

Don't **judge** a book by its cover.



Grant MacEwan University South Campus Library

Human Library Pilot Project Report

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Overview

Embracing Grant MacEwan University's mission statement as an "innovative educational institution focused on student learning" (2009), the South Campus Library hosted a Human Library Pilot Project in March, 2010. Survey results gathered from the project indicated that both volunteer books and student readers were enriched from this experience. Participating students embraced this unique learning opportunity and have highly recommended it to others. As well, the Human Library team garnered valuable information from their experiences of hosting the event. The success of this pilot project has provided the information needed to plan a larger Human Library event at the City Centre Campus.

Background

Since its origins in Denmark in 2000, the Human Library concept has spread across the world and continues to grow in popularity. The idea behind The Human Library is to create a positive, non-judgmental, learning environment where volunteers called books share their personal story with those called readers who are interested in learning more about what it is like to be that person/book. Human books are usually varied in their experiences, appearances, abilities, cultural background and sexual orientation. More information about the Human Library is available on their official website (Human Library, 2010).

As the role of academic libraries evolves, so is the need for reference librarians to find creative methods that facilitate active-learning for students and build collaboration with faculty. The Human Library is an excellent example of such a method because it offers an engaging, experiential learning opportunity for students and is most successfully implemented when embedded in the curriculum. The Human Library fulfills the MacEwan Library vision which states that, "As an integral part of the MacEwan University community, the Library provides services, information resources and expertise in a dynamic, learner-centred environment that fosters academic excellence, collaboration and creativity" (2009).

Based on the favourable outcome of the University of Alberta Augustana's first Human Library event held in March 2009, MacEwan librarians, Katherine Koch and

Sandy Stift, agreed that this type of event would go over well at their university. "Promoting acceptance of individual and cultural differences" is one of MacEwan's values (2009). Hence, the seed was planted for a pilot project at MacEwan's South Campus. With programs such as Disability Studies, Social Work, Police Studies and Child & Youth Care, the South Campus was a natural fit. Notably, Cheryl Crocker, Disability Studies instructor, embedded an assignment into the curriculum that encouraged students to take advantage of this unique learning opportunity.

The MacEwan Human Library Pilot Project took place on Tuesday, March 2nd, 2010 from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at the South Campus Library. The MacEwan Human Library team was made up of MacEwan staff from the City Centre and South Campuses:

Team Leaders:


Katherine Koch, Chair Campus Library Services
Melinda Spears, Reference Librarian

Team Members:

Margaret LaRiviere, Manager Borrower Services
Joanne Mekdara, Part-time Library Assistant
Celia Smyth, International Student Advisor/Counsellor
Sandy Stift, Reference Librarian



Having refreshments available for both books and readers made for a welcoming and casual atmosphere. Team members: Celia Smyth (left), Margaret LaRiviere (centre - standing) and Melinda Spears (far right). Books: "Against All Odds" (centre - sitting), "Thirty Years in Law Enforcement" (right).



MACEWAN

Don't **judge** a book by its cover.

Have you ever wondered what it is like to live with physical or cognitive challenges, to be part of a visible minority or have experienced poverty and homelessness?

Tuesday, March 2 • 10 am to 2 pm
South Campus Library
We encourage students from all campuses to attend.

Discussion

Over the course of four hours, 15 Human Library books volunteered their time, and 37 students borrowed books. Rather than the traditional “one book-one borrower model”, some books were signed out by a pair or group, one book came as a pair and two books even signed each other out! In total there were 14 book titles and 28 borrowings, each 45-90 minutes long, with the duration dictated solely by natural conversation flow. Following is a list of the variety of subjects represented by the volunteer books: being disabled and in a wheelchair, blindness, experiencing cultural extremes, multiple sclerosis and parenting a young child, adoption and depression, parenting a Down syndrome baby, being a feminist lesbian, surviving substance abuse, having post-traumatic stress disorder and a long career in law enforcement, wearing a hijab, Aboriginal culture and identity, and same-sex marriages (both gay and lesbian marriages were represented).

From the various forms of informal feedback the team received, plus from the team's own experiences of the day, the event was considered a success for everyone involved: books, readers and team members. To confirm these findings, and assess the effectiveness of the Human Library, surveys were sent out to both books and readers. Ten books responded (66.7 %) and 11 readers responded (39.3 %). Following are highlights from these findings. For the entire survey questions and answers, see Appendix.

Book Survey Results

All the books responded favourably to their experience of being a book. Most notably, 100% of the books strongly agreed to the following: their experience as a book was positive, they would be willing to be a human book again and they would recommend others to become readers or books for future Human Library events. Two books commented that their role wasn't clearly defined. One book suggested that more readers attend the event so no books are left idle for too long, “It was sometimes a bit uncomfortable when all the other books were ‘checked out’ and I

was the only one not checked out...I felt a bit rejected." A couple of comments referred to students' preparedness suggesting students come prepared with a list of questions and not be afraid to ask direct questions.

*"It was a privilege to be a part of this pilot project at MacEwan."
Book respondent*

Reader Survey Results

The readers (staff and students) responded with a good to very good impression of the Human Library event as a whole, and 100% recommended others to become readers of a Human Library. Several comments referred to the reader's appreciation of their book's honesty and openness which gave the readers an "insight into a life so different than [theirs]." Of significance, 78% of the respondents that were student visitors of The Human Library had a class assignment tied to the event. One reader commented that reading their book, "was very helpful for my paper" and another reader stated that an important aspect of this event for them was, "getting to ask my questions and get immediate responses without having to search for answers." One reader appreciated the chance to "observe Braille being used and a Braille novel; a tiny insight into the world of blindness." Interesting to note, many of the readers preferred to go in pairs (or more) when signing out their books.

*"I highly recommend this experience to other students."
Reader respondent*



Human Book "Abnormally Normal" (far right) being borrowed by two student readers.

Team De-briefing

After the event, the team met twice to share their experiences and brainstorm on how this event could be improved for the City Centre Campus. The following is a list of the key suggestions derived from those two meetings:

- Everyone agreed that for this event to be a success, it must be embedded into the curriculum. However, to encourage the 'right' kind of reader, the assignments should be marked but not graded. See Example Assignment in the Appendix.
- Ensure that the faculty clearly understands the event.
- To create the best possible experience for the books:
 - Have an orientation right before the event (include their partners and caregivers).
 - Clarify the role of a book.
 - Have a previous volunteer speak on their experience of being a book.
 - During the Human Library event, assign specific hosts to always take care of the books. Those chosen for this job need to be skilled at socializing and hospitality.
 - Have a quiet, out-of-the-way, room where books can go to take a break from the public.
- To allow time for editing changes, ensure book titles and summaries are approved by the books well in advance of the actual event.
- Create a bibliography for each book and post it on the library website.
- Have a book display that incorporates the book themes as well as photos and write-ups on the human books.
- Brief students on what kind of questions to ask their books. Open-ended questions work best. Asking direct questions is fine. Consider using the PDF guidelines for readers available on Human Library website.
- Things to consider in the budget are release time for staff, catering, T-shirts, parking passes, posters and publicity, and thank-you gifts.

Conclusion

In summary, all the books and readers reported having a positive experience and recommended others to participate in a future Human Library. Books, readers and team members gave excellent suggestions for fine-tuning the event. Most importantly, this successful pilot project provided students with an active-learning opportunity in the campus library setting that required faculty collaboration, and those students who participated learned a lot. As one book said, "my interaction with my readers was very positive and I think my experience will make them a better professional." As one reader said, "I think that when people have survived some life experiences and are willing to share those experiences [it] makes learning more interesting." Taking into account the information collected from the survey results and their own experiences of the event, the Human Library team agreed that the South Campus Human Library Pilot Project was a success, and running this event on a larger scale at the City Centre Campus in the Fall term would be a worthwhile endeavour.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are a summary of two key factors that were found in both the survey results and the de-briefing suggestions and are considered the most important recommendations formulated from this report. However, if a Human Library event is to take place at the City Centre Campus, it is highly recommended the organizers read the de-briefing suggestions found on the previous page and the appended book and reader survey responses for important details.

- 1) The only readers who participated in the pilot project had an optional assignment related to this event; for this event to be well attended at a University library it must be supported by faculty and embedded in the curriculum. Involving the Faculty Commons and key faculty members is essential.
- 2) Because the Human Library is a fairly new, if not completely new, concept to many, clarifying the roles for books and readers will make the event more enjoyable for all. Provide an orientation for books, guidelines for readers and ensure that the faculty clearly understands the event.

"I highly recommend Grant MacEwan [University] to continue with this type of assignment, not only at our campus but throughout Edmonton Campuses."

Student Reader

Reference List

Grant MacEwan University. (2009). *Mission Statement of Grant MacEwan University*. Retrieved from <http://www.macewan.ca/web/services/mission/home/index.cfm>

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Appendix

- Example Assignment
- Booklist
- Book Survey Responses
- Reader Survey Responses

Example Assignment

Extra Credit Assignment (Optional-5 % towards final mark)

Objective

The objective of this optional assignment is to explore, through the Human Library initiative, the diversity of the Edmonton and area community. Students will have the opportunity to examine their own thoughts, ideas and possible prejudices towards individuals who may be different from them.

Human Library initiative: “Don’t judge a book by its cover”

This exciting pilot will give students the opportunity to “check out” a “human book”. In one hour increments, you can sit and have a conversation with a person who will talk to you about their life, their choices and the issues and concerns that they face on a day to day basis. If you want to read more about this, go to the website at <http://human-library.org>

What do I have to do?

The human library will be at South Campus on March 2, 2010. You have to make arrangements to spend approximately an hour with a “human book”. You can do this individually or in a small group (subject to the “human book’s” agreement).

What do I have to submit?

You have to submit confirmation that you participated. You also have to submit a 1-2 page reflection of your conversation. I am not going to grade this assignment as I want it to be reflective in nature. **For example**, what did you go in expecting? What thoughts, ideas or prejudices did you hold before the conversation? What was the nature of the face to face interaction? What did you walk away with in terms of thoughts and ideas? Were your prejudices challenged? How might this experience affect you? I will ask that this be submitted by March 5, 2010.

Do I have to participate?

You do not have to participate. It is an optional bonus credit assignment. I would encourage you to give this strong consideration not because of the 5% but because it would be an opportunity to become familiar with the scope and range of diversity in our community.

What if I have questions?

Any and all questions are welcome!

Booklist

HUMAN LIBRARY.ORG

MacEwan South Campus Library, Tues. March 2nd, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Book Title & Author	Topic	Storyline
Against all Odds	Having a disability and being in a wheelchair	Can you imagine what it's like to be in a wheelchair with post polio syndrome? This book is a great opportunity for interested readers to learn more about what it's really like to be disabled and in a wheelchair.
Blind Vision: Different Ways of Seeing the World	Blindness	No stranger to MacEwan, this book works at the City Centre campus helping students with disabilities especially regarding assistive technologies. Find out more about what it's like to be blind.
A Foot in Two Cultures	Experiencing extreme cultural differences	This book is an international student who grew up in Sierra Leone and is now studying in Canada. Even though his previous life was anchored in tropical heat, political upheavals and a culture based in ancient civilizations, he has adjusted remarkably to the cold North, vast open spaces, a stable government and mixed cultural traditions.
Keep S'myelin	Multiple sclerosis and parenting	With his dry wit, this book has much to share about his experience on having multiple sclerosis and being a parent of a young child.
Living Positive	Living with HIV	Both an educator and public presenter on HIV/AIDS, this book has a wealth of information to share. Diagnosed with HIV in 2000, this book has weathered many turbulent times and knows firsthand how HIV can affect people's lives.
Lost and Found	Adoption and depression	Lost and Found is about two stories: outwardly it is about being an adopted child and finding one's birth mother as an adult. Inwardly, it is about the feeling of having lost oneself in a depression and the desire to find whatever has been lost.
A Man in Full	Disability rights and advocacy	Having a visibly disabled hand and leg hasn't stopped this young man from having a full life. A previous MacEwan student who is in his fourth year of arts at the University of Alberta and is a drummer in a band, this book is a strong believer in disability rights.
My Bundle of Inspiration	Parenting a down syndrome baby	Not only does this book address the challenges of raising a baby with Down syndrome, but you may find other topics worth exploring such as a very strong supporter of environmentalism.

(more books on other side!)

Normally Abnormal	Being a feminist lesbian	This book has many, many chapters. She is a world traveler, a previous city Councillor, political activist, and has worked for HIV Edmonton. Be sure to read the chapters on family relationships and marriage.
Mr. & Mr. (Two Volume Set)	Same-sex marriage as a gay couple	Mr. & Mr. is a special edition, two-volume set that regales in the delightful adventures of a married gay couple. This book promises twice the punch! <u>Reader's Discretion is advised:</u> Tight pink pants may be involved!
One Year Four Months and Smiling	Substance abuse and sobriety	This is a heart-warming story about an aboriginal single-mom whose life took a wrong turn. Facing her addiction head-on, and after getting help by seven months of treatment, she has turned her life around, returned to school and is very proud to say she hasn't taken a drink in one year and four months.
Thirty Years in Law Enforcement	Law enforcement and PTSD	Interested in a career in law enforcement or want to know more about what it's like to have PTSD? This book is chock-a-block full of information. From working at the old Fort Saskatchewan Gaol (before the term jail was used) to being assigned security at the G8 Summit in Kananaskis,
Two Mommies	Same-sex marriage as a lesbian couple with children	This book is a lesbian mother, married with a little boy whose marriage partner is expecting their next child. Sign this book out to learn more about this book's world.
Warrior with Purpose	Aboriginal culture and identity	This book is a plains Cree warrior with much to share about courage culture and identity. A journey of healing laughter and growth that will leave you wanting more....
The Woman Inside	Wearing the hijab	"I come from Iran, a country where the hijab is mandatory for women. In Canada I was given the freedom to decide whether to wear it or not. Disregarding the influence of others, I made the decision to keep my hijab."

Note to students: To incorporate the information you learn from a 'book' in your assignments the following excerpt is an example using the APA formatting style guide: Crediting personal communications:

Interviews, telephone conversations, lectures, or e-mails are casual forms of communication...To cite a personal communication, give the initials and surname of the person followed by the words "personal communication" and the date the communication took place.

(A. Polkovsky, personal communication, March 2, 2010)

On behalf of the South Campus Library, thank you for participating in our HUMAN LIBRARY event!

Book Survey Responses

Human Library Evaluation for Living Books

Of the 15 Human Library Book volunteers, 11 completed the survey (response rate 66.7%).

1. Please rate the following.

1=strongly agree 2=agree 3=neutral 4=disagree 5=strongly disagree

	1	2	3	4	5	n/a	Response Count
My experience as a book was positive.	100.0 % (10)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	10
My readers were sincere and motivated to learn.	80.0% (8)	20.0 % (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	10
My role was clearly described to me prior to the event.	60.0% (6)	30.0 % (3)	10.0 % (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	10
The Human Library organizers were helpful.	90.0% (9)	10.0 % (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	10
The length of time I volunteered was acceptable.	90.0% (9)	10.0 % (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	10
The amount of time with each reader was appropriate.	88.9% (8)	11.1 % (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	9
I was made to feel comfortable as a Book; any concerns about my comfort were addressed by Human Library organizers.	80.0% (8)	20.0 % (2)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	10

Comments: (5)

This was a great learning and discussion experience.... We very much enjoyed talking to these young students. None of them had questions to begin but after we talked about ourselves and our experiences, they ended up having many questions. They were respectful, interested, and willing to share the reasons that they took us off the shelf, so to speak.

Loved being a book and would happily volunteer again. Thanks for the opportunity.

The experience was totally awesome! The library staff rocks! :)

I wasn't really sure what to expect upon my arrival, and two of the students who signed me out weren't either. In the end however, that didn't really matter and the overall experience was definitely positive.

I thought it was a very unique experience...talking to people who have life experience. It made me aware of some of my "Stuff"...kind of healing.

2. How did you feel your readers benefited from reading you? Response Count (10)

I think I helped the readers to realize that it is not necessary to choose a book from its title.

My interaction with my readers was very positive and I think my experience will make them a better professional because they were extremely interested.

Yes, we think they did benefit. They were very grateful for the interaction and what they gained in knowledge and insight from this shared experience.

Absolutely.

I think readers gained an understanding of what it's like being blind. I think I was the first blind person they had met, so I think they realized that blind people are just like everyone else... we have the same dreams, wishes, fears, etc. as everyone else. I hope they came away with a better understanding of what it's like to be blind, less fear of blind people, and, hopefully, a higher comfort level to walk up to someone who is blind and start a conversation and get to know them.

One-on-one with no peer class and teacher pressure.

I think that they appreciated understanding both the differences and commonalities that "being different" brings and were able to relate my role as a lesbian parent and its potential impact on my children, the people they are training to work with (people with disabilities). A good discussion on how everyone experiences "difference" and its impact.

A lot of them were in disabilities studies, and being able to put a face to something they had read about mostly was surely beneficial. Also beneficial is just hearing someone's personal experiences in a face-to-face setting. They were well informed.

They gained real insight on the topics that they were interested in knowing more about.

3. How did you benefit from being read? Response Count (9)

It was a new experience, it was enjoyable, I met new people and the outcome was beneficial for all concerned.

We were thrilled for this opportunity to interact with these six young students, learn from them, and realize that today's youth are for the most part, exceptional.

An opportunity to share experiences and be helpful to others.

It was great to see how curious people were about what it is like to be blind. I was amazed at some of the questions, for example, "Do you dream?" and "Do you dream in color?" I was impressed by the students' insightful and thoughtful questions, i.e. "What advice would you give to someone who just recently lost their sight?" I think the greatest benefit I gained was the realization that I need to be more open and honest with the people I meet about my blindness... mostly I take it for granted that people know what it's like to be blind, or, don't really care or want to know, but I think, after taking part in the Human Library event, that most people are probably very curious and that I need to start sharing more with others.

See how our young students are progressing and assist them in their endeavours. They're faces would light up when I would give them a whole other side to their career choice; Insight into what the students are experiencing. Able to contribute.

I reflected on my philosophy of being - i.e., my own emphasis on being the same as everyone, and they highlighted for me that while that is true, one also needs to honour difference. They also indirectly brought forward my urban focus as we discussed how my situation might differ if I lived in a rural or small town setting. I also very much benefited from speaking with the other books.

I was able to revisit some earlier experiences, and being able to talk about them and to express them I think is always a good thing.

Learned from other people's experiences.

As mentioned, it made me more aware of what I was experiencing or had experienced.

4. Did you have sessions with more than one student at a time? **Response Count (10)**

Yes	70.0% (7)
No	30.0% (3)

Comments: (6)

There were only two in one session at a time.

Very comfortable meeting with two students each of the three times.

Yes, I am accustomed to addressing groups and so addressing two to five students was quite good.

It wasn't a group, only two students, but, yes, I was comfortable.

Yes - the conversation was very positive and the group conversation fed off each other.

I was once signed out by two students, so it wasn't really a group that I had to speak to. Just speaking to two people made no difference to me.

5. For the next Human Library event, what advice would you give?

a. To future books:

Response Count (6)

- You have no idea how many (or how few) will speak with you in your category.
- Be relaxed, forthcoming, interested, and open.
- Just to be open and honest... and, that it's a lot of fun!

- Each student and reading will be different.
- In advance, think about ways to help students ask the more difficult questions...I think there is some reluctance to be too direct as the reader could be perceived as being in judgment. For example, I would think about a way to introduce the moral question of intentionally bringing forth a child without a known father.
- More books?

b. To organizers:

Response Count (8)

- I think you should open it up to staff/instructors as well as students.
- Well done!
- My one complaint was a 'title' and description was given without consulting me. It would have been helpful to have input on both counts.
- I'm not sure if there's a way to have more readers attend, but, it was sometimes a bit uncomfortable when all the other books were "checked out" and I was the only one not checked out... felt a bit rejected.
- Arrange available assigned area's for readings.
- Through the feedback, some tips on what to think about for book to help facilitate the conversation into difficult territory so it is not just a feel-good session.
- Make the event in an open area where students can see what's going on easily.
- They were excellent, they made me feel very comfortable and at ease.

c. To future readers:

Response Count (7)

- You have a tremendous opportunity from those with experience -- take advantage of it.
- Ask lots of questions!
- Don't hold back or worry that your question is "stupid" or that you might hurt a book's feelings... if you're curious and want to know, ask! The book will let you know if she/he is not comfortable with the question... and ask absolutely anything you want!
- Encourage them to prepare a list of questions in advance.
- Don't be afraid to ask really direct questions. That is the point!
- Think about some questions or topics of discussion beforehand.
- Hope to see more people involved; wanting to learn more about others.

6. Please help us plan future events.

	Yes	No	Response Count
Would you be willing to be a Human Book again?	100.0 % (8)	0.0% (0)	10
Would you be willing to speak to prospective volunteers about your experience as a Human Book?	90.0% (9)	10.0 % (1)	10
For future events, I would suggest having a breakfast orientation the morning of the event.	50.0% (5)	50.0 % (5)	10

For future events, I would suggest having an orientation on a different day than the actual event.	10.0% (1)	90.0% (9)	10
I do not think an orientation is necessary.	50.0% (5)	50.0% (5)	10

Comments: (5)

Just a low key discussion of the format, purpose, willingness to share, and willingness to listen and learn something. Embrace the experience and be yourself.

A bit more written information would have been useful.

A morning breakfast orientation would also give the book a opportunity to talk with other books and add a new level of excitement. It would also allow us to interact with each other's experience from the previous human library. It would also say we care about our books and want to assist them to be the best read possible.

I think an orientation would be helpful, but a half hour of introductions, what to expect, etc. would be sufficient.

I don't think an orientation is vital, but it couldn't hurt. I had no idea what to expect coming into this, and while it would have been nice to have had some sort of orientation, not having one didn't detract from my getting a positive experience out of this.

7. Would you recommend others to become readers or books of the Human Library?**Response Count (8)**

Yes 100.0% (10)

No 0.0% (0)

Comments: (3)

It is a very, very rewarding experience.

It was an interesting and thought provoking day.

You can learn from one another; talking to people that are "real" and not just reading a book or article....I thought it was a very good experience.

8. Would like to recommend any new books for future Human Library Events?**Response Count (6)**

Not at this time.

We would have to dwell on this.

People who have lived through historical events.

Not familiar enough with the curriculum and this could be brought up in the orientation for consideration for the following year.

Men or women who have experienced spousal abuse.

Someone who is obese.

An "out" feminist (I have a thought on who might be a good candidate for this one... but I can't think of her last name!) There was a good variety of books available...it allows for networking and meeting individuals that you find interesting.

I'll be a book any time!!!!

9. Other comments?

Response Count (7)

Thank you for the opportunity to participate and contribute.

It was a privilege to be a part of this pilot project at Grant MacEwan.

A wonderful idea. Enjoyed being a book. Thanks for the opportunity.

Thanks so much for a wonderful experience!!

Job well done by all the facilitators, I felt most welcome.

Excellent pilot project. My other thought would be to prepare the students in some way so that there is more demand for books. (I did hear that perhaps checking out a book would be part of an assignment...just something to encourage them.)

I wish more students took advantage of the event.....I'm sure if they would have known how diverse and interesting it was, I'm sure more people would have shown up.

Reader Survey Responses

Human Library Evaluation for Readers

Over 35 students attended the Human Library; we collected 31 e-mail addresses (3 addresses were invalid). The response rate to this survey was 39.3% (11 completed surveys/28 survey invitations).

1. Where did you first hear about MacEwan's Human Library event?

Answered Question (11)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Posters/tent cards in the library	9.1 %	1
Posters outside of the library	18.2%	2
Library staff	18.2%	2
Instructor	63.6%	7
Friend	0.0%	0
Other	0.0%	0

2. Which book(s) did you take out? (optional)

Answered Question (10)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Against all Odds - Having a disability and being in a wheelchair	10.0 %	1
Blind Vision: Different Ways of Seeing the World - Blindness	20.0 %	2
A Foot in Two Cultures - Experiencing extreme cultural differences	0%	0
Keep S'myelin - Multiple sclerosis and parenting	10.0 %	1
Lost and Found - Adoption and depression	0.0%	0
A Man in Full - Disability rights and advocacy	20.0%	2
My Bundle of Inspiration - Parenting a Down syndrome baby	10.0%	1
Normally Abnormal - Being a feminist lesbian	0.0%	0

Mr. & Mr. (Two Volume Set) - Same-sex marriage as a gay couple	10.0%	1
One Year Four Months and Smiling - Substance abuse and sobriety	0.0%	0
Thirty Years in Law Enforcement - Law enforcement and PTSD	10.0 %	1
Two Mommies - Same-sex marriage as a lesbian couple with children	20.0%	2
Warrior with Purpose - Aboriginal culture and identity	10.0 %	1
The Woman Inside - Wearing the hijab	10.0%	1

3. What was your impression of: (1=not good, 5=Very Good)

Answered Question (11)

	1	2	3	4	5	Response Count
The Human Library as a whole	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	18.2% (2)	81.8% (9)	11
The selection of books and stereotypes available	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	10.0% (1)	20.0% (2)	70.0% (7)	10
The helpfulness of the Human Library organizers	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	18.2% (2)	81.8% (9)	11

4. How many people were present at your reading?

Answered Question (11)

	Just me	Friend & me	3 of us	4+	Didn't borrow during this time	Response Count
Book borrowed at 10AM	9.1% (1)	9.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	81.8% (9)	11
Book borrowed at 11AM	9.1% (1)	9.1% (1)	18.2% (2)	9.1% (1)	54.5% (6)	11
Book borrowed at 12PM	18.2% (2)	9.1% (1)	0.0% (0)	0.0% (0)	72.7% (8)	11
Book borrowed at	18.2%	0.0%	18.2%	9.1%	54.5% (6)	

1PM	(2)	(0)	(2)	(1)		11
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5. What was the most important experience for you while reading Human Library books?

Response Count (9)

The openness of ["Against All Odds"], in relation to his life, and the people in it.

The way ["Warrior with Purpose"] was able to help us understand the Aboriginal culture and was willing to share his life experiences.

You hear about the stereotypes from people that have had to live through it.

I found that I wanted to know about the person and not strictly what he was as a "book".

Getting to ask my questions and get immediate responses without having to search for answers.

Human connection - testimony. Very powerful. Also the openness, willingness to share, and engaging upbeat personality on the books' part, made it very comfortable.

How intimate and personal their stories were.

Insight into a life so different than mine.

Learning about a new perspective.

6. Have you learned anything new from reading Human Library book(s)?

Response Count (9)

I learned a lot about his disability, and he talked about honestly about some of his struggles and successes.

Yes .

Not to judge a book or person by the cover or label. That they are all people and should be treated as such.

Perhaps more preparation (than with inanimate objects) would be needed on the reader's part before "reading" the book.

Yes, it was very helpful for my paper on PTSD!

Assistive technology. For the first time observing Braille being used and a Braille novel; a tiny insight into the world of blindness.

A great deal! What you see on the surface is not anything like what is inside a person.

Yes.

Just how much all of us have to learn about people.

7. Would you recommend others to become readers of a Human Library event?**Response Count (11)**

Yes 100.0% (11)

No 0.0% (0)

Comments: (6)

What a great idea! I wish I had time to "take out" every single book. Very enjoyable, I wish I could do it again.

I think that when people have survived some life experiences and are willing to share those experiences makes learning more interesting.

I hope you continue to do this event.

Highly!

The person has a story to tell, I am glad that I was given the opportunity to listen and dialogue about that person's life. Their story touched me deeply, I will not forget it.

Yes it was fun & interesting.

8. Would like to recommend any new books for future Human Library Events?**Response Count (6)**

["Against All Odds"]! Very inspirational... a great speaker, open and honest individual.

Yes it would be helpful if some information about politics in Canada is introduced by someone from the political science department, because I was in a political class and I was pretty shocked to learn that many students do not have any idea about the political system in Canada or the geography of Canada.

Will think about this and let you know. Perhaps opinion leaders who are known to students.

No, I liked the selection and variety.

Historians, sociologists, psychologists, professors who could explain some phenomenon that people go through in life.

Possibly a person that has autism.

9. Other comments?**Response Count (5)**

Library staff are ALWAYS very pleasant and helpful. I love being in the library and the Grant MacEwan south campus. Thanks to you all!

Well done! Well organized. Could promote the event amongst students through instructors. Do make it a regular event.

I highly recommend this experience to other students and am grateful that I got to take out my book one on one so I was able to ask all my questions and get thorough answers.

Well organized ~ well planned! Very enlightening. I only wish class attendance was not in conflict with "library time". I would have liked to take out more books.

When posters / flyers are given out, make sure that those people are attending the whole day. Was disappointing to think I was going to talk to one person, and ended up talking to a totally different person.

10. Are you staff, student or other? Response Count (10)

1 staff

9 students

Do you have a class assignment related to the Human Library?

Response Count (9)

Yes 77.8% (7)

No 0.0% (0)