Bringing student learning to life

A FACULTY/LIBRARIAN PARTNERSHIP THROUGH THE HUMAN LIBRARY

Nancy Goebel
Head Librarian
nancy.goebel@ualberta.ca

Kara Blizzard
Public Services Librarian
kara.blizzard@ualberta.ca

Yvonne Becker
Associate Professor, Women’s Studies and Physical Education
yvonne.becker@ualberta.ca

Augustana Campus, University of Alberta

June 10, 2016

Library Instruction West

Creative Commons image: Kua, Benson. Accessed June 10, 2014. aug.ualberta.ca/HLconversation
A human library is...

**WHO?** People called **readers** who want to learn about a specific topic

**WHAT?** “Check out” people called **human books** for an hour of conversation

**WHY?** To learn first-hand about the **human books’** life experiences
Human books and readers are...

- Students
- Staff
- Faculty
- Community members
Human books talk about...  

- facing prejudice and discrimination  
- being LGBTQI*  
- coping with mental illness  
- struggling with addiction  
- recovering from abuse  
- surviving cancer  
- living with physical & cognitive challenges
Information literacy

AND THE HUMAN LIBRARY
Your lot in life

You are the parent of a child diagnosed with Autism.

Your child has cerebral palsy.

Your 14-year-old is showing signs of bipolar disorder.
Developmental psychology
Developmental psychology

Parent’s perspective

- Identify challenges & develop questions
- Search for information available to a parent

Scholar’s perspective

- Look at the scholarly literature
- Create a resource for parents
Women’s studies: part 1
Women’s studies: part 1
Women’s studies: part 2

3 scholarly articles related to human book topic

Annotated bibliography
Women’s studies: part 3

Reflection
“Both the human book and the scholarly articles helped in understanding the topic. However, the human book was much more useful and helped me understand it better and more in depth. I think there is a part of direct human interaction that can never be replaced by text. You can read their body language and tone of voice in addition to what they are saying to derive things you wouldn’t be able to get in a scholarly article.”
“[Human book]’s presence reminded me that she was a real person going through real struggles rather than simply a book that I could pull off a shelf and return. In this way her voice was heard and she was able to speak... Overall, both components of this assignment assisted in giving me a better holistic understanding of the topic of LGBT community members and the difficulties they may face privately and publically...”
Women’s studies reflection

“The human library gave me a better, more empathetic approach to information as it related to gender issues. In contrast to this, the scholarly articles do offer a more scientific approach, and as such afford the reader more quantifiable results. It seems useful then to consider both ways of accessing information in the social sciences, as both ways offer their own benefits to the study of gender issues.”
“The second part of the assignment which involved reading articles related to the human book, was very beneficial in terms of developing a better understanding of the human book. Having already received a very live and interesting presentation on the material, makes researching the related articles that much more fascinating, and as you are reading through the supporting articles you are able to make associations back to what was previously discussed by the human book.”
Citing a human book
### Citing a human book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Style</th>
<th>Source Type</th>
<th>Reference List</th>
<th>In Text (or Notes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **MLA**
  Used in Classics, Crime & Community, Drama, English, French, German, Music, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Scandinavian Studies, Sociology | Interview (See sec. 5.7.7, MLA Handbook)             | Works Cited
  Smith, Sarah. Personal interview. 27 Jan. 2014.     | Parenthetical references (Smith) (page numbers not available) |
| **APA**
  Used in Management, Physical Education, Psychology | Personal Communications (see sec. 6.20, APA Manual) | Interview
  APA states "Because they do not provide recoverable data, personal communications are not included in the reference list. Cite personal communication in text only. Give the initials as well as the surname of the communicator, and provide as exact date as possible". (APA, 2009, p. 179) | Citations in text
  J.T. Smith (personal communication, February 24, 2010) stated that government sponsored resources for the homeless in Alberta have deteriorated significantly since 2001. Parenthetical citations
  Government sponsored resources for the homeless in Alberta have deteriorated significantly since 2001 (J.T. Smith, personal communication, February 24, 2010). |
| **Chicago**
  (Author-Date)
  Used in Economics, History, Political Studies | Interviews & personal communications (see sec. 14.218 and 15.48, Chicago Manual) | Reference List
  Reference list entries are unneeded for interviews and personal communications, though each person cited must be fully identified elsewhere in the text. | Text citations (Jennifer Gustafson, interview) |
I read a human book because...
Poster project analysis

I value the human library because... You get to hear from first hand experience in a personal setting.

I read a Human Book because... it is an interactive learning experience.

I read a Human Book because... they gave a face to the subject.
Questions?

Nancy Goebel  
*Head Librarian*  
nancy.goebel@ualberta.ca

Kara Blizzard  
*Public Services Librarian*  
kara.blizzard@ualberta.ca

Yvonne Becker  
*Associate Professor, Women’s Studies and Physical Education*  
yvonne.becker@ualberta.ca

Augustana Campus, University of Alberta

aug.ualberta.ca/humanlibrary

June 10, 2016  
Library Instruction West

Creative Commons image: Kua, Benson. Accessed June 10, 2014. aug.ualberta.ca/HLconversation