

Adapting Homosaurus for LGBTQI Fiction in Sweden

NKOS Workshop at JCDL 2022

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1. Background


Subject indexing of (LGBTQI) fiction

- Fiction usually represented for genre, time, place
 - Need to reflect appeal characteristics like pacing, characterization, storyline, frame/setting, tone, and language/style
- (LGBTQI) fiction: metaphorical, abstract themes
 - Changing terminology
 - Fluid identities
 - Ambiguities (e.g., “gay”)
 - KOS: critique for failure to respectfully organize library materials about social groups and identities that lack social and political power (Drabinski 2013)
 - Hard to automate, social tags complementary
 - Too shallow LGBTQI terminology

Swedish subject headings

- SAO - Swedish Subject Headings
 - Just under 40,000 headings
 - 80-150 LGBTQI headings
 - Broad: 'transgender people' there but not 'trans men' or 'trans women' or 'transitioning'
 - Older fiction not indexed at all. 2005 1.4 subject headings on average. 2020 3.6.
- Children's subject headings
 - Just under 2,800 headings
 - Only 9 LGBTQI terms

Bisexuella • sao

URI (länk till resurs)	https://id.kb.se/term/sao/Bisexuella 
Föredragen benämning	Bisexuella
Ingår i system	Svenska ämnesord
Del av termsamling	Facktermer
Bredare	HBTQ-personer • sao
Nära match	Bisexuals • lcsh
Bredare match	Ohjh • kssb
Relaterad	Bisexualitet • sao
Samma sak som	http://libris.kb.se/resource/auth/141078
Smalare	Bisexuella föräldrar • sao Bisexuella kvinnor • sao Bisexuella män • sao Komma-ut-processen • sao
Ladda ner	JSON-LD • Turtle • RDF/XML
Andra tjänster	Libris katalogisering

Preferred label: **Bisexuals**

Broader: **LGBTQ people - sao**

Close match: **Bisexuals - lcsh**

Related: **Bisexuality - sao**

Narrower: **Bisexual parents - sao**

Bisexual women - sao

Bisexual men - sao

Coming out process - sao

FÖREDRAGEN BENÄMNING	Bisexuella
INGÅR I SYSTEM	Queerlit
ALTERNATIV BENÄMNING	Bisexuella personer
BREDARE	HBTQI-personer • Queerlit
EXAKT MATCH	https://homosaurus.org/v3/homoit0000170 • Bisexuella • sao
SMALARE	<div>B <div>Bisexuella barn • Queerlit</div> <div>Bisexuella föräldrar • Queerlit</div> <div>Bisexuella kvinnor • Queerlit</div> <div>Bisexuella män • Queerlit</div> <div>Bisexuella par • Queerlit</div> </div> <div>G <div>Garderobsbisexuella • Queerlit</div> </div> <div>N <div>Nyutkomna bisexuella • Queerlit</div> </div> <div>P <div>Prostituerade bisexuella • Queerlit</div> </div> <div>U <div>Unga bisexuella • Queerlit</div> </div> <div>Ä <div>Äldre bisexuella • Queerlit</div> </div>
RELATERAD	<div>Allosexualitet • Queerlit</div> <div>Förföljelse av bisexuella • Queerlit</div> <div>Föräldrar till bisexuella • Queerlit</div> <div>Bifobi • Queerlit</div> <div>Partners till bisexuella • Queerlit</div> <div>Pansexuella • Queerlit</div> <div>Bisexuella gemenskaper • Queerlit</div> <div>Bisexualitet • Queerlit</div> <div>Bisexuella familjer • Queerlit</div>
ANMÄRKNING OM ANVÄNDNING	Används för skildringar av personer med förmågan att känna sexuell och romantisk attraktion till människor oavsett kön.
SMALARE	<div>Prostituerade bisexuella • Queerlit</div> <div>Bisexuella män • Queerlit</div> <div>Nyutkomna bisexuella • Queerlit</div> <div>Garderobsbisexuella • Queerlit</div> <div>Bisexuella kvinnor • Queerlit</div> <div>Bisexuella föräldrar • Queerlit</div> <div>Bisexuella barn • Queerlit</div> <div>Bisexuella par • Queerlit</div> <div>Unga bisexuella • Queerlit</div> <div>Äldre bisexuella • Queerlit</div>

Preferred label: Bisexuals

Broader: LGBTQI people

Narrower: Bisexual children, Bisexual parents, Bisexual women, Bisexual men, Bisexual couples, Newly out bisexuals, Bisexuals in prostitution, Young bisexuals, Older bisexuals

Related: Allosexuality, Persecution of bisexuals, Parents of bisexuals, Biphobia, Partners of bisexuals, Pansexuals, Bisexual communities, Bisexuality, Bisexual families

Scope note: Used for portraits of people with the ability to feel sexual and romantic attraction to people regardless of their sex or gender.

Make the literature visible

Habers sista dagar : [roman] / Staffan Beckman.

▣ **Beckman, Staffan**, 1934- (författare)

ISBN 9173840297

Publicerad: Göteborg : Proletärkultur, 1983

Tillverkad: Göteborg : HS-offset

Svenska 128 s.

 **Bok**

▼ **Ämnesord**

Klassifikation

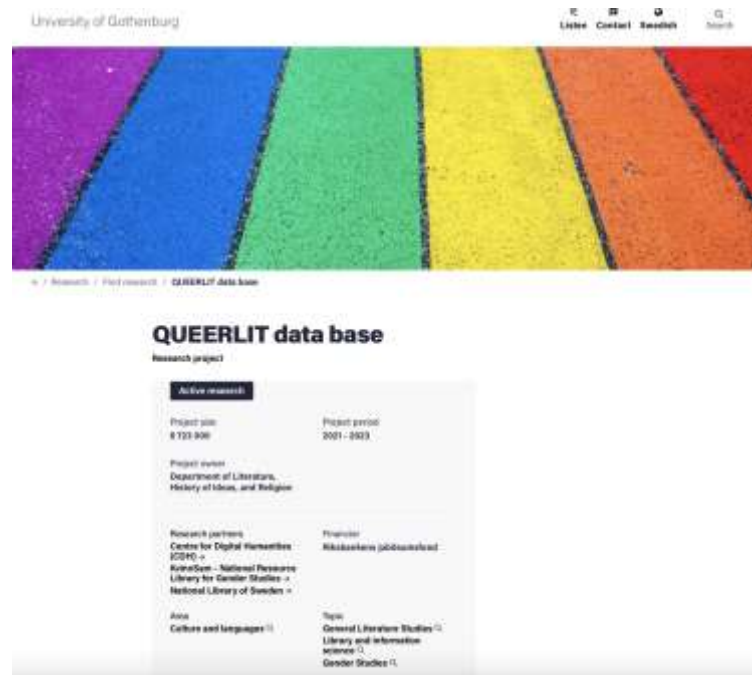
839.73 (DDC)

Hc.01 (kssb/5)

Queerlit project

- Research infrastructure project
- 2021-2023
- Librarians, literary scholars, LIS researchers, research engineers
- Thesaurus, database, indexing
- Linked data

<https://www.gu.se/en/research/queerlit-data-base>



2. Queerlit thesaurus

Queer Literature Indexing Thesaurus (QLIT)

- Based on Homosaurus (<https://homosaurus.org/v3>)
 - Used by the Digital Transgender Archive (DTA) (<https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net>) (among others)
 - Aims at a range of varied information resources
 - First version in 1997
 - 1186 terms in 2021
- QLIT
 - 822 terms
 - 67 unique for QLIT
 - 755 have an exact or close match to Homosaurus

QLIT

- Homosaurus terms that had been used to index at least one work of fiction
- Those terms were enriched with NTs and BTs
- Adapted for works of fiction and to reflect the Scandinavian context:
 - Adding terms for the indigenous Sami people
 - Adjusting judicial terms to reflect Swedish legislation
 - Adjusting relations between sex/gender terms - the Swedish term *Kön* encompasses four aspects: biology, gender expression, gender identity and legal aspects

QLIT

- Other additions:
 - Adding NTs for parents and children where gender and/or sexuality is unknown to the reader
 - Adding common symbolic concepts in queer fiction such as “mirrors” (in prose) and “rainbows” (in picture books)
 - Consistent addition of intersex terms where Homosaurus has terms for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, trans people and queers
 - Adding terms for expected themes, e.g. “extortion” and “detransition”

Nästan i mål : en komisk transition / Olivia Skoglund.

Skoglund, Olivia, 1994– (author, illustrator)

ISBN 9789177751106

Published: Stockholm : Galago, [2020]

Manufactured: 2020

Swedish 111 sidor



► Abstract ▼ Subject headings

Subject headings

Transpersoner (sao)

Könskorrigering (sao)

Könsidentitet (sao)

Transgender people (LCSH)

Gender identity (LCSH)

Sex change (LCSH)

Genre

Tecknade serier (saogf)

Självbiografiska skildringar (saogf)

Humoristiska skildringar (saogf)

Index term and SAB caption

Hci Tecknade serier

Classification

741.59485 (DDC)

Hci (kssb/8)

Nästan i mål

FÖRFATTARE

Olivia Skoglund

TYP

UTGIVNINGÅR

2020

ÄMNESORD

bröst

censur

dejtingsidor

polistrakasserier

dragqueens

bögar

homofobi

Hormonbehandling (kön)

Hårborttagning

Id-kort

Namnändring

Juridiskt namn

Komma ut

Könsbekräftande behandling

Könsdysfori

Könsidentitet

Könsorgan

Könsroller

Misogyni

Passera (kön)

Sexuella trakasserier

Transbarn

Transitionering

Transkvinnor

Unga transpersoner

Homofobi

“Breasts”, “Censorship”, “Dating websites”, “Police harassment”, “Drag queens”, “Gay men”, “Homophobia”, “Hormone therapy”, “Hair removal”, “Social security cards, ”, “Legal name change”, “Legal name”, “Coming out”, “Gender affirming surgery”, “Gender dysphoria”, “Gender identity”, “Genitals”, “Gender roles”, “Misogyny”, “Passing (Gender)”, “Sexual Harassment”, “Trans children”, “Transitioning (gender)”, “Trans women”, “Transgender youth”, “Homophobia”.

- Most of these also have equivalent English terms in Homosaurus

3. User needs

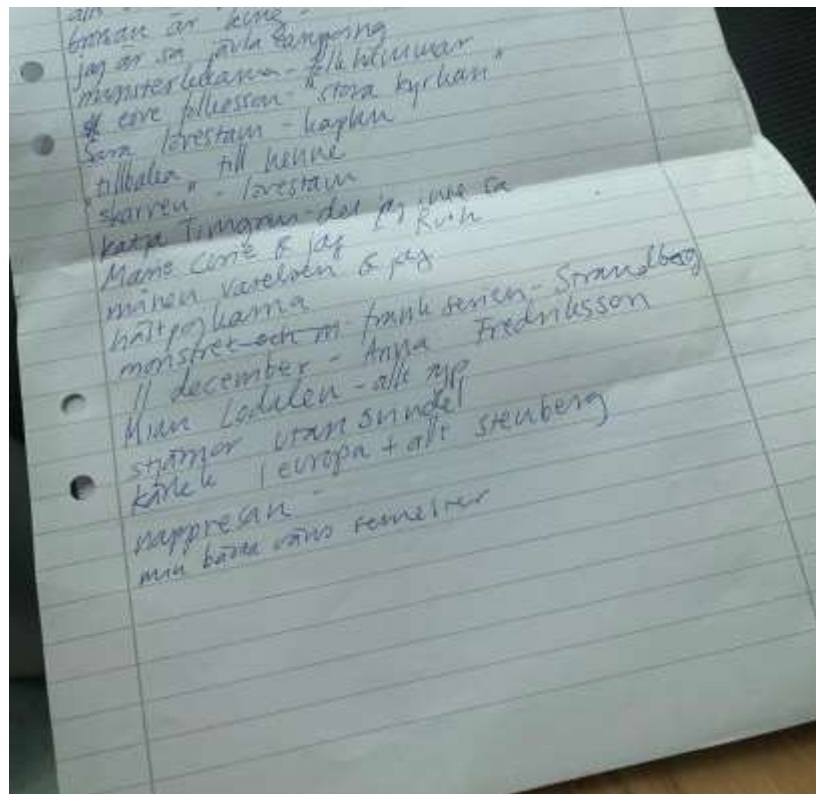
Identifying user needs

- Community outreach
- Workshops:
 - Network for librarians working with LGBTQI issues
 - Pride
- Survey
 - End users
 - Librarians

Community outreach



Workshops

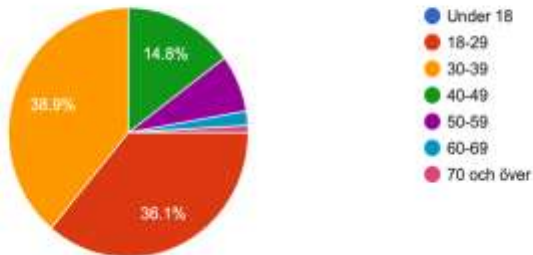


End users' survey

- Web questionnaire, 40 open and closed questions (15 required), 10-15 min
- Autumn 2021
- 108 participants
- 101 read LGBTQI fiction
- Most under 50 in age
- Most completed university education

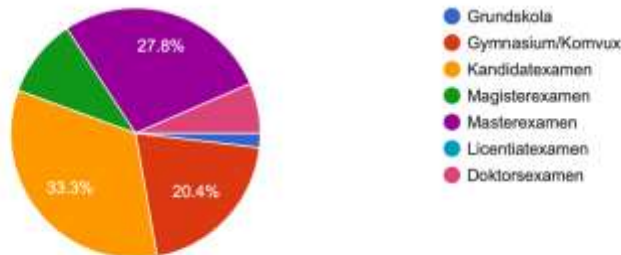
1. Din ålder

108 responses



2. Din högsta avslutade utbildning

108 responses



Reading LGBTQI fiction

- 7 never read LGBTQI fiction and from hereon excluded from results
- Most read:
 - For pleasure (85.1%)
 - To find experiences or characters they can identify with (81.2%)
 - To find subjects and themes they can identify with (73.3%)
 - Because they have an interest in LGBTQI questions (70.3%)
- As well as:
 - To acquire a better understanding of LGBTQI persons' experiences (30.7%)
 - To find positive role models and ways of living (35.6%)
 - For work (e.g., research) (21.8%)

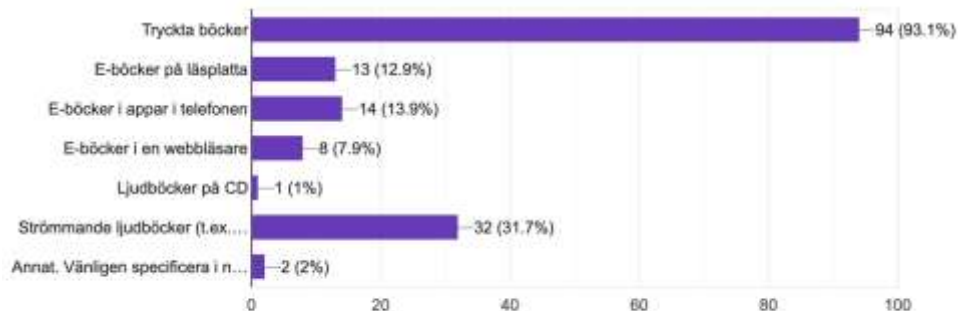
Searching for LGBTQI fiction

- Social media such as Instagram, Goodreads, Facebook (76.2%)
- Friends and acquaintances (72.3%)
- Newspapers or magazines (30.7%)
- The library (e.g., via public displays or author events) (28.7%)
- Bookstores (15.8%)

- Book format
 - Printed (94%)
 - Streaming services (31.7%)
 - E-books (34,7% for all devices)

7a. Vilka bokformat letar du oftast efter (när det gäller böcker med HBTQI-perspektiv)? Markera alla passande svar.

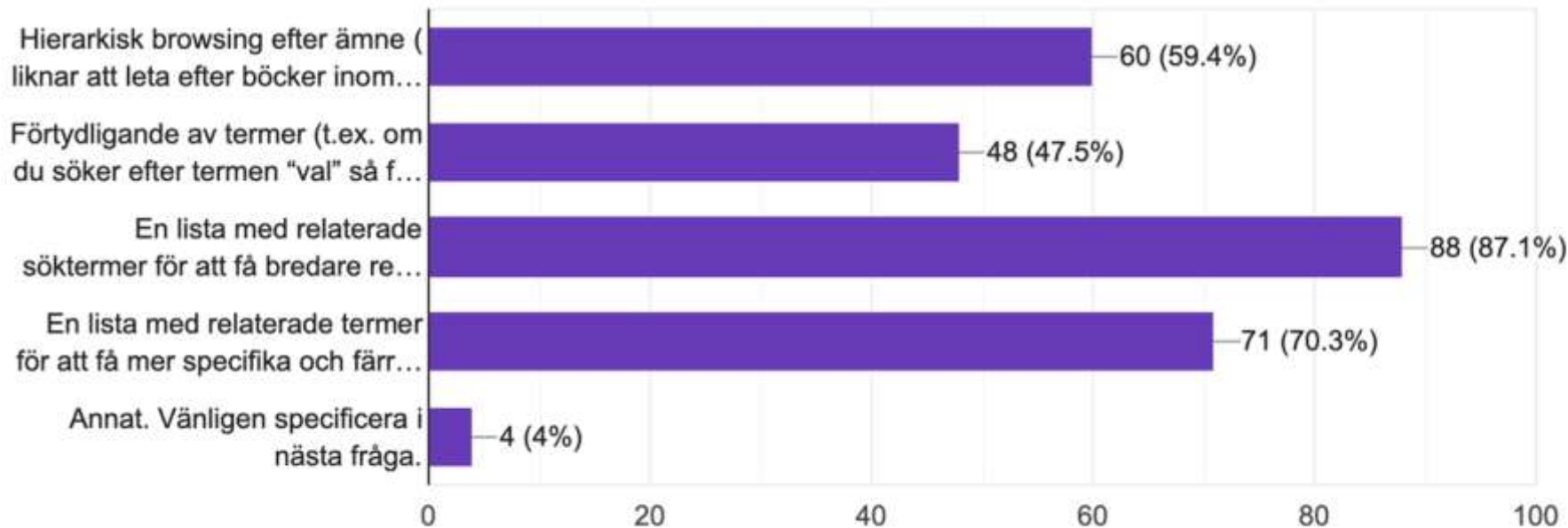
101 responses



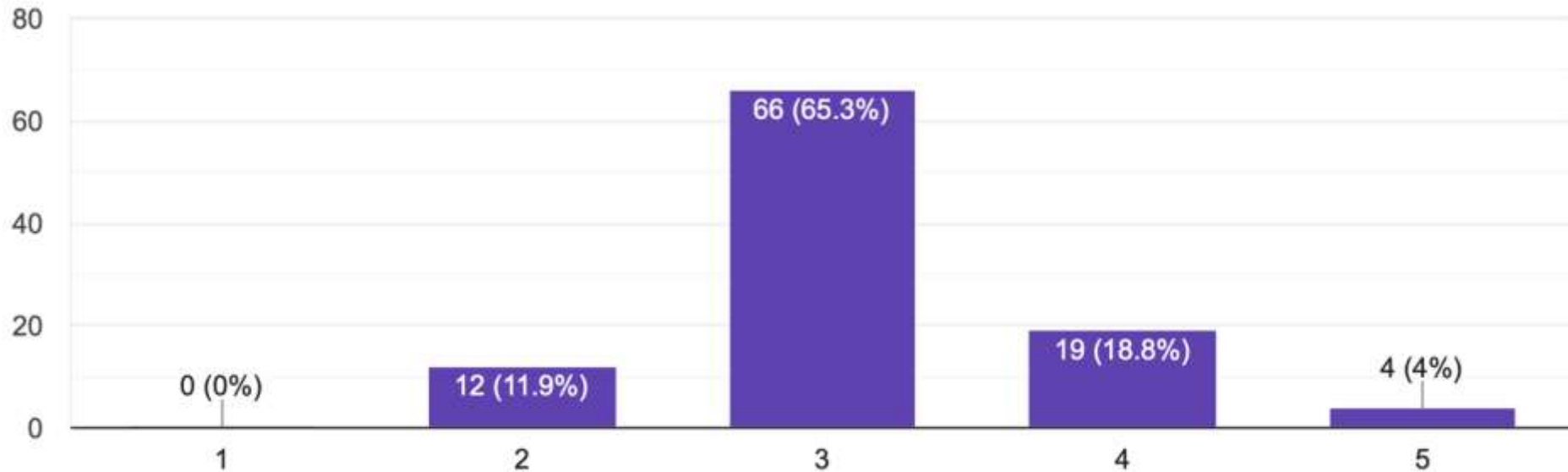
Search functionalities

13a. Vilka funktioner skulle du vilja använda när du söker efter ämnen inom skönlitteratur med HBTQI-perspektiv i en webbtjänst (t.ex. i en bibliot...g, LibraryThing o.s.v.)? Markera alla passande svar.

101 responses



Satisfaction with searching for LGBTQI fiction



Reasons for dissatisfaction in libraries

- Subject searching in library catalogs does not work well or “it is hard to search for LGBTQI works systematically” (23)
 - **Too few books with LGBTQI keywords (5):**
 - “Books with LGBTQI themes that I know of don’t get retrieved”
 - “Older literature and non-Swedish literature can be difficult to identify”
 - “Few identified LGBTQI works in library catalog, unless the main theme obvious from title or review, it won’t be classified as such”
 - **Too shallow or too general indexing / indexing systems (6):**
 - “Subtler themes or supporting characters are not indexed”;
 - “Too general subject keywords”;
 - “I tried to find fiction about lesbian / queer divorces and did not find a good search, the same with queer literature where friendship is in focus, and about queer families with a different type of narrative than the usual ‘have children’ or ‘be rainbow family / star family’ [star family is a word play of the Swedish term for nuclear family, where the star family in comparison is a family with step parents, step siblings or other family members] in a heteronormative environment”.

Reasons for dissatisfaction in social media

- Searching does not work well in bookstores or on social media either (22) because:
 - a. LGBTQI categories missing on social media (3)
 - b. if social media do use LGBTQI keywords like Goodreads, Instagram, or blogs, they are too general, making it hard to find certain topics (5):
 - i. “Too general subject keywords (LGBTQI) and especially no more unusual subjects like poly, asexuality, intersex”.
 - ii. “Too much focus on identities / sexualities and too little on what takes place”.
 - iii. “Little help from LGBTQ+ tags – LGBTQ+ tags don't tell me anything. If I want a romance between queer women, a search for LGBTQ+ or queer or romance will usually give me results with for example gay men”.

Their search terms

- Recent search:
 - LGBTQI identities and themes
 - All covered by QLIT
 - General fiction themes and genre
 - Not all covered by SAO but outside QLIT
- Future desired search terms:
 - Narrow LGBTQI identities
 - A comprehensive list of themes – both LGBTQI and general
 - To be considered for inclusion into QLIT
 - Some general ones will not be covered by SAO

Identities: trans or transgender (18), including transperson (1), transman (1), transmasculine (1); lesbian (17), including lesbianism (2) and older lesbians (1) and women (1); queer (13) including queer+ (1); non-binary (7); bisexual (7) including bi (3); HBTQ (7) including HBTQI (7), HBTQIA+ (1) LHBTQIA+ (1) but also per each individual letter (3) and over history (1); intersex (3); homosexual (3) including homo (1) and homosexuality (1); pan (4), including pansexual (2) and pansexuality (1); gay men (2); femme (3); butch (2); agender (1); genderfluid (1); rainbow family (1).

LGBTQI themes: queer friendship, LGBTQ phobia, coming out as lesbian, lesbian love, lesbian adult love, lesbian young adult love, lesbian erotics, lesbian fiction, lesbian pulp fiction, characters with different sexual preferences, lesbian and children/family, lesbian history, lesbian Sweden, lesbian and selected continent, lesbian 1800s / 1900s, queer theory, gender theory, same-sex love stories, same-sex parenting, queer parenting, two mums; elderly LGBTQ-people history, same-sex, LGBTQI with warning for sexual violence, LGBTQ canon, coming out, lesbian queer friendship, queer platonic, queer in 30s-40s age, miscarriage, pregnancy, madness, obsession.

Thank you!

Queerlits' external interface will be released in October 2022
<https://queerlit.dh.gu.se/>