

*“Lesbian: Coming Out and Settling In”*

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This book collection is representative of my personal experience of coming out of the closet and into life as a lesbian. The first book I purchased, the beginning of the collection, was *Now That You Know: What Every Parent Should Know About Homosexuality* by Fairchild and Hayward (1989). I used it to help frame a discussion with my parents but found to my surprise, the conversation didn't need a framework; it just needed to happen.

Since that day I've purchased books that represented where I was in my development as a lesbian and in my life span. I wasn't aware of this fact at the time but by taking the time to develop this bibliography and annotate my collection, it became clear to me that my own development as a lesbian, as a woman, and as a partner is reflected in this collection. In some way these books helped to create and recreate my morphing lesbian identity. The collection spans the gamut of lesbian interests from early lesbian pulp fiction and the humorous graphic novel series by Alison Bechdel to the pragmatic *Four Steps to Financial Security for Lesbian and Gay Couples* by H.L. Lustig (1999). My most recent acquisitions include *Out and About Campus: Personal Accounts by Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgendered College Students* by K. Howard and A. Stevens, Eds. (2000) and *Lesbians in Academia: Degrees of Freedom* edited by Mintz and Rothblum (1997). Both have helped me as I begin my own career in academia as an out lesbian feminist in the Mid-West.