Bringing student learning to life
A FACULTY/LIBRARIAN PARTNERSHIP THROUGH THE HUMAN LIBRARY

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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
Developmental psychology

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

“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...”
“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

### Augustana Human Library

**How to Cite a Human Book**

The following examples show how to cite a human book in each of Augustana's citations styles. These examples provide guidelines, but we highly recommend that you consult the complete manual for each style's detailed explanations and additional examples.

**Need Help?** Email augustana.reference@ualberta.ca, and confirm with your professor that you can cite human books in your research.

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<th>Source Type</th>
<th>Reference List</th>
<th>In Text (or Notes)</th>
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<td>communicator, and provide as exact date as possible&quot;. (APA, 2009, p. 179)</td>
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Assessment

questionnaires  
interviews  
poster project

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?

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