

CULTURE, KNOWLEDGE AND COMMUNITY: INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF LIBRARIES

Good practices workshop

1 Entity data

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Library name:</i> Biblioteques de L'Hospitalet L'Hospitalet de Llobregat Public Libraries. Members of Municipal Library Network of the Barcelona Province |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Full address:</i> Av. Josep Tarradellas i Joan, 44 (Biblioteca Central Tecla Sala) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Territorial sector, thematic area and population:</i> L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Public Library, population: 291,488 (2023) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Name of the responsible person and position:</i> David Urrea, Biblioteca Central Tecla Sala's director |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Contact details of the person responsible:</i> Email: urreapd@diba.cat Phone: +349 3403 2630 Web: www.bibliotequeslh.cat |

2 Type of presentation

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Oral presentation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital presentation (X) |

3 Good practices project

• *Title of the project:*

Biblioteca Humana

• *General description (300 words):*

A global, innovative and practical learning initiative based on creating a safe framework for personal conversations that help challenge prejudices, combat discrimination, prevent conflicts and contribute to greater human cohesion overcoming social, religious and ethnic differences. A space for dialogue, where taboo topics can be discussed openly and without condemnation. A place where people who would hardly talk to each other find space for conversation.

Each edition of Biblioteca Humana presents its own catalogue of titles or “human books”, people who have suffered discrimination or social rejection due to their lifestyle, their origin, their religion, or their life circumstances, among others.

In an open event to the public, human books are “lent” to readers, giving them the opportunity to hear their stories, in order to break down social barriers, challenge stereotypes and prejudices, and contribute to building a more just and inclusive society.

In parallel, small capsules of the Human Library can be made in collaboration with schools, entities and citizen associations, with the intervention of public institutions, which guarantee minimum resources and the basic infrastructure.

Our initiative was located in a very densely populated area with high social complexity and with high levels of population movements. For this reason, the agents who have been involved in the project since the beginning have been working in the territory for some time and have a high level of knowledge of local needs and problems.

It’s at the heart of the project, to be able to combat rumours and prejudices that difficulties the coexistence in the neighbourhood. For this reason, maintain the project with the spirit of incorporating more agents from more different areas with whom we share common sensitivities and objectives.

Public library free access allows us to reach a large number of very heterogeneous audiences, and becomes an ally that contributes to more citizens being able to freely participate in this project and extend new ways of seeing the other.

• *Recipients:*

People who have suffered discrimination or social rejection due to their lifestyle, their origin, their religion, or their life circumstances, among others:

The person has experienced discrimination, disadvantage or prejudice.

The person has processed the trauma

The person has an open mind and respect for other people.

The person has the value of being an “open book” to other people.

The person is eager to test their own stereotype.

The person has the ability to converse and listen.

This year we wanted to increase the presence of stories from the male perspective.

• *Location and coverage (neighbourhood, district, city, town, country):*

La Florida – Les Planes (62,706 population), La Florida district, L'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona

• *Activities and tasks:*

8 preparatory activities:

- 3 information sessions to liaisons persons
- 1 dedicated information session at library's staff
- 2 formation sessions (to 'librarians')
- 1 formation session (to 'books')
- 1 last formation session before event (the final rehearsal)

1 event:

- 2 shifts of reading 'books'

Preparatory phase and post-event phase:

- 'Books' are referred by liaisons, who know them through direct work. Readers register using an electronic form (or on paper the event's day if there are space available). Prior to the event, preparation meetings are held both with the liaisons (separately) and with 'books' and liaisons together to work on the narratives, book titles and create the final catalogue.
- 2 evaluation sessions one with volunteers and another with motor's group

Event

Over the course of Saturday morning, library opens for the event. Each 'book' has small space with 6 chairs (for the readers + 2 for himself and the 'librarian' or liaison person). Every hour a shift starts with a bell announcement. At that moment the 'books' appear, accompanied by a 'librarian' or liaison.

Readers are already in the assigned space waiting for the 'book', they are sitting in and story begins. The 'librarian' or liaison person welcomes, briefly reviews the Human Library rules and introduce the human book. The 'book' presents its story and at the end opens up the conversation so that people can always ask questions, always with respect and care for the 'book'.

Rules

All our 'books' are in perfect condition.

We expect them to be returned in the same condition.

Please do not tear out pages or write notes in our 'books'.

It's not allowed to keep the 'book'.

Loans are personal and they can not be transferred to other readers.

Our 'book' is a reference for information on a topic.

Don't hesitate to ask questions about things you want to know.

Another internal tasks

- Related bibliography of every 'book'
- Web re-design and improvement
- Poster and bookmarkers design
- Local media attendance and monitoring
- Social medial attendance and monitoring
- Registrations and evaluation forms design

• *Resources (human, material, infrastructure, economic):*

Human staff: 38 people (9 people in motor's group, 18 people enrolled as librarians, 11 volunteers)

Material:

Posters, flyers, and bookmarks about the event and the every title of the selected books. In our case:

- Without a roof: Montjuïc's wolfboy
- Woman without children: The pain of not being able to be a mother
- Transgender woman: The serene transition
- Mental disorder: When your mind plays against you
- Migrant mother: Why leave everything behind?
- Palestine: From the country that does not exist
- Muslim: My conversion to Islam
- Suicide survivor: Impact, stigma and grief of those who remain
- Lesbian Mom: Am I allowed?
- Agitator: Defending human rights
- Ex-minor with guardianship: When your life is decided by strangers
- Moro: The stigma of being Moroccan
- Victim of human trafficking: The dream that was not fulfilled
- Survivor of gender violence: When you don't want to leave hell
- Cancer survivor: An unwanted life partner
- Caring mother: Giving up is not an option
- Foster Family: Creating a Big Family

Merchandising t-shirts for staff.

Infrastructure:

Physical library with a wide area for the groups (equipped with chairs) and another annexed for books's rest. Two big noticeboard to fill with some participants impressions about the event next to the hall/exit. Also a babysitting service during the event.

Economic:

External media and printing services

External babysitting service

Several license agreement

Please, consult www.bibliotecahumanalh.com for more information. Subtitled videos are available through qr code.

• *Scope (check 1 of the following 3):*

Sustainability

Reading

X Democracy

• *Insert QR (with the web and links to videos or photos):*



<https://ja.cat/Uh2tx>