**Promote Community Engagement and Challenge Prejudice with a Human Library: Learner Guide**

<https://www.webjunction.org/events/webjunction/human-library.html>

The idea of circulating ‘human books’ first emerged in 2000, in Copenhagen, Denmark, as a way to help grow community understanding of the diversity of the human experience, locally and on a global level. The Human Library® model seeks to create safe spaces for dialogue where topics are discussed openly between human books and their readers. Join us to gain insights from a public and academic library using this innovative and impactful model to create meaningful community dialogue. The Anne Arundel County Public Library’s Human Library provides an opportunity for people to connect one-on-one with those they might otherwise never have a chance to talk – people who may have life experiences, stories, or beliefs different from their own. At the DiMenna-Nyselius Library at Fairfield University ‘human books’ are students, faculty, staff, or community members who have volunteered to share their life experiences and answer questions that address stereotypes, prejudices, stigmas, or taboo topics. The session will include discussion on how these organizations were able to plan and implement a Human Library program, how the ‘books’ were prepared and how the program was offered successfully online.

Presented by: **Lisa Thornell**, Student Engagement & Outreach Librarian, DiMenna-Nyselius Library, Fairfield University (CT); **Rebecca (Becky) Hass**, Programming and Outreach Manager, Anne Arundel County Public Library (MD); and **Monica Powell**, Library Associate, Anne Arundel County Public Library (MD)

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| **What are your goals for viewing this webinar?** |
| **Personal Goals** |  |
| **Team Goals** |  |
| **Discovering the Human Library Model**  |
| As you decide whether or not the Human Library is a good match for your library’s programming, consider how you will explain the opportunity to your stakeholders and decision-makers. How can you make the case for hosting a Human Library? What did you hear during the webinar that motivates you to bring the opportunity to your community? The Daviess County (KY) Public Library's [Promo video](https://youtu.be/7NIVydALdXM) and [Reaction video](https://youtu.be/2BoQI-fFTJI) for their Human Library are a great way to share an overview of the program and how it worked for one library’s community. |

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| **Logistic Considerations** |
| Once you have decided to move further into the planning process, be sure to review the “Logistics” shared by the two libraries ([see slides](https://www.webjunction.org/content/dam/WebJunction/Documents/webJunction/2022-01/slides-human-library.pdf)). As logistics unfold you will want to connect with the Human Library organization to apply to be a [Human Library Organizer](https://humanlibrary.org/human-library-organizers/organizer/). Identify key logistics to prioritize in your next steps for planning. Be sure to include budget considerations in your early planning, e.g. the license fee, marketing, supplies, snacks, etc.   |
| **Building Your Program Partner Network**  |
| You may have existing partners who you collaborate with for your library’s programming, but the Human Library creates new possibilities for expanding program partnerships across the three types of partnerships outlined by the Anne Arundel County Public Library (AACPL) program–Participation, Promotion, Presenter. Consider non-profits, government agencies and other educators you might connect with, including those that could help with Book recruitment, marketing your Human Library, supporting with funding or in-kind contributions for the events, or to provide mental health support to Books and Readers, as AACPL provided in their Reflection Room. For an extended list of options, review potential partners for collaboration in WebJunction’s [Community Partnership and Collaboration Guide](http://www.webjunction.org/documents/webjunction/Community_Partner_Collaboration_Guide.html).  |
| **Online Considerations** |
| Both libraries have hosted online versions of their Human Library program. Consider the pros and cons of facilitating a Human Library event online and identify the different logistics and considerations for planning.  |
| **Action Plan: (include next steps, who, when, etc.)** |
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