What do we mean by “bisexual”?

The BRC uses bisexual (or BI for bi-inclusive) as an umbrella term for people who recognize and honor their potential for sexual and/or emotional attraction to more than one gender (pansexual, fluid, omnisexual, queer, and all other free-identifiers).

We celebrate and affirm the diversity of identity and expression regardless of labels.

Sexual Fluidity:
Understanding Women’s Love and Desire
by Lisa Diamond
2009, Harvard University Press
Lisa Diamond studied a group of 100 women for over ten years and found that women’s sexual orientation is much more fluid than has been acknowledged before. While fairly academic in its focus, the book has a lot of personal stories that illustrate the tremendous variety of sexual and relationship experience. The extensive reference listing at the end of the book is a great resource.

Vice Versa:
Bisexuality and the Eroticism of Everyday Life
by Marjorie Garber
1995, Simon & Schuster
Marjorie Garber’s tome of over 500 pages investigates bisexuality covering a multitude of perspectives, from sexuality research to Freud, from celebrity gossip to examples of characters in movies and TV. It’s a comprehensive study for the time period and it has a treasure trove of information about bisexual history that shouldn’t be overlooked.

Women and Bisexuality
by Sue George
1993, Scarlet Press
An early pioneering work that included a survey of bi women in the United Kingdom. George provides personal stories and data that she collected, and sheds light on the conflict between the lesbian and bi women’s communities.

Women and Bisexuality: A Global Perspective
by Serena Anderlini-D’Onofrio
2003, Harrington Park Press
A short book of essays and poems by women from Australia, South Africa, Germany, Mexico, and the U.S. Some are research-based, others are more personal perspectives.

Books on Bisexuality:
An Annotated Listing

IT’S NOT A PHASE, IT’S MY LIFE.

Bisexual Resource Center
P.O. Box 170796
Boston, MA 02117
617-424-9595
brc@biresource.net
www.biresource.net

The Bisexual Resource Center is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The BRC creates and distributes resources for and about bisexuals throughout the LGBT and ally community.
Fill Your Shelf and Explore Your Self

Over the last twenty years, an array of books has been published covering different aspects of bisexuality. Included in this annotated and alphabetical listing are books that are still fairly easy to locate, either online or in libraries. The descriptions are not reviews but rather short synopses of what to expect to find in the book.

This is not a comprehensive listing of all books available about bisexuality but a selection that offers the reader a good indication of what is available. A tip to readers: use the notes and reference sections of these books to find other great sources.

Bi America
by William E. Burleson
2005, Harrington Park Press
Written from Burleson’s perspective as a tenured bi activist, Bi America provides insights of both the bi activist and the bi social communities. There is good basic information to help define bisexuality and the range of experience it encompasses. Burleson highlights bi activist history and ponders how the Internet and LGBT advances will affect the bi community now and in the future.

Bi Any Other Name
by Loraine Hutchins & Lani Ka’ahumanu
1991, Alyson Books
In 1991, this book rocked the bisexual community. Finally, there was a book that shared the experiences of bi-identified people. It took our lives seriously and showed how many diverse ways people live bisexually. Twenty years later, the poetry, interviews, and personal essays that explore personal experience as well as political and spiritual perspectives continue to offer important insights into our community.

Bi Men: Coming Out Every Which Way
edited by Ron Jackson Suresha & Pete Chvany
2005, Harrington Park Press
This volume was simultaneously published as an issue of the Journal of Bisexuality. This collection of personal essays offers an amazing variety of bi male experiences, so often ignored or distrusted. A must-read for bi men and those who love them.

Bisexual Characters in Film: from Anais to Zee
by Wayne M. Bryant
1997, Routledge
Starting with the silent films up until the publishing date, Bryant provides a guide to spotting bi actors, characters, and even directors throughout film history. The book makes special note of the unsavory Hollywood tendency to use bisexuals as scapegoats for deviancy: serial killers, psychos, and manipulators.

Bisexual Women in the 21st Century
edited by Dawn Atkins
2003, Haworth Press
This volume was simultaneously published as an issue of the Journal of Bisexuality and includes various articles analyzing bi women’s perspectives in politics, culture, psychology, and more by Loraine Hutchins, Sue George, Carol Queen, Regina Reinhardt, and others.

The Bisexual’s Guide to the Universe
by Nicole Kristal and Mike Szymanski
2006, Alyson Books
This may be the only book out there about bisexuality that actually has a sense of humor about it. The authors really know the ins and outs of the bi community—social and political—and they share important information (e.g. lots of bi film and TV tips) while joking about our foibles so as not to take ourselves too seriously.

Bisexuality and the Challenge to Lesbian Politics: Sex, Loyalty, and Revolution
by Paula C. Rodriguez Rust
1995, NYU Press
An in-depth look at the relationship between lesbians and bisexual women, including data from a survey by Rust. Also explores bisexual politics as it relates to feminism and the broader activist women’s community.

Bisexuality in the United States: A Social Science Reader
edited by Paula C. Rodriguez Rust
2000, Columbia University Press
More academic than many other books on this list (and longer, too, at over 600 pages), the social science reader offers a wide range of articles and an extensive bibliography.

Blessed Bi Spirit: Bisexual People of Faith
edited by Debra Ruth Kolodny
2000, Continuum
An interesting compilation of essays and poetry by writers from a broad swath of spiritual traditions—pagan, Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, and uncategorized. Very personal stories trace how spirituality and sexuality intersect in the writers’ lives, and how acceptance of their bisexuality often opens up their spirituality in wonderful new ways.

Current Research on Bisexuality
edited by Ronald C. Fox
2004, Harrington Park Press
This volume was simultaneously published as an issue of the Journal of Bisexuality. Articles examine several different new studies on bisexuality, including bis of color, mental health issues, women’s friendships, and relationship patterns. Plus, the editor provides an exhaustivereader’s guide to social science literature focused on bisexuality.

Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World, Second Edition
edited by Robyn Ochs & Sarah Rowley
2009, Bisexual Resource Center
Edited by well-known bi activist and speaker Robyn Ochs, Getting Bi is now in its second edition. An international anthology (220 people from 42 countries) that includes personal stories; political analysis of the bi movement; and advice for youth, parents, and partners. A great first book for people newly coming out or trying to understand a bi loved one.

Look Both Ways: Bisexual Politics
by Jennifer Baumgardner
2007, Farrar, Straus and Giroux
With a feminist perspective, Baumgardner uses her own bi coming out story and life experience to illustrate society’s understanding or lack thereof about bisexuality. She analyzes bisexuality in the media (e.g. Ani DiFranco, Anne Heche and others) and offers a very personal story of being a bi woman in contemporary society.

Plural Desires: Writing Bisexual Women’s Realities
edited by Nancy Chater, Dione Falconer & Sharon Lewis
1995, Sister Vision Press
A Canadian anthology that explores bisexuality with attention to sensuality, sexuality, and sexual desire. A varied mix of traditional and nontraditional poetry, interviews, essays, and even a comic strip offer many different perspectives on bisexual experience.