

Berlin ALMS 2019: Report by Linda Chernis, Archivist at GALA Queer Archive, Johannesburg, South Africa

I attended my first ALMS in London in 2016, and have been waiting for the next ALMS ever since! Although there are no shortages of international conferences across various disciplines, ALMS is really special because it speaks so directly to the work I do. Being able to meet with and learn from others that work in, and with, queer archives around the world is a really wonderful and unique opportunity. Seeing all the challenges that other archives face, and the creative ways in which they deal with lack of funds, resources, and sometimes safety and security, is really inspiring and reassuring. It is heartening to see what just a few dedicated individuals can achieve.

I was surprised (and pleased!) to see how much ALMS had grown since 2016, with Berlin ALMS having 5 sessions per time slot (I think in London there were two)! This also meant missing a lot of presentations as unfortunately we can't be in two places at once.

Some highlights from ALMS2019 for me included: having a GALA stall, giving us the opportunity to tell people about GALA and what we do; having our Director, Keval Harie, at the conference as well; Ruth Ramsden-Karelse presenting on her PhD work on one of GALA's collections; and of course my own opportunity to present and my inspiring fellow-panelists. In addition, Daniel Sander from Schwules Museum was kind enough to give Keval and I our own tour of the museum on the Friday morning, this meant a lot to us.

Can't wait for the next ALMS – but in the interim, I am pleased to have made many connections and hope this will lead to collaborations between now and then!