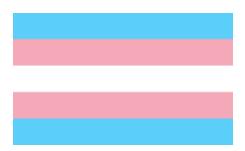
# Small Changes - Big Impact

A Short Guide for Public Librarians Working with LGBTQ+ Teens

While making big changes to "the system" can be tough, this guide will help you navigate some of the day-to-day concerns that LGBTQ+ teens are facing. It may seem simple, but these few small actions can mean a whole lot.

#### • Flags

Pride flags are an easy way to signal to your LGBTQ+ patrons that this is a safe space. It's important to consider this year-round, and not just during Pride Month! Especially consider adding more than just the rainbow flag - there are plenty of other LGBTQ+ flags that aren't as widely known or visible.



### **2** Gender Neutral Facilities



Make sure there is a gender-neutral bathroom within your library - and make sure it is clearly labelled and accessible. Signage is important - if you're struggling with deciding what to put on the door, just go with the obvious...

#### **8** Pronouns & Name Tags

Pronouns are an essential component of communication - make yours clear! Trans patrons shouldn't be the people tasked with approaching the topic - ask teens directly which pronouns they use (and use them!).



## 4 Language Use

Take care to use gender-neutral terms wherever possible, such as:

- Everyone / folks / friends
- Parent / quardian
- Server / firefighter / chairperson

## **6** Legal Names

Make sure that LGBTQ+ teens can access your library under their current name - even if their legal name and identification doesn't match up. This can be hard sometimes but is essential for teens to feel welcomed as their authentic selves.

#### References

Sonka, J. (2016, December 30). The new library name badges belonging to Pfister and Sims [photo]. Insider Louisville. https://bit.ly/2UbQoHe