Text Chat Transcript for Apr 30, 2014 Webinar: How to Run a Human Library

Anne DeGrace: How long did your human library run, to put this in context?
Tami R: Did the nudist wear the event shirt?
Rachel Foyt: Yes. He wore the event shirt. :)
Linda Flint: by books do you mean the people?
Tami R: Is there any concern about referring to people as books? How do you personalize the people without distancing and dehumanizing them with this label?
Anne DeGrace: undertaker
Lori: Tattoo artist - we’re a small community
joan serpico: holocaust survivor
Linda Flint: Teens who like to study in large groups in the library
Kathleen: Different age groups: Teen, Retirees
Anne DeGrace: refugee
topherkuechmann: Double Preachers’ Kid
Dani: Our library struggles with accepting teens inside the library.
Daniel Granados: local historian
Darla Wegener: Beauty queen, african american, army reserves, college students
Tami R: Everyone has a “story.”
joan serpico: someone who lived abroad
Rob: A Peace Activist. I should mention that the College library is directly across the freeway from Fort Hood in Killeen, TX
Linda & Coral: Prison war camp people
Linda Flint: Divorced housewives starting over
Freida Hull: when someone checks out a book, is that book exclusively theirs for the 30 minutes, or do you permit several people to ask questions at the same time
Anne DeGrace: draft dodger
Dee Ann Redman: Reservation Indians
Lourdes McWhithey: police officer
Kathleen: Home schooling advocate
Daniel Granados: politician
Lori: Struggling farmer
Linda Flint: common core advocates and naysayers
Rachel Foyt: Yes. If someone checks out the book they are exclusively theirs for 30 mins.
Kathleen: Home business owner
camile: Camile: Hospice workers, organic farmers
Kathleen: mixed race individuals
Stanley Strauss: This chat will be saved and available along with the archived version of today’s webinar.
Linda Flint: Wealthy residents who live in million dollar homes…how do they make their money
topherkuechmann: Former migrant worker now a successful businessman or businesswoman.
Rachel Foyt: we also allow small groups to check the book out together. so a mom and her child. the idea is that the reader should feel comfortable asking questions. they may not do that if there are other people in the conversation.

Linda Flint: moms who believe in doing their childrens’ homework and why they do it.

Topher Kuechmann: Cancer survivor.

Linda Flint: any topics for children so kids can check out “kids” books.

Lori: College student

Celina Lee: did you have police present just in case an incident would happen?

Celina Lee: Question for Rachel.

camile: Camile: Why not a specific event for kid’s books?

Linda Flint: Yes, that was my thinking to have a Kids Human Library.

Stanley Strauss: The handouts are available at the same link you used to join the webinar. We apologize, the Infopeople site is currently down, so please check back later.

Rachel Foyt: Hi Camile we are actually working on developing our next Human Library for children.

Linda Flint: We have a Living History Museum for Children every February that focuses on African Americans for Black History Month. It’s very successful and is like a Human Library.

Rachel Foyt: We do not have police present but we do have staff present.

KAREN J. MAJ: Hi. Karen here. Able to get onto site now. Glad to be here.

Stanley Strauss: Today’s Handouts are now available at: https://infopeople.org/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=397

Karen J Maj: Oh good. Thank you for the link!

Kathleen: thanks @Stanley

Kathleen: was the ALA Human Library last year?

Olivia Estrada: what were the reader turnout for each event

Kathleen: thanks

Freida Hull: I am a school librarian in a prison for men. At times, tension runs high among the inmates—usually because they don’t understand the other types of people they must live with—or the officers who oversee them. do you see this working in this situation? I think it might improve communications.

Tami R: was the audience that came to the events as diverse as the books?

Anne DeGrace: Could people reserve the books in advance?

smccar@arlingtonva.va: how did you determine that there was a need in your communities for these events?

Tami R: did the audience usually stay for the whole four hours?

smccar@arlingtonva.va: Also, for those who weren’t organizing the ALA event, what kind of community members came to the events?
Anne DeGrace: Nobody has answered Frieda yet, but I think it would be incredibly rewarding---and courageous, FWIW

Olivia Estrada: Are there any future events planned?

camile: Camile: Please don’t overlook the question from Freida Hull about having this event in a prison setting.

Rachel Foyt: Yes, Freida! I see this would work in a prison.

Rachel Foyt: In Santa Monica we are working the next human library

Tami R: If the prison had different areas, could the prisoners do an event like this with other prisoners they don’t have daily contact with?

Olivia Estrada: Have any events been video taped?

carol reid: We are planning an event in an academic setting, working with instructors. Since the timeline is so long, we haven’t gotten approval from HL yet. Can we still plan and promote it?

Karen J Maj: The children could become a favorite character!

Freida Hull: My prison is a level one and two, so it is minimum security. Our prison leaders are actively pursuing teaching everyone dialogue skills, so I think I will run it by them. If you have any other web site suggestions before I talk with them, I would appreciate it.

Karen J Maj: Tail Waggin Tutors and their stories too!

Kathleen: It seems like this could have an application as a careers HL for high school juniors and seniors...

Olivia Estrada: Good point, thank you

Karen J Maj: I agree Kathleen!

Anne DeGrace: I want to do this four Saturday afternoons in October (Library Month in Canada). Is this a ridiculous amount to bite off? I though 6 diff books each time.

Freida Hull: thank you

joan serpico: Has any library done this outside an event environment where readers would make appointments to meet with books?

Tami R: My library must have programs scheduled about 4-5 months prior to the start of the season due to publicity constraints. Would you recommend having the majority of the program organized prior to my organization’s dead line? That might mean that I’d start planning almost a full year ahead? Is this too long of a lead time?

Rachel Foyt: Tami a year seems far in advance and you run the risk of the volunteers dropping out

camile: What great ideas! thank you

Benjamin: Thank you.

Rachel Foyt: I encourage everyone to try it.