrary loan
- ▶ if you need help, ask a librarian!

# Accessing Library Resources

## Help at the Library

Subject area librarians

LGBT specialists

Public vs. Academic libraries





# Accessing Library Resources

## Help at the Library

Subject area librarians

LGBT specialists

“Ask a Librarian” chat sessions

Telephone

In-person: reference desk

Subscription databases

# Accessing Library Resources

## Bibliographies

- ▶ GLBTRT and SFPL's:  
**A Bibliography of Resources on Gender Variance,  
Transgender and Intersex Topics**
- ▶ SFPL – LGBTQ Teen bib
- ▶ Nancy Silverrod:  
**"Gender Transgression in Books for  
Children, Teens, and Caring Adults"**
- ▶ FTM Books bib

# Accessing Library Resources

Bibliographies

**[www.jotto.info](http://www.jotto.info)**

# Questions?



# Transgender Libraries and Archives



# Transgender Libraries and Archives

## Public libraries

- ▶ San Francisco Public Library
  - Hormel Lesbian & Gay Center
  - Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk branch

# Transgender Libraries and Archives

## Public libraries

- ▶ San Francisco Public Library
  - Hormel Lesbian & Gay Center
  - Eureka Valley/Harvey Milk branch
- ▶ Oak Park Public Library (Illinois)
  - Transgender Resource Collection
  - Toolkit for libraries

# Transgender Libraries and Archives

## Private libraries

- ▶ Portland's Q Center
  - Trans/Identity Resource Library



# Transgender Libraries and Archives

## Archives

- ▶ GLBT Historical Society (San Francisco)
- ▶ San Francisco Public Library

# Transgender Libraries and Archives

## Archives

- ▶ GLBT Historical Society (San Francisco)
- ▶ San Francisco Public Library
  
- ▶ University of Michigan
  - Labadie Collection:  
National Transgender Library & Archives

# Transgender Libraries and Archives

## Archives

- ▶ GLBT Historical Society (San Francisco)
- ▶ San Francisco Public Library
  
- ▶ University of Michigan
  - Labadie Collection:
  - National Transgender Library & Archives
  
- ▶ University of Victoria, British Columbia
  - Reed Erickson collection
  - Rikki Swinn collection

# Questions?



# FTM Resources

[www.jotto.info](http://www.jotto.info)



# FTM Resources

**[www.jotto.info](http://www.jotto.info)**

*John, go to the [jotto.info](http://www.jotto.info) webpage.*

# www.jotto.info

## Notable resources...

- ▶ Hudson's FTM Guide
- ▶ Dr. Nick Gorton's medical guidelines book
- ▶ Transster.com
- ▶ NCTE driver license map
- ▶ ACLU's pamphlet

# www.jotto.info

## Notable resources...

- ▶ Hudson's FTM Guide
- ▶ Dr. Nick Gorton's medical guidelines book
- ▶ Transster.com
- ▶ NCTE driver license map
- ▶ ACLU's pamphlet

## Questions & Answers