

Sexual Representation Collection

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### **SexTV Collection**

#### **Accession Numbers**

SXTV.01-03

#### **Physical Extent**

49 Books and periodicals on-site

857 Books and periodicals in library circulation

5cm of other textual records

#### **Date range**

1964-2008; Predominantly 1998-2008

#### **Administrative History**

SexTV, an original CityTV program, began airing in 1998. The show follows a documentary format featuring several stories on different aspects of sex and sexuality per half hour weekly episode. Due to the show's general interest mandate, a very wide variety of topics are covered (see episode guide). The show was nominated for Gemini Awards seven times between 2000 and 2007 and won in the category of "Best Lifestyle/General Interest Series" in 2004. In 2001, the series was spun-off into a national category 2 specialty channel called "SexTV: The Channel," which broadcasts a variety of original and syndicated programming on sex and sexuality. SexTV continues to air as part of SexTV: the channel's programming. The channel and the program,

however, are no longer affiliated with CityTV because CityTV's umbrella company, CHUM, was purchased by Bell Globemedia in 2006.

### **Scope and Content**

The SexTV Accession originally included 896 published books, pamphlets, Japanese souvenir programs, magazines and catalogues. 49 of these publications are still accessible on-site – the rest were donated to the University of Toronto Libraries and are available in circulation. Genres represented among published books include instructional literature (on dating, marriage, sex life), fiction, biography, scholarship and artistic monographs. The Accession also includes textual records related to the published material such as: letters from publishers, invoices and research notes.

The publications included in this accession were used as sources in the production of SexTV programs and content, as well as promotional items sent to SexTV by book publishers. The collection represents not only what media was deemed relevant by television producers but also what sources publishing companies felt could be marketed to a show of this nature. The collection reflects what Toronto-based media and publishing companies considered relevant to general interest sex-related programming the late 20th century. Publications range wildly in subject matter from BDSM to the Takarazuka Revue, but generally revolve around sexual and gender-diverse subcultures.

### **Restrictions on Access**

This collection is open to researchers.

## **Notes**

In 2018, many books in the Sexual Representation Collection's library were deaccessioned through donations to the University of Toronto Libraries, mainly Robarts Library and University College Library. Many of the books originally part of the Sex TV Collection were part of these donations. A number of periodicals, pamphlets, comic books and other similar publications remain on-site at the Sexual Representation Collection on our library shelf. Miscellaneous textual records, including press releases for books and other papers originally kept inside of publications which were separated from their original context when the books were given to Robarts and UC Library, are kept in a small Hollinger box. The three series in this collection were defined by the program co-ordinator in 2025 to reflect this physical arrangement. The books given to Robarts and UC Library are included as their own distinct series (Series 3 - Books at UC Library and Robarts) to preserve their original context in the collection and aid their retrieval from the library system.

This finding aid was originally written by Danielle Cooper on 18 April 2010, and revised by Helen Chazan in 2025.

## **Series 1 – Published Books and Periodicals**

### **Date Range**

1962-2008

**Extent**

49 books and periodicals

**Scope and Content**

Print publications sent to or used as reference material for SexTV, including commercial and self-published comic books, art books, magazines, pamphlets, theatrical programmes, and community resources.

**Series 2 – Documents and Ephemera****Date Range**

1998-2008

**Extent**

5cm textual records

**Scope and Content**

Textual records related to the production of Sex TV, such as press releases, correspondences, and financial documents.

**Series 3 – Books at UC Library and Robarts****Date Range**

1962-2008

**Extent**

857 books in library circulation

**Scope and Content**

Books, periodicals and other published print media from the Sex TV accession which were donated to Robarts Library and University College Library in 2018, accessible at these respective collections.