DECADES ASSIGNMENT...

Dear Diary, April 4, 1963

I think I might be what I’ve heard called “gay”... but I don’t feel comfortable talking to anyone about it. Where can I get more information to figure this out?

• Decade b/t 1950s – present
• Sources a teen/YA could access
• Diary/Journal Entries + Reflection
Critiques how various social structures reinforce the idea that “heterosexuality is... the legitimate form of sexual union [and is] the norm and moral way to be” and thus act “to maintain heterosexual privilege, or heterosexism.”

HEGEMONY...

“Refers to the domination of one group of people over another. More specifically...it refers to the domination of the ideas of one group over those of another.”

SO...

HETERONORMATIVITY ≈ HEGEMONY

“...demonstrate[s] how power is clustered and frequently interwoven around particular social categories such as gender, race, sexuality, and class” and that “...one social category cannot be understood in isolation from another...multiplying social categories rather than adding them (race × gender × class × sexuality).”

INTERSECTIONALITY...

SO...

INTERSECTIONALITY ≈ HEGEMONY (race × gender × class × sexuality)

“...emphasize[s] that knowledge production is also historically situated and embedded in power relations...[including] social hierarchies such as race, class, gender, and sexuality – and knowledge contributes to the maintenance of these hierarchies.”

“takes into consideration the social...systems that have power and influence over information production, dissemination, access, and consumption.”

CRIT INFO LIT ≈ HEGEMONY

HETERONORM + HEGEMONY + CRIT INFO LIT + INTERSECTIONALITY =

How is heteronormativity as a hegemonic, hierarchal social system:

• historically situated?
• influenced by intersectionality?

And how does it exert power and influence over information production, dissemination, access, and consumption?
WE CHALLENGE YOU TO CONSIDER...

- how the sociohistorical and heteronormative context of your decade influences:
  - the process by which you would search for information
  - the overall accessibility of information
  - the “credibility” of such information (i.e., how credible is the information if it is biased by the dominant heteronormative culture?)
  - your identity as a teen/YA in this decade

- how the research process itself would have created barriers (literal and/or emotional) in LGBT/Q youth’s access to information within your decade, and what challenges continue in present day within this realm.
IN-CLASS GROUP EXERCISE...
Heteronormativity + Hegemony + Intersectionality + Critical Information Literacy = The Decades Paper Assignment

In your class, you'll be talking about heteronormativity, hegemony, and intersectionality. And we librarians like to talk about critical information literacy - the fusion of these frameworks produce questions like the following:

How is heteronormativity as a hegemonic, hierarchal social system:

- historically situated?
- influenced by intersectionality?

And how does it exert power and influence over information production, dissemination, access, and consumption?

When doing the research for this assignment and writing up your diary entries and reflection, we challenge you to consider:

- your identity as a teen/young adult in this decade
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