Disability and Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Gender Expression

According to the US Census Bureau, in 2005, 54.4 million people (18.7 percent) had some level of disability and 35.0 million (12.0 percent) had a severe disability. Sometimes disabilities are visible (e.g., use of a wheelchair for mobility, use of a guide dog or cane to navigate the environment, use of a speech board to facilitate communication). Often though disabilities are not visible (e.g., learning disability, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis).

Just as with other intersections of identity, people with disabilities and who also identify as LGBTIQA are an incredibly diverse group. There are similarities within this group in that people who have a disability and who identify as LGBTIQA often feel marginalized within both the disability communities as well as within the LGBTIQA communities.

Books:
Gloria Anzaldúa, Borderlands/La Frontera (2007)
Eli Clare, Exile and Pride: Disability, Queerness, and Liberation (1999)
Robert McRuer, Crip Theory: Cultural Signs of Queerness and Disability (2006)
Victoria Brownsworth and Susan Raffo, editors, Restricted Access: Lesbians on Disability (1999)

For more information or resources on this topic start by checking out the following organizations (descriptions are listed in the resource guide in section eight of this manual):

Web Resources:

Queers on Wheels
http://www.queersonwheels.com/index.html

Deaf Queer Resource Center
http://www.deafqueer.org

The Invisible Disabilities Advocate
http://www.invisibledisabilities.org/websites.htm

Eli Claire
http://eliclare.com/