



## ADVISOR REVIEWS—STANDARD REVIEW

# Sex & Sexuality Module II: Self-Expression, Community and Identity

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Composite Score: ★★★ 1/2

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## Abstract

Sex & Sexuality, Module II: Self-Expression, Community, and Identity published by Adam Matthew Digital is a collection of digitized primary sources obtained from archives in the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia with content from the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries “showing the shifting attitudes and varied experiences of sexuality.” While covering the full range of human sexuality, the collection primarily focuses on the LGBTQ+ experience. This module will be a beneficial resource for academic programs studying gender and human sexuality at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Sex and Sexuality makes use of the artificial intelligence capabilities of Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR) to enable keyword searching of handwritten documents. The documents and images in the collection have been meticulously digitized by Adam Matthew Digital making them discoverable, visually appealing, and adjustable. The proprietary interface is intuitive to navigate with the product being compatible with a range of browsers and electronic devices. Contract provisions are standard to the product and permit for use across locations and interlibrary loan sharing. As pricing is primarily determined by size and enrollment, the collection may be affordable for libraries of varying sizes. Users seeking more current, global primary and secondary resources on gender, women’s, and LGBTQ+ topics may find ProQuest’s GenderWatch a more suitable choice. Those seeking information on sexuality from the sixteenth to mid-twentieth centuries, or a more global perspective from the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries, may prefer modules three and four respectively of Gale’s Archives of Sexuality & Gender.

## Pricing Options

Sex & Sexuality is a subscription based two module resource with Module I and Module II being individual subscriptions. A representative of Adam Matthew Digital stated pricing “is determined by a range of factors that influence the size of potential user group, including but not limited to Carnegie Classification and full-time enrollment.” Institutions are encouraged to contact Adam Matthew Digital directly for a quote.

## Product Overview/Description

Sex & Sexuality: Self-Expression, Community, and Identity is the second module in the Sex & Sexuality collection, which was published by Adam Matthew Digital, a subsidiary of SAGE Group, in February 2021 and is cross-searchable with their other products. Module II is a digitized primary source collection which “explores changing attitudes towards human sexuality, gender and sexual behaviors, in America and beyond during the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries.” Whereas Module I largely focused on the works of sex

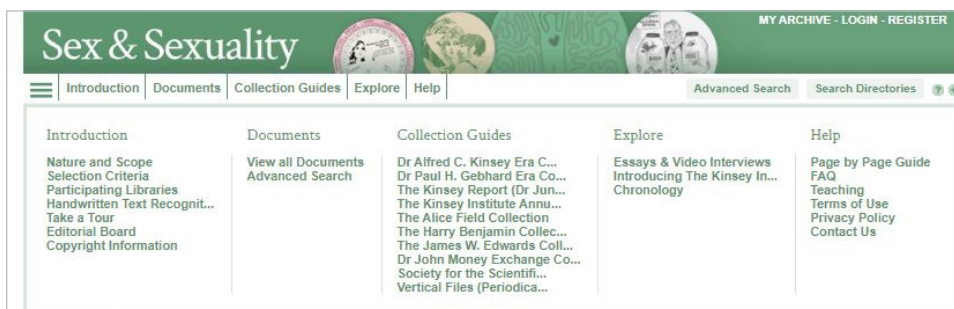
researchers and medical professionals sourced from the Kinsey Institute, Module II utilizes personal records, such as diaries and correspondence, along with various organizational documents to delve into the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals, activities of grassroots organizations, activism, and key points in LGBTQ+ history. It should be noted that while LGBTQ+ topics are a primary focus, the collection covers the full range of human sexuality.

The content for Module II is culled from archives in the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia. Notable contributors from the United States include the Kinsey Institute at Indiana University which is largely considered an authority on the topic of human sexuality, and the ONE Archives at the University of Southern California which is the largest holding of LGBTQ+ content worldwide. Resources from the United Kingdom include the National Archives, British Film Institute, Sheffield Library and Archives, The Keep from the University of Sussex, and West Yorkshire Archive Service. Archival materials from Australia are contributed by the Rare Books & Special Collection Library at the University of Sydney. A value added feature from Adam Matthew Digital is the use of Handwritten Text Recognition (HTR), a form of artificial intelligence which enables full-text searching of handwritten manuscripts.

Resources in the collection are organized into 10 topics: Academic and Professional Research Administration; Organizations, Societies and Advocacy Groups; Sexual Behaviors; Sexual Preferences; Relationships, Marriage, and Family; Health; Global and Regional Perspectives; Gender Identities; Sex Education; Art and Literature. There is a wide variety of material types within Module II, including diaries, correspondence, periodicals, newspapers, photographs, erotica, pamphlets, newsletters, and ephemera. Some of the more notable pieces of the collection include the nineteenth century diaries of Anne Lister who was known as “Gentleman Jack” and considered to be the first modern lesbian, the National Lesbian and Gay Survey capturing the experiences of homosexuals in late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries Britain, and the Christopher Street Liberation Day Committee papers documenting the grassroots activism of the Pride parades in the early 1970s. Archival content covers such momentous topics in LGBTQ+ history as the Stonewall Riots and HIV/AIDS crisis. The collection has “material of a sexually explicit nature” and contains a disclaimer to this effect which users must acknowledge before accessing the site. In order to protect individual’s confidentiality and privacy, the Sex & Sexuality redaction policy requires that any “sensitive or personally identifying information” be redacted.

Module II offers a number of Research Tools to enhance the collection. There is an interactive chronology of key events and publications from 1884 to 1999. Users can explore exhibitions of selected visual content organized into the themes of Pride, Presence, and Protest which cover the activities of grassroots organizations, the lived

**FIGURE 1** Sex & Sexuality Advances Search Screen

**FIGURE 2** Sex & Sexuality Options for Exploring Content

experiences of individuals, and notable activism and demonstration events such as Gay Pride parades and the Gay Liberation Front protests. Additional research tools include over 30 films from the British Film Institute from 1917 to 1998, essays and video lectures, and objects from the Kinsey Institute.

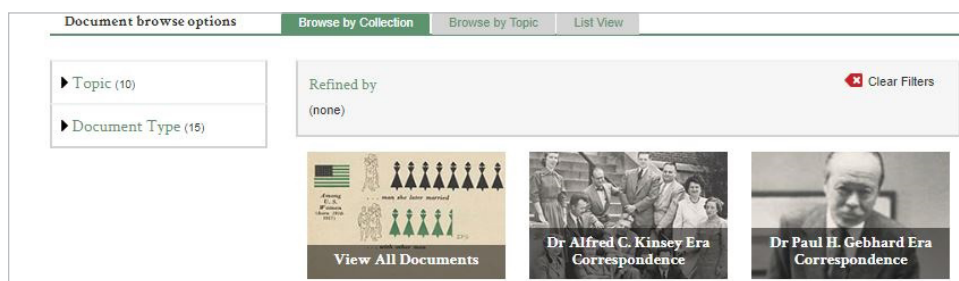
Administrators can track usage statistics via COUNTER Release 4 and SUSHI. Utilizing COUNTER, administrators can generate DB1, MR1, MR2, and CR2 reports, which can be exported via XML or TSV format. MARC records are provided for integration into OPAC systems and are available for download from the product home page. While MARC records from Module II were not available at the time of publication for this review, the product website indicates that MARC records are typically available within a few weeks of product publication. Adam Matthew Digital offers training via customized webinars and general PDF collection guides. There are also brief video tutorials providing instructions on navigating the site and making use of various features. Onsite visits for training are available upon request. Technical support is accessible via e-mail. The My Archive feature permits users to create an account to save and organize results. Documents can be saved to My Bookshelf and images to My Lightbox. Adam Matthew Digital provides a Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) to demonstrate compliance with Section 508 guidelines with the majority of criteria being supported and a few areas being partially supported. The VPAT indicates that videos include text transcriptions, and image slideshows have text titles and can be navigated via keyboard controls. The site does not depend upon color for users to understand content. Content is accessible with assistive technology.

## User Interface/Navigation/Searching

Sex & Sexuality is accessible online and is optimized for the following browsers: Microsoft Edge; Internet Explorer 10 and 11; and the most current versions of Firefox, Safari, and Google Chrome. As a URL based product, it is accessible from any electronic device with an internet connection that is authenticated.

Users can begin by typing a keyword search in the search box on the home page or on the Advanced Search screen. Users may select Advanced Search at the top of the home page to search by key words, title, people, or places with the use of Boolean terms, word stemming, or proximity (see Figure 1). Additionally, phrase searching and wildcards are supported search methods. It should be noted that while HTR documents can be searched using phrase searching, Boolean operators are not supported. Results can be further filtered by date, collection, topic, document type, or limiting to secondary resources. The right side panel displays previous searches and a link for users to search the people directory which is organized in alphabetical order by last name with the capability of searching multiple individuals at a time. There is also a link at the top of the page to Search Directories.

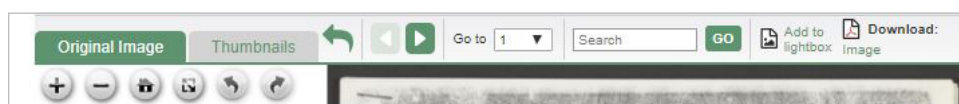
Across the top of the page users can select Introduction, Documents, Collection Guides, Explore, or Help (see Figure 2). There is a “hamburger button” beside these tabs which provides an expanded menu of options to select under each heading. The Introduction section provides more information about the collection such as selection criteria, copyright information, and nature and scope. Documents provides options to view all documents or to perform an advanced search. Collection Guides shares information about each individual collection’s



**FIGURE 3** Sex & Sexuality Browsing Options



**FIGURE 4** Sex & Sexuality Search Results Thumbnail Images



**FIGURE 5** Sex & Sexuality Options for Viewing and Saving Images

focus, content, and places the material in context. Under the Explore tab at the time of this review’s publication are three essays and one video lecture related to the collection’s content, “Introduction to the Kinsey Institute” written by the current director, and an interactive chronology of sexology. The Help tab contains a page by page guide to the collection, frequently asked questions, tips for using the collection in teaching, terms of use, privacy policy, and contact information.

To search documents, users can choose to View All Documents (or select List View) or perform an advanced search as was described above. When selecting View All Documents users then have the option to browse by collection or topic, or to view items in a list by selecting List View with the capability to further refine results by document type (see Figure 3). Once a collection or topic is specified, users can then refine results by limiting collection results to a particular topic or topic results to a particular collection and/or document type. Results can be limited to HTR documents only. Upon selecting a collection or topic, results can also be filtered by date. Results can be sorted by title, date, or by collection, topic, or document type.

Results that are full-text searchable documents are denoted by a page icon with HTR searchable documents denoted by a pencil icon. After selecting a document to view, thumbnail images from the document can be scrolled through using the next or previous buttons (see Figure 4). The entire document or a selected range of pages or images can be downloaded with Adobe Reader, a free application, being required to do so. A search box is available to search document content. The Citation/Export option generates the information necessary to create a citation for an online source, but does not conform to a particular citation style. Results can be exported to RefWorks, EndNote, or Zotero. Users can select Add to My Archive to save a document. Results can be shared to Facebook, Twitter, or via e-mail.

Images can be increased or decreased in magnification, moved, or rotated. Images can be viewed by Original Image to access one image at time or by Thumbnails to display all thumbnails available for a document. To save images, users select Add to Lightbox (see Figure 5).

### Critical Evaluation

Sex & Sexuality, Module II: Self-Expression, Community, and Identity is a collection of digitized primary sources which expands upon Module I of the collection by focusing in large part on the personal experiences, activism, and touchstone historical events of the LGBTQ+ community from the nineteenth century to current day. Likewise, Module II moves beyond the scope of archival materials in Module I, which were largely limited to the United States’ Kinsey Institute Library & Special Collections, by including materials from collections in the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia. Module II is unique in its focus on the lived experiences of LGBTQ+ individuals from the 1800s to current day. This module will be a beneficial resource to support academic programs studying gender and human sexuality at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Discoverability is enhanced through the use of HTR for searching handwritten manuscripts. As with Module I, Adam Matthew Digital has excelled in digitizing both written and visual archival materials with images that are quick to load, clear, and easily adjustable by the user for magnification and maneuverability. Sex & Sexuality is accessible from a variety of browsers. Contract provisions are standard to the product and allow for secure authentication permitting remote use across an organization’s locations and Interlibrary Loan. With pricing primarily determined by institution size and full-time enrollment, it may be within the budget of libraries of various sizes.

While Sex & Sexuality: Self-Expression, Community, and Identity provides niche coverage of human sexuality, particularly that of LGBTQ+ individuals, in the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries, there are a few points which may limit its usability for some libraries. The limitation to archival resources from the United States, United Kingdom, and Australia detracts from the product’s ability to provide a truly global perspective on human sexuality. As the collection is archival in nature, it does not provide access to emerging scholarship on human sexuality, with the most current item in the collection being the Peter Farrer Collection which spans 1926 to 2017. Customer ser-



## Sex & Sexuality Module II

Review Scores Composite: ★★ ★ 1/2

*The maximum number of stars in each category is 5.*

**Content:** ★★ ★ 1/2

A large collection of expertly digitized primary sources from archives in the US, UK, and Australia covering the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries. Essays & Video Interviews are limited and add little substantial additional value. The product would benefit from the inclusion of more international sources to increase diversity of views and global perspective.

**User Interface/Searchability:** ★★ ★

The interface is intuitive to navigate. Content is cross-searchable with other Adam Matthew Digital products. The product complies well with accessibility guidelines. The use of HTR improves the discoverability of handwritten manuscripts, however the technology is marred by false returns and inability to utilize Boolean search terms.

**Pricing:** N/A

As a direct quote was not provided by Adam Matthew Digital, it is difficult to assess this area. However, the product does offer a substantial title list of primary sources with pricing adjusted to FTE and institutional size.

**Purchase/Contract Options:** ★★ ★ ★

Contract provisions are standard for the product. Terms do limit the amount of a work that can be printed, e-mailed, or shared via Interlibrary Loans.

vice options are limited to e-mail support, which may be problematic for those preferring dedicated 24/7 customer support. Although essays and video interviews are available, these were limited to ten essays and three video lectures at the time of publication of this review.

Regarding HTR, in testing this feature I was impressed by its capability to locate my selected term within a handwritten document with the results being clearly highlighted. However, there were also a number of false returns suggesting this technology is not without its imperfections. Furthermore, the inability to utilize a Boolean search for HTR documents may impede discoverability for those seeking more results on specialized topics. Users seeking more current, global primary and

secondary resources on gender, women's, and LGBTQ+ topics may find ProQuest's GenderWatch a more suitable choice. Those seeking information on sexuality from the sixteen to mid-twentieth centuries or a more global perspective from the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries may prefer modules three and four, respectively, of Gale's Archives of Sexuality & Gender.

### Competitive Products

There a number of standalone resources covering women's and gender studies and LGBTQ+ issues, there are relatively few comprehensive collections that span the breadth of human sexuality across time as is accomplished by Modules I and II of Adam Matthew Digital's Sex and Sexuality. The most direct competitors are the Archives of Sexuality and Gender by Gale and GenderWatch by ProQuest.

Archives of Sexuality and Gender is a four-part collection which "spans the sixteenth to twentieth centuries and is the largest digital collection of historical primary source publications relating to the history and study of sex, sexuality, and gender research and gender studies research." Archives of Sexuality & Gender: LGBTQ History and Culture Since 1940 modules one and two offer searchable primary sources covering LGBTQ+ issues such as history, activism, psychology, health, and gender studies. The third module, Archives of Sexuality & Gender: Sex and Sexuality in the 16th Through 20th Centuries, takes a broader focus on sexuality from 1600 to 1940 which goes beyond LGBTQ+ topics. Finally, the most recent addition is the fourth module, International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture, which provides global manuscripts, periodicals and ephemera from the nineteenth to twenty-first centuries with a focus on southern Africa and Australia. At holdings of approximately one million pages of previously inaccessible primary materials, the collection is robust. Gale offers users downloadable Optimized Character Recognition (OCR) software to search monographs and other materials by

**Free Text Keywords:** Adam Matthew Digital | sex | sexuality | sex research | sexology | LGTBQ+ | gender studies | Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction | ONE Archives | National Archives | British Film Institute | Sheffield Library and Archive | The Keep | West Yorkshire Archive Service | University of Sydney | GenderWatch | Archives of Sexuality & Gender | handwritten text recognition | HTR

**Primary Category:** Ethnic, Gender, and LGBTQ Studies

**Secondary Categories:** History & Area Studies; Multidisciplinary (or interdisciplinary); Sociology, Education, Anthropology, Psychology

**Type of product being reviewed:** Primary source digital content

**Target Audience:** Undergraduate (including community colleges); Graduate/Faculty/Researcher

**Access:** Subscription



## Contact Information

### Adam Matthew Digital

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Producer URL: <https://www.amdigital.co.uk/>

Product URL: <https://www.sexandsexuality.amdigital.co.uk/>

key word. Users can cross-search other Gale databases to which they have access.

GenderWatch is a database of primary and secondary sources devoted to gender and women's studies which "enhances gender and women's studies, and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) research by providing authoritative perspectives from 1970 to present." Holdings are relatively modest at approximately 300 titles, with over 250 of these being full-text. However, within these holdings are over 219,000 full-text articles. The coverage is broad and addresses such topics as sexuality, eating disorders, feminism, and religion. ProQuest states the collection contains "archival materials" dating back to the 1970s and notes the perspective to be global with over 30% of the titles originating from outside the United States. Cross-searching is enabled for users with other ProQuest database subscriptions.

## Purchase & Contract Provisions

Purchase and contract provisions are outlined in the Adam Matthew Digital Standard License Agreement. Authorized users are identified as "Persons Affiliated with the Licensee" including students (including distance education), employees, and walk-ins. Remote access is to be provided through secured authentication by those affiliated with the licensee. There are no restrictions against use of the product across a university system. The terms of use stipulate that the licensee may download, digitally copy, or print "a reasonable portion of

the Licensed Materials." The terms of use permit for the creation of course packs and electronic reserves. Interlibrary loan or scholarly sharing is allowed but must include no more than 5% of the collection. The full terms of use may be viewed at <https://www.amdigital.co.uk/terms-of-use>.

## Authentication

Authentication is available via API key and IP address.

## Author's References

Adam Matthew Digital, "VPAT Section 508 Report," Accessed May 12, 2021. <http://www.sexandsexuality.amdigital.co.uk/Help/Section508>

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## About the Author

**Dawn Behrend** is an Instruction and Outreach Librarian at Lenoir-Rhyne University. Ms. Behrend holds a BA in Psychology, MA in Clinical Psychology, MBA, and MLS. Ms. Behrend is a second career librarian where she serves as Lenoir-Rhyne University library's liaison to the departments of business and economics, mathematics, computer science, psychology, and counseling. She has over 20 years of experience as a psychologist and continues to work part-time in private practice. ■