Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary 3
Information on Use 3
Access 3
Citation 3
Historical Note 3
Scope Note 4
Related Resources 4
Subject Headings 4
INVENTORY 4
Series I: Subject Files 5
Series II: Periodicals 20
Series III: Audio Visual 24
Series IV: Oversize and Artifacts 25
### Descriptive Summary

**Identifier**  
ICU.SPCL.ACTUP

**Title**  
ACT UP Chicago. Records

**Date**  
1969-1996

**Size**  
17 linear feet (24 boxes)

**Repository**  
Special Collections Research Center  
University of Chicago Library  
1100 East 57th Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.

**Abstract**  
ACT UP Chicago was a grassroots, direct action, activist group formed to bring attention to the AIDS crisis. The group also agitated for increased AIDS funding and research, as well as protection of the rights of people with HIV/AIDS. Correspondence, notes, clippings, and newsletters in the collection track the work of ACT UP Chicago between the late 1980s and the mid-1990s. The records describe major protests undertaken by ACT UP Chicago, as well as issues of HIV/AIDS specific to Chicago and Illinois. The large number of clippings and periodicals, from both popular and alternative media, provide information on media coverage of HIV/AIDS, gay and lesbian issues, and leftist politics. The collection also includes examples of the ACT UP’s distinctive graphic style displayed on posters, flyers, stickers, and buttons.

### Information on Use

**Access**

Series III does not include access copies for some of the material in the series. Researchers will need to consult with staff before requesting material from this series. The remainder of the collection is open for research.

**Citation**

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: ACT UP Chicago. Records, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

**Historical Note**

ACT UP Chicago (Aids Coalition to Unleash Power) formed in the late 1980s as a grassroots activist group committed to direct action protest for people with AIDS (PWAs) and AIDS/HIV awareness. Angry at government inaction and indifference at the rapidly increasing number of AIDS deaths in the 1980s, ACT UP sought to turn fear and sorrow into anger expressed through political action. The slogan, “ACT UP, fight back, fight AIDS,” is emblematic of the
ACT UP ethos. Part of a broader coalition of protests groups addressing AIDS and homophobia that formed beginning in the mid-1980s, ACT UP was a decentralized group made up of many branch organizations, with approximately eighty chapters by 1993. ACT UP New York was the founding branch, first receiving public attention for its Wall Street protest in 1987, which challenged the convoluted and slow FDA approval process for AIDS drugs, and the high price of the first generation of AIDS drugs like AZT. ACT UP was noted for its distinctive protest tactics including street theatre, zap actions, and bold graphics on visual materials like posters, stickers, and t-shirts. ACT UP also pursued legal, political, and research strategies, pressing politicians to provide support for PWAs and AIDS education, and seeking a voice in research and development agendas of drug companies.

ACT UP Chicago formed in the late 1980s and remained active through the early 1990s. Like other ACT UP groups, Chicago experienced internal struggles to define the mission of ACT UP, and the relationship between ACT UP and leftist and radical politics more broadly. Members experienced divisions between those who saw ACT UP’s sole mission as finding a cure for AIDS, and those who saw ACT UP within a broader challenge to structural oppressions within the United States. Internal debates also focused on whether ACT UP should place special emphasis on the multiply marginalized like women, people of color, and the incarcerated. ACT UP Chicago was involved in protests against AMA policies, against political appointees in AIDS policy positions, for safe sex education in the public schools, and against mandatory HIV testing for health care workers.

Scope Note
The ACT UP Chicago Records consist of four series. Series I consists of alphabetical subject files relating to the institutional history of ACT UP, the AIDS crisis, and gay, lesbian, queer, and transgender life and politics. Series II consists of alphabetically arranged periodicals, which include materials from the alternative press and independently produced ‘zines. The series also includes clippings from the popular press. Series III includes audio and video cassettes. Series IV consists of artifacts and oversized objects including posters and political buttons.

Related Resources
Browse finding aids by topic.

Subject Headings
• Gould, Deborah Bejosa
• ACT UP (Organization)
• AIDS activists -- United States
• AIDS (Disease) -- Political aspects -- United States
• Gays -- United States -- Political activity
• Gays -- United States -- Social conditions
• Lesbians -- United States -- Social conditions
• Lesbians -- United States -- Political activity

INVENTORY
Series I: Subject Files

Series I consists of alphabetical subject files relating to the institutional history of ACT UP, the AIDS crisis, and gay, lesbian, queer, and transgender life and politics. The files include clippings, correspondence, memos, posters, and reports. The series includes files related specifically to the organization history of ACT UP, as well as files focused more broadly on AIDS, gay, lesbian, queer, and transgender issues, and left politics.

Box 1
Folder 1
Abbott Labs

Box 1
Folder 2
Abortion Rights

Box 1
Folder 3
ACT UP, AIDS Won’t Wait Protest

Box 1
Folder 4
ACT UP, Atlanta, 1990

Box 1
Folder 5
ACT UP, Atlanta, Photographs

Box 1
Folder 6
ACT UP, Boycott Hoffmann LaRouche

Box 1
Folder 7
ACT UP, Buzzwords

Box 1
Folder 8
ACT UP, Calendars and Agendas

Box 1
Folder 9
ACT UP, Chants

Box 1
Folder 10
ACT UP, Clippings, 1991

Box 1
Folder 11
ACT UP, Correspondence

Box 1
Folder 12
ACT UP, Fact Sheets

Box 1
Folder 13
ACT UP, Fort Lauderdale
Box 1
Folder 14
ACT UP, Fundraisers and Parties
Box 1
Folder 15
ACT UP, Golden Gate
Box 1
Folder 16
ACT UP, Health Information
Box 1
Folder 17
ACT UP, Holy Shame Protest
Box 1
Folder 18
ACT UP, Mailing and Fax Lists
Box 1
Folder 19
ACT UP, Media Committee, Clipping
Box 1
Folder 20
ACT UP, Newsletters
Box 1
Folder 21
ACT UP, Organizational Materials
Box 1
Folder 22
ACT UP, Philadelphia
Box 1
Folder 23
ACT UP, Phone Zaps
Box 1
Folder 24
ACT UP, Press Releases
Box 1
Folder 25
ACT UP, Protests
Box 2
Folder 1
ACT UP, Reports and Resources
Box 2
Folder 2
ACT UP, Research Agenda
Box 2
Folder 3
ACT UP, San Francisco Handbook
Box 2
Folder 4
   ACT UP, Stickers
Box 2
Folder 5
   ACT UP, Survival
Box 2
Folder 6
   ACT UP, Treatment and Data Committee
Box 2
Folder 7
   Activist Art
Box 2
Folder 8
   Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues
Box 2
Folder 9
   Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues, Working Documents
Box 2
Folder 10
   American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Dockets
Box 2
Folder 11
   AIDS in Chicago, Clippings
Box 2
Folder 12
   AIDS and HIV, Articles and Chapters
Box 2
Folder 13
   AIDS and HIV, Clippings
Box 3
Folder 1
   AIDS and HIV, Clippings
Box 3
Folder 2
   AIDS and HIV, Clippings
Box 3
Folder 3
   AIDS and HIV, Clippings
Box 3
Folder 4
   AIDS Cure Project
Box 3
Folder 5
   AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Folder 6  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Box 3
Folder 7  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Box 3
Folder 8  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Box 3
Folder 9  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Box 4
Folder 1  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Box 4
Folder 2  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Box 4
Folder 3  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Box 4
Folder 4  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Box 4
Folder 5  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Box 4
Folder 6  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Survey  
Box 4
Folder 7  
AIDS Legal Council  
Box 4
Folder 8  
AIDS Pamphlets  
Box 4
Folder 9  
AIDS Treatment Glossary  
Box 5
Folder 1  
AIDS, Strategic Plan Chicago  
Box 5
Folder 2  
AIDS Treatment News, 1992  
Box 5
Folder 3
Box 6
Folder 6
   Bin-Wahad, Dhoruba
Box 6
Folder 7
   Blakk, Joan Jett
Box 6
Folder 8
   Blakk, Joan Jett, Clippings
Box 6
Folder 9
   Bottomfish Blues
Box 6
Folder 10
   BETA Bulletin
Box 6
Folder 11
   Centers for Disease Control (CDC), 1991-1992
Box 6
Folder 12
   CDOH Grants, 1992
Box 6
Folder 13
   Chicago Bisexual Resource Directory
Box 6
Folder 14
   Chicago HIV/AIDS Initiative (CHAI)
Box 6
Folder 15
   Chicago Recovery Alliance
Box 6
Folder 16
   Clinton, Bill
Box 6
Folder 17
   Coalition for Positive Sexuality (CPS)
Box 6
Folder 18
   Coalition for Positive Sexuality, Clippings
Box 6
Folder 19
   Coalition for Positive Sexuality, Correspondence
Box 6
Folder 20
   Coalition for Positive Sexuality, Just Say Yes Protest
Folder 21
    Coalition for Positive Sexuality, Just Say Yes Protest, Editorial Committee
Box 6
Folder 22
    Coalition for Positive Sexuality, Judith Johns Protest
Box 7
Folder 1
    Coalition for Positive Sexuality, Liberate the Latex Protest
Box 7
Folder 2
    Coalition for Positive Sexuality, Organization Materials
Box 7
Folder 3
    Coalition for Positive Sexuality, Research Materials
Box 7
Folder 4
    Coalition for Positive Sexuality, Sex Education Homecoming Parade
Box 7
Folder 5
    Coalition for Positive Sexuality, Youth Resource Materials
Box 7
Folder 6
    Coalition for Positive Sexuality, Youth Resource Materials
Box 7
Folder 7
    Chicago Tribune
Box 7
Folder 8
    Colorado
Box 7
Folder 9
    Dahmer, Jeffrey
Box 7
Folder 10
    Dentists
Box 7
Folder 11
    District of Columbia Protest
Box 7
Folder 12
    El Salvador
Box 7
Folder 13
    Employment Discrimination
Box 7
Folder 14
Exodus Ministries

Box 7
Folder 15
Film Festivals

Box 8
Folder 1
Film and Video

Box 8
Folder 2
Fraser et al. vs. Mother’s Bar, Discrimination Lawsuit

Box 8
Folder 3
Galas, Diamanda

Box 8
Folder 4
Gay and Lesbian Issues, Clippings

Box 8
Folder 5
Gay and Lesbian Issues, Clippings

Box 8
Folder 6
Gay and Lesbian Issues, Clippings

Box 8
Folder 7
Gay and Lesbian Issues, Clippings

Box 8
Folder 8
Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund

Box 8
Folder 9
Gay Games, Clippings

Box 8
Folder 10
Graduate Student Conference on Gay and Lesbian Studies, 1st Annual

Box 9
Folder 1
Graduate Student Conference on Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Studies, 2nd Annual

Box 9
Folder 2
Graduate Student Conference on Queer Studies, 3rd Annual

Box 9
Folder 3
Lesbian and Gay Studies Conference, 5th Annual

Box 9
Folder 4
Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Studies Conference, 6th Annual
Folder 5
   Illinois, Department of Public Health
Box 10
Folder 6
   Illinois Federation for Human Rights, Clippings
Box 10
Folder 7
   Illinois Federation for Human Rights, Organizational Materials
Box 10
Folder 8
   Illinois Federation for Human Rights, Voter Identification Sheets
Box 11
Folder 1
   Illinois Masonic Hospital Protest
Box 11
Folder 2
   Illinois Response to AIDS
Box 11
Folder 3
   Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum Protest
Box 11
Folder 4
   Jones, Bill T.
Box 11
Folder 5
   KEMRON, AIDS Treatment
Box 11
Folder 6
   KEMRON/ IMMUNEX
Box 11
Folder 7
   Kostopoulos, Mark
Box 11
Folder 8
   Law Articles
Box 11
Folder 9
   Lesbian and Gay Services Center, New York
Box 11
Folder 10
   Lesbian Avengers
Box 11
Folder 11
   Maine
Box 11
Folder 12

14
Maine, APEX Magazine
Box 11
Folder 13
  Maine, Kennebunkport Protest, 1991
Box 11
Folder 14
  Maine Lesbian/Gay Political Alliance
Box 11
Folder 15
  March on Washington
Box 11
Folder 16
  Mendel, Scott, Employment Materials
Box 12
Folder 1
  Mendel, Scott, Personal Property Envelope
Box 12
Folder 2
  Mercury, Freddie
Box 12
Folder 3
  Military
Box 12
Folder 4
  Names Project
Box 12
Folder 5
  National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA)
Box 12
Folder 6
  National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
Box 12
Folder 7
  New York Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project
Box 12
Folder 8
  Nutritional Healing
Box 12
Folder 9
  Old Glory Condoms
Box 12
Folder 10
  PAACNOTES
Box 12
Folder 11
  Pamphlets
Box 12
Folder 12
   People for the American Way
Box 12
Folder 13
   Persian Gulf War Protest
Box 12
Folder 14
   People with AIDS
Box 12
Folder 15
   Pink Angels
Box 12
Folder 16
   Playbills
Box 12
Folder 17
   PLUS Magazine
Box 12
Folder 18
   Police Brutality
Box 12
Folder 19
   Positive Images Exhibition
Box 12
Folder 20
   Positively Aware, 1990-1991
Box 12
Folder 21
   Positively Aware, 1992
Box 12
Folder 22
   Pride Parade and Celebration
Box 12
Folder 23
   Pride Parade Chicago, Photographs
Box 12
Folder 24
   Pride Parade, Photographs
Box 12
Folder 25
   Prisoners with AIDS Rights Advocacy Group (PWA-RAG)
Box 12
Folder 26
   Prison Issues, with Notes
Folder 27
  Pullen, Penny
Box 13
Folder 1
  Progressive Student Network
Box 13
Folder 2
  Protests, Photographs
Box 13
Folder 3
  Queer Nation
Box 13
Folder 4
  QSM Marketplace
Box 13
Folder 5
  Riggs, Marlon
Box 13
Folder 6
  Riverside Medical Center Protest
Box 13
Folder 7
  Rotary International
Box 13
Folder 8
  Self-Defense Training
Box 13
Folder 9
  Shiller, Helen
Box 13
Folder 11
  Slay the AMA Protest
Box 13
Folder 12
  Slay the AMA Protest
Box 13
Folder 13
  Slay the AMA Protest, Clippings
Box 13
Folder 14
  Slay the AMA Protest, Leathem vs. City of Chicago
Box 13
Folder 15
Slay the AMA Protest, Miscellaneous
Box 13
Folder 16
Social Security
Box 13
Folder 17
Society to Reform all Immoral Godless Homosexual Trash (STRAIGHT)
Box 13
Folder 18
Sonnet
Box 13
Folder 19
Sotomayor, Daniel
Box 13
Folder 20
South Asia and AIDS
Box 13
Folder 21
South Carolina Department of Health, AIDS
Box 13
Folder 22
State Policies
Box 13
Folder 23
Stonewall Protest, 1994
Box 13
Folder 24
Seizer, Susan and Kate Schecter
Box 14
Folder 1
States, Miscellaneous
Box 14
Folder 2
TAT Inhibitors
Box 14
Folder 3
Ticket Stubs
Box 14
Folder 4
Test Positive Aware Network, Organizational
Box 14
Folder 5
Test Positive Aware Network and People with AIDS Coalition Newsletters
Box 14
Folder 6
Test Positive Aware Network, Correspondence
Box 14
Folder 7
  Transmission, Health Care Workers
Box 14
Folder 8
  Treatment Issues Newsletters
Box 14
Folder 9
  Tuberculosis
Box 14
Folder 10
  Universal Precautions
Box 14
Folder 11
  University of Chicago, Brotherhood of the Iron Fist
Box 14
Folder 12
  University of Chicago, Brotherhood of the Iron Fist, Clippings
Box 14
Folder 13
  University of Chicago, Issues and Protests
Box 14
Folder 14
  University of Chicago, Issues and Protests
Box 15
Folder 1
  USA, "Guarding the Innocent" Protest
Box 15
Folder 2
  Vaccine Research
Box 15
Folder 3
  Windy City Times
Box 15
Folder 4
  Wisconsin, Prison Issues
Box 15
Folder 5
  Women and AIDS
Box 15
Folder 6
  Women and STDS
Box 15
Folder 7
  Women in Rock, Clipping
Box 15
Folder 8
World AIDS Day Protest

Series II: Periodicals

Series II consists of alphabetically arranged periodicals, which include materials from the alternative press and independently produced fanzines. The series also includes clippings from the popular press.

Box 16
Folder 1
• Agony, n.d.
• Alive, 1978
• Andrew! Savagery From the Sea, 1992

Box 16
Folder 2
Art and Understanding, 1993-1994

Box 16
Folder 3
• Babble, 1993-1994
• Bad Attitude, 1992
• Better Homos and Gardens, 1992
• Bowdoin, 1995
• Brat Attack, 1993
• Bubba Magazine, 1993

Box 16
Folder 4
• Campus Report, 1995
• Castro, 1993
• Center News: L.A. Gay & Lesbian Community Services Center, 1992
• The Center Voice, 1995
• Chicago Area HIV/AIDS Services Directory, 1994
• The Chicago Reporter, 1993
• Chicago Tribune TV Week, 1992
• Color Life, 1993
• Crusin’ Men on the Make, 1989

Box 16
Folder 5
• DCQ, circa 1994
• Democratic Culture, 1993
• Deneuve, 1994
• Dimensions: A Journal of Holocaust Studies, 1993
• DPN: Diseased Pariah News, 1992
• The Dungeon, 1995

Box 17
Folder 1
- ECCE QUEER, 1991-1992
- ETCETERA, 1992
- Euro Pride Guide, 1994
- EVIL Magazine, 1992

Box 17
Folder 2
- Feminique, 1988
- For Women: the Magazine for the Sensual Woman, 1992
- Fountain, 1994
- The Front Page, 1992
- Fuh Cole, n.d
- Fuse Magazine, 1992

Box 17
Folder 3
- Fist in Your Face, 1988-1990

Box 17
Folder 4

Box 17
Folder 5
- Gag Chicago Magazine, 1992

Box 17
Folder 6
- Grey City Journal, 1992-1993

Box 17
Folder 7

Box 18
Folder 1
- Girl Jock, 1992
- Gender Gap, 1989
- The Games Guide, 1994
- Guest Quick Guide, San Francisco, 1992
- The Greyhuff Review, 1965
- Genre, 1992-1993

Box 18
Folder 2
- He-She, n.d.
- Holy TitClamps, 1991-1992
- HOMOture, 1992

Box 18
Folder 3
Folder 4
- HX, 1993-1995
- Hot Spots Magazine, n.d.

Box 18
Folder 5
Infected Faggot Perspectives, 1991, 1992

Box 18
Folder 6
- Killed in the Line of Duty: A Study of Selected Felonious Killing of Law Enforcement Officers, 1992
- Judy!, 1993
- In Unity, 1976

Box 18
Folder 7
- Kinky, 1990

Box 19
Folder 1
- Lesbian and Gay Directory of Services and Resources, 1994
- Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, Annual Report, 1994-1995
- Lexicon, 1993

Box 19
Folder 2
- Libertad, 1983
- The List Magazine, 1994
- Love and Rave, 1992
- Love and Rockets, 1989
- Lumpen Times, n.d.
- Lesbo Xtra, 1994

Box 19
Folder 3
- Logomotive: a Little Queerzine that Does, 1991
- Madwoman, 1992
- Magpie, 1969
- Manhood Rituals 1, n.d.
- Men of Advocate Men, 1989
- Metropolitan Slave, 1993-1994
- Metrosource, 1994

Box 19
Folder 4
- My Comrad, 1992

Box 19
Folder 5
- Nega-tiva, 1991
Folder 6
Outlaw, 1993

Box 19
Folder 7

Box 19
Folder 8
- Newsline, 1994
- The North Sider, 1994

Box 19
Folder 9
- P.C. Casualties, n.d.
- PAACnotes, 1992

Box 19
Folder 10
- Positively Aware, 1991

Box 20
Folder 1
- Positively Aware, 1992-1993

Box 20
Folder 2
- Positively Aware, 1994-1995

Box 20
Folder 3
- Prison Life Magazine, 1993
- Pride Guide, 1992
- POZ, 1994

Box 20
Folder 4
- Queer Terrorist, n.d.

Box 20
Folder 5
- Q Notes, 1992
- QQ Magazine, 1971
- Quayle Quarterly, 1992/1993

Box 21
Folder 1
- TPA News, 1990

Box 21
Folder 2
- She-Male Trouble, 1992
- Taste of Latex, 1992
- Teaching Tolerance, 1992
• TEMA, 1992
• Together, n.d.
• Vanguard, 1992
• Vector, 1970, 1972
• The Veteran, 1993
• Visitor’s Guide, 1995
• War Zone, 1994
• Wendel, 1989

Box 21
Folder 3
  Whorezine, 1992-1993

Box 21
Folder 4
  Wind Chill Factor, 1991-1993

Box 21
Folder 5
  • Women in the Director’s Chair, 1992
  • Z Magazine, 1994
  • Clippings, 1990s
  • Clippings, 1990s
  • Clippings, March on Washington, 1993

Series III: Audio Visual

Box 22
Folder 1
  All Things Considered, AIDS and Insurance, n.d., audio cassette

Box 22
Folder 2
  Bergalis I, HIV Testing, n.d, video cassette

Box 22
Folder 3
  Bergalis II, n.d., video cassette

Box 22
Folder 4
  Clips: Gays in the Military; Coalition for Positive Sexuality; Clinton; Joint Chiefs; Barny Frank; Sam Nunn; Los Angeles Protest, World AIDS Day, n.d., video cassette

Box 22
Folder 5
  Clips: Queer Nation on Oprah; Clinton Victory Speech; Coalition for Positive Sexuality, n.d., video cassette

Box 22
Folder 6
  Clips: The Gay Nineties, Faith Daniels, Military Ban

Box 22
Folder 7
  Department of Personnel, AIDS in the Workplace, n.d. video cassette
Box 22
Folder 8
Drag in for Votes, n.d., video cassette

Box 22
Folder 9
Joan Jett Blakk, Rough Cuts at West Town Art Auction, n.d. video cassette

Box 22
Folder 10
Joan Jett Blakk’s Campaign Announcement at Ann Sather, n.d. video cassette

Box 22
Folder 11
March on Washington Coverage, CNN and CSPAN, 1993 video cassette

Box 22
Folder 12
Vote: Lesbian/Gay Voter Impact

Series IV: Oversize and Artifacts

Box 23
Political Buttons

Box 24
Poster, World AIDS Day, 1993

Box 24
Poster, First National Graduate Studies Conference on Lesbian and Gay Studies, 1991

Box 24
Poster, Diamanda Galas, 1992

Box 24
Rumanian Art Guerrilla Unit, undated

Box 24
Poster, What About AIDS, undated

Box 24
Poster, Wear a Condom, undated

Box 25
Poster, Day Without Art, undated

Box 25
Poster, Flats, for printing of ACT UP Chicago publications, undated