Who can answer the questions that people are afraid to ask anyone else?

Who can apply science to the mysteries of love, sexuality, and social relationships—and discover how they work to heal the human body?

Who can assemble a global database that documents the full spectrum of sexual behavior, to help distinguish what is cultural from what is biological?

Who can preserve art and artifacts from all corners of the globe that capture centuries of societal views on human sexuality—artifacts that most institutions won’t touch?

We can. Together.

Sexuality, love, and relationships are fundamental to our identity—as individuals, as communities, as cultures, as a species. Yet they are some of the least understood aspects of our existence. Ignorance, taboos, myths, and fear get in the way.

The Kinsey Institute exists to study these phenomena, in all their diversity and complexity. With your help, we can continue to advance scientific knowledge and understanding of love, sexuality, and well-being. Not just to document them, but to foster them and improve them—for all people.

For all their lives.
From the beginning, the Kinsey Institute has been a pioneer in the objective, scientific study of human sexuality. Publication of Sexual Behavior in the Human Male (1948) and Sexual Behavior in the Human Female (1953) sent shock waves around the world, overturning accepted notions of what is “normal” and giving hope and comfort to many who thought they were alone. In the decades since, the institute has weathered suspicion, misunderstanding, and outright slander to become the preeminent research authority on sexual behavior and sexual health.

Today, the institute’s scope is global: all cultures, all nations, all people. Its attitude is collaborative, scholarly, nonjudgmental, interdisciplinary. The institute is the physical and intellectual hub for scientists and scholars from a wide variety of disciplines, and for the public seeking authoritative answers.

There is, frankly, nothing else like it in the world. The Kinsey Institute is unique in its mission and its scope. Kinsey is the most trusted and respected resource of its kind, bar none.
“As an OB/GYN, I frequently work with patients with health problems related to sexual behavior. Our emotional and physical health is impacted dramatically by our sexuality and behavioral choices. Without continued research and education, we cannot address these issues and know how to properly treat them.”

—Wendy Kinsey Corning MD, granddaughter of Alfred Kinsey

The Kinsey Institute is committed to solving problems related to sexuality, and to understanding how sexual and social relationships shape who we are and how we live our lives. Gaining firm knowledge through research is the essential first step.

The issues cut across social divisions and cultural boundaries: reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, gender identity, sexual abuse and assault, teenage pregnancy, sexual dysfunction—the potential subjects are many. The Kinsey Institute gathers basic data running the gamut from physiology to culture. It constantly pursues the facts, without bias or judgment, to provide a solid foundation for analysis.

Today, growing evidence confirms that sexuality cannot be separated from the context of larger social relationships. The institute is conducting leading-edge investigations into the biochemical underpinnings of love, nurture, and social bonds. The findings could lead to new therapies and treatments, not just for sexual dysfunctions, but also for a broad range of psychological and behavioral issues, from autism to post-traumatic stress disorder.

The benefits will be many. Imagine being able to reduce the emotional aftermath of rape or bullying, or to help people recover from serious surgeries with more vibrant, loving relationships. Those are just some of the areas that we will explore—with your help.
Support for the "Kinsey Report 2.0—Ten Million Lives" project will enable the collection of confidential personal histories from across the globe at a magnitude that would have been unimaginable in Dr. Kinsey’s time.

"My work on human reproductive functioning on five continents over the last 30 years has taught me the enormous value and power of Alfred Kinsey’s maxim that we are here to record human variation, not judge it—thereby increasing our collective empathy for, and joy in, human universals and differences."

—Virginia J. Vitzthum
Senior Scientist, Kinsey Institute; Professor of Anthropology, Indiana University

The institute will invite participants from around the world to anonymously share their stories, complete questionnaires, answer open-ended questions, and confidentially engage in research-based activities. The resulting data will reveal information about sexual attitudes and behaviors, gender and sexual orientation, health, relationships, and more—all on a global scale.

The goal is to build nothing less than a comprehensive international study of sexuality. It will be unprecedented in size, scope, and enduring value—a new Kinsey Report for the twenty-first century. More data leads to better research, which leads to better ways to educate and help people.
“While working on the film, I had the startling realization that without Kinsey’s research, we might still be operating in the narrow sphere that confined understanding of sexuality in the ’40s and ’50s. Clearly, a lot of human suffering has been alleviated through scientific work during Kinsey’s time and since. Yet we clearly still have a long way to go.”

—Laura Linney
Actor (Kinsey, 2004)

Traumatic experiences have a profound impact on human behavior. Regardless of the source—physical or sexual assault, injury, psychological or physical abuse, major surgery—they can negatively affect sexuality, the ability to form and maintain healthy relationships, and many other aspects of emotional and physical well-being.

The Kinsey Institute is exploring the mechanisms behind these impacts. The approach will apply the skills of multiple fields to document, understand, and ultimately rehabilitate those who suffer.

For example, via the hormone oxytocin, love and nurturing relationships seem to provide protection from a wide range of psychological and physical challenges. If the institute can establish why and how these benefits arise, the findings could result in novel therapies for disorders ranging from anxiety and depression to schizophrenia. They might even lead to more effective treatments for those recovering from prostate, uterine, or breast cancer.

Together, we can achieve trailblazing results that could change the way health professionals treat a wide variety of issues.

Support for research into how love and affection promote healing may lead to innovative therapies for a host of medical and social problems.
“The Kinsey collections are a living history, a vital record of sexuality that helps us step out of our small selves into understanding the awesome sea of human diversity.”

—Christine Lemley
Volunteer docent and supporter

Every culture on Earth has produced art, literature, and artifacts that express the sexuality of its people. Alfred Kinsey recognized that such items reveal aspects of their creators’ lives, and of society at the time, that official histories never address, and he began acquiring erotic art and ephemera almost from the beginning.

Today, with its specialized library, unique historical archive, and wide-ranging collections, the Kinsey Institute is the world’s largest and richest resource for the study of sexuality in a broad variety of fields, from anthropology and medicine to history and gender studies. The breadth of the holdings encourages research across disciplines and across cultures.

Items range from the correspondence of Alfred Kinsey and other sex research pioneers, to photography and films, to art objects and erotica spanning more than 2,000 years of human history. With your help, the institute can preserve and expand this unique archive.

What’s more, the institute now has the opportunity—perhaps even the duty—to make these materials accessible to researchers digitally: a massive undertaking, but one that will pay off in greatly increased searchability and usability. Access will expand exponentially. No longer will scholars need to physically travel to Bloomington to conduct their studies.

Increased access to the library will lead to increased understanding of the human condition and, we hope, increased acceptance of the range of human sexual expressions.

Support for conserving, digitizing, and growing the institute’s collections will ensure that they remain a readily accessible and invaluable resource for future generations.
FOR ALL
THE HOPE
YOU WILL
HELP US GIVE

For more than 70 years, Alfred Kinsey’s example has inspired the scientists and staff of the Kinsey Institute, along with their colleagues around the world, to build on the work he started. And much has been achieved. But people all over the world still suffer, often in terrible ways, because their sexual identity or behavior differs from some perceived norm. For too many, acceptance and understanding are still a long way off.

The Kinsey Institute’s mission is to advance sexual health and knowledge, worldwide, by exploring love, sexuality, and well-being over the lifespan. As its priorities are funded, it stands poised to make enormous strides in research and education. The institute has the reputation, the credibility, the capacity, and the desire to do this work, and to be successful—on a global scale.

No one is better equipped to do it. With your help, we can achieve a new degree of understanding that Dr. Kinsey could never have imagined. Together, we can make profound differences in health, comfort, and personal satisfaction, and the acceptance of variation in human sexuality.

This effort has never been for the sexually complacent.
It is for all who seek wholeness in their daily lives.
It is for all who feel isolated or besieged.
For all who live in doubt or pain.
For all who live in fear.
For all who crave life.

The Kinsey Institute.
For all.