Finding Ourselves in the Archives:
LGBT Histories at the ONE/USC
National Gay and Lesbian Archives

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Finding Ourselves in the Archives is an interdisciplinary micro-seminar on writing and media history. By digging into the ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives at USC, students will have a chance to experience the history of LGBT publication in a hands-on manner.

In collaborative groups, students will read through issues of ONE MAGAZINE in the Archives. ONE is the first pro-gay publication in the United States, and it was sold on the streets of LA for 25 cents when it debuted in the 1950s. In 1954, the U.S. Post Office declared the magazine obscene and refused to deliver it. Our seminar will look at some select issues, as well as a popular digital queer publication of today: THEM (them.us).

There will surely be great differences between gay representation in the past and queer representation today, but we will ask of both publications: why is queer media important to this community? We will also think about archives themselves, which are crucial to keeping queer history alive. At the end of the seminar, students will be asked to reflect on their experience by producing a short essay (2-3 pages), that considers queer life today in light of what they learned about the past in the Archives.

This seminar will be a great way for LGBTQ students to forge community and connection during the first days at USC, and for allied students to learn from their LGBTQ classmates.