# How to Organize and Run a Human Library

Infopeople helping libraries think differently

## How to Organize and Run a Human Library

**Wednesday, April 30, 2014**
**12 noon Pacific**

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Presented by Rachel Foyt, Chelsie Harris and Julie Winkelstein

## Introductions and Background

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## Introduction of Speakers

- Rachel Foyt
  - Santa Monica Public Library
- Chelsie Harris
  - San Diego County Library
- Julie Winkelstein
  - University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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# How to Organize and Run a Human Library

## History of Human Library (Julie)

- What is a Human Library?
  - Books are people
  - Conversations between Readers and Books
- Where did the concept come from?
  - Started in Denmark in 2002: "Stop the Violence"
  - Summer festival
  - Free

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## How a Human Library Works

- Our stories
  - Examples of Human Libraries
  - Benefits to the community
  - Feedback
- Chelsie
- Julie
- Rachel

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## Quiz: Who Am I?

Police Detective
Civil Rights Activist
Plastic Surgeon
Living With Mental Illness
Married Jewish Lesbian Mom
Animal Rights Activist
Transgendered and HIV+

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# How to Organize and Run a Human Library

## Where to Start

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Rachel Foyt
Santa Monica Public Library

## Where to Start

- Pitch
- Human Library Organization
- Humanlibrary.org

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## Tools For Hosting

- Timeline
- Resources
- Budget
- Collection development

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# How to Organize and Run a Human Library

## Timeline

- 5 months prior to event
  - Begin brainstorming
- 3 months prior to event
  - Begin recruitment of Human Books
  - Locate trainer
  - Develop guidelines/ rules
- 2 months prior to event
  - Create media plan
  - Develop training guidelines
  - Secure funding

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## Timeline, continued

- 1 month prior to event
  - Two training sessions for Books
  - Implement media plan
- Event held
- Two weeks after event
  - Thank you lunch
  - Human Book evaluation

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## Resources

Two full-time staff members

- Meet every 2 weeks in the beginning
- Begin to meet weekly about 2 months before the event
- Meet every day as the event approaches
- Divide up portions of the responsibilities

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## Online Resources

- ALA Human Library Panel Libguide
  - http://libguides.sau.edu/humanlibrary
  - All materials from panel
- Search for "libguides Human Library"
  - Include Books and information
  - Tompkins Cortland Community College
    - http://tc3.libguides.com/content.php?pid=568938&sid=4691519
  - St. Ambrose University
    - http://libguides.sau.edu/humanlibrary
  - Many others

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## Budget

$2,000 grant from the Friends
- Training sessions
- Food for Human Books Greenroom
- Decorations for event
- Thank you lunch and evaluation
- Ads in local papers

$1,400 from budget
- T-shirts
- Photographer

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## Collection Development

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# How to Organize and Run a Human Library

## Recruitment and Promotion

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Chelsie Harris
San Diego County Library

## Recruiting Books

- Finding Books: Who do you know?
- Screening Books: Are they the right fit?
- **Brainstorm Session: Ideas for Books?**

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## Promotion

- Target audience
- Media talking points
- Elevator speech
- Press releases
- Photographer
- Flyers
- Photo release waivers
- Develop a media kit

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# How to Organize and Run a Human Library

## Training

Rachel Foyt
Santa Monica Public Library

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## Training

- 90 minutes
- Human Books meet and practice
- Cover
  - Effective communication techniques
  - Getting the conversation started
  - Diffusing negativity and answering challenging questions
  - Importance of self-evaluation and reflection

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## How To Tell Your Story

"Storytellers, by the very act of telling, communicate a radical learning that changes lives and the world."
—Chris Cavanaugh

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# How to Organize and Run a Human Library

## Event Logistics

Chelsie Harris
San Diego County Library

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## Event Logistics

- Ambiance
- Scheduling and timekeeping
- Supplies
  - Print materials
  - Refreshments
- Guidelines & sample questions
- What to do if a Book is damaged

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## Evaluations, Feedback and Thank Yous

Julie Winkelstein
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

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# How to Organize and Run a Human Library

- Why evaluate?
- Book evaluations
  - Examples of responses
- Reader evaluations
  - Examples of responses
- Debriefing the Books
- Thanking the Books

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QUESTIONS & COMMENTS?

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THANK YOU!

- Julie Winkelstein, jwinkels@utk.edu
- Rachel Foyt, Rachel.Foyt@SMGov.net
- Chelsie Harris, Chelsie.Harris@SDCounty.gov

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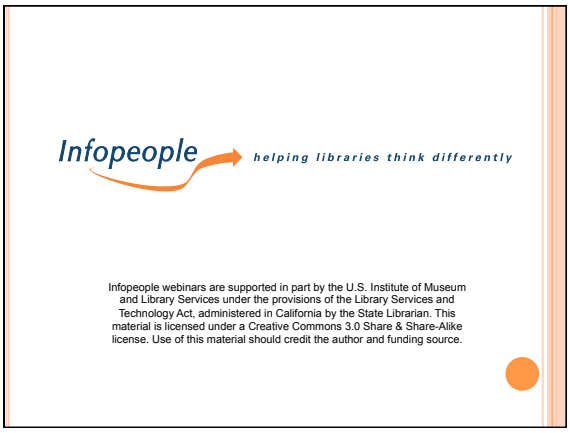


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