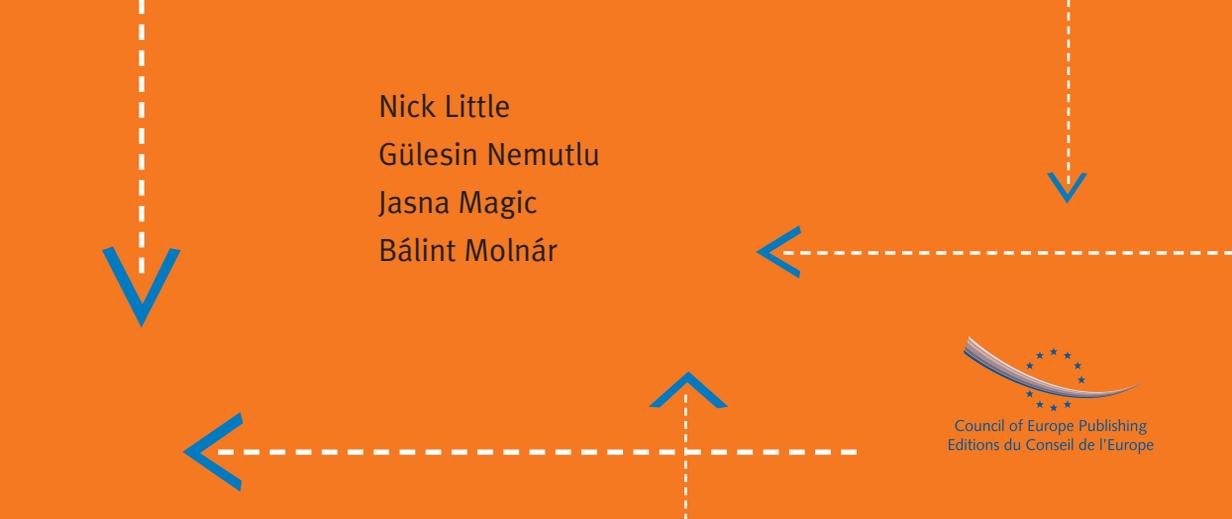


Don't judge a book by its cover!

The Living Library Organiser's Guide 2011



Nick Little
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CONTENTS

Acknowledgements	4
Preface	5
How to use this guide	7
Section 1: The History and Methodology of the Living Library	9
What is the Living Library?	10
Where does the Living Library come from?	12
Why Living Library?	14
Section 2: The Main Ingredients	19
Are you ready to be an organiser?	20
Defining your objectives	23
Choosing your setting	24
Your team: who is who in the Living Library?	33
The catalogue	38
Section 3: The Living Library in Practice	45
Budgeting, venue and physical setup	47
Preparing the content and running the library	52
Materials, promotions, and evaluation	56
Section 4: Materials and Resources	67
Visibility items	68
Infrastructure	73
Texts	78



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The authors of this publication wish to apologise for any errors and omissions in advance.



PREFACE

Those familiar with programmes promoting intercultural dialogue, human rights, pluralism, and democratic participation – be it in civil society, adult education or youth work – are frequently confronted with the challenge of coming up with something truly ‘new’ and inventive, something that attracts widespread attention and makes genuine impact.

The Living Library methodology presented in this guide is one such concept. Its primary aim is to create constructive personal dialogues between people who would normally not have the opportunity to speak to each other and thus challenge common prejudices and stereotypes. It is particularly suitable for large-scale public events, such as festivals and other gatherings attended by hundreds or even thousands of people. The Living Library is essentially an opportunity for intercultural learning and personal development aimed at people who have little or no access to or time for non-formal educational programmes.

Our social divides are defined by socio-economic, political, and cultural differences and, sociologically speaking, the notion of the ‘stranger’ is defined by the remoteness we may feel from those others who move and live near us. A 16-year-old student from Finland might find it easier to connect with another 16-year-old from Spain or Turkey than a 50-year-old unemployed factory worker from his or her hometown, living in relative physical proximity. Surrounded by images and fragments of information about others, we are left to our own imagination and assumptions or, just as often, to our prejudices and stereotypes. The Living Library gives people an opportunity to speak in private and personally to a ‘stranger’ in a structured, protected, yet practically unconstrained environment. This framework is probably one of the main reasons for the popularity and success of the Living Library: the readers can predict the ‘risk’ they are taking by meeting the ‘other’.

The Living Library became part of the Council of Europe’s programme in 2003 and the driving force behind its inclusion was the realisation that human rights cannot be defended and promoted by legal texts alone. There is – today more than ever in the recent past – a need to raise awareness among the wider public about the importance of human rights to the fabric of our democracies and the responsibility of the individual citizen in realizing abstract human rights in his or her everyday



interactions. Through its 40-year history, the Council of Europe's youth sector has gathered unique and important experience in the field of non-formal and intercultural education based on the principles of human rights, pluralist democracy, and cultural diversity.

With this publication, the Council of Europe aims to continue its support and promotion of the methodology of the Living Library. We believe that the Living Library remains a uniquely useful tool to foster peaceful coexistence, understanding, and tolerance and to bring people closer together in mutual respect for the human dignity of the individual – whether as books, readers, or organisers.





HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is intended to provide support and direction to Living Library organisers in Europe. The guide has drawn upon the knowledge and experience of Living Library organisers from across the continent, many of whom have been working with the concept for over 10 years. We believe that the knowledge and experience presented here will be of value to new organisers, helping them to plan, manage and deliver successful Living Library projects. In addition, we believe that the examples of best practice we have included will improve and strengthen Living Libraries everywhere.

The guide has been designed to be flexible and can either be read from cover to cover or on a chapter-by-chapter basis. However, we would recommend that new organisers read the guide in its entirety in order to ensure that the methodology of the Living Library is fully understood.

The guide is presented in four sections:

- The History and Methodology of the Living Library**
- The Main Ingredients**
- The Living Library in Practice**
- Resources and Materials**

We recommend that this guide is used in conjunction with the Council of Europe Living Library web portal: www.eycb.coe.int/LivingLibrary/WebForms and the Human Library website: www.humanlibrary.org

Please note that until 2010, all activity took place under the name Living Library. In 2010 the Living Library Organisation was renamed the Human Library Organisation and since then all activity in the UK and US used this name. It is worth remembering that the Human Library and Living Library are the same project, with the same aims and values. Throughout this publication the term Living Library will be used to refer to the overall concept and general events, unless expressly referring to the Human Library Organisation and its specific projects.



Section I:

**The History and Methodology
of the Living Library**



WHAT IS THE LIVING LIBRARY?

The Living Library is an equalities tool that seeks to challenge prejudice and discrimination. It works just like a normal library: visitors can browse the catalogue for the available titles, choose the Book they want to read, and borrow it for a limited period of time. After reading, they return the Book to the library and, if they want, they can borrow another.

The only difference is that in the Living Library, Books are *people*, and reading consists of a *conversation*.

The Living Library attempts to challenge prejudice by facilitating a conversation between two people: Books and Readers. Books are volunteers who have either been subjected to discrimination themselves or represent groups or individuals within society that are at risk of suffering from stereotype, stigma, prejudice or discrimination. Living Books often have personal experiences of discrimination or social exclusion that they are willing to share with Readers. Most importantly, Books give Readers permission to enter into dialogue with them, in the hope that their perspectives and experiences will challenge commonly held perceptions and stereotypes and therefore affect the attitudes and behaviours of wider society.

Those of us who attempt to initiate programmes that promote intercultural dialogue are frequently faced with the challenge to come up with something innovative. We are constantly looking for something that can attract the attention of many and make a real difference to those involved. The Living Library is an innovative approach to equality and diversity because it addresses the broad subject of prejudice without emphasizing one specific case over others. At the same time, it manages to successfully navigate around some of the sensitivities that accompany anti-prejudice work, while maintaining an element of fun and interaction that makes the project immensely appealing to both potential organisers and participants. This is achieved by creating a safe environment for Readers and Books to engage in open dialogue whose explicit aim is to discuss topics that in almost any other setting would be considered too delicate. At the Living Library these discussions are possible, indeed, they are surprisingly easy. Becoming one half of that exchange is a rare privilege and one that leaves no one who experiences it unaffected.



The simplicity of the Living Library means that it is flexible enough to be used in a wide variety of settings and it is particularly suitable for use in public spaces and buildings, festivals and large gatherings. Wherever it is employed, as long as the decision to organise an event is motivated by the desire to challenge prejudice, the Living Library has the potential to change the feelings, perceptions and opinions we all hold about each other. The diversity of our communities is celebrated, the language and labels of stereotype are undermined and challenged, and new attitudes and behaviours are shaped by new and personal experiences. Above all, the Living Library has the potential to affect the way we all see the world, each other, and the future that we share.



WHERE DOES THE LIVING LIBRARY COME FROM?

The first-ever Living Library. (Menneske Biblioteket in Danish) was organized in Denmark in 2000 at the Roskilde Festival. The original idea had been developed by a Danish Youth NGO called 'Stop the Violence' (Foreningen Stop Volden) as part of the activities they offered to festival goers. Based in Copenhagen, 'Stop the Violence' was a peer-led youth initiative aiming to educate young people to be active in the prevention of youth violence and its mission was motivated by the brutal murder of a mutual friend of the five founders, Dany Abergel, Asma Mouna, Christoffer Erichsen, Thomas Bertelsen, and Ronni Abergel.

Despite some of the initial worries of its young organisers, the first Living Library event at Roskilde was a spectacular success: 75 Living Books volunteered their time, and audiences were very receptive to the concept, queuing up to take out the most popular books, the rush was non-stop for four days. In the process, history was made: the Living Library was born and the first of thousands of volunteers to give their time, energy and commitment to this concept all over the world, sat down with strangers to talk.

The positive experience at Roskilde came to the attention of the Council of Europe through the then-Director of the European Youth Centre Budapest (EYCB), Antje Rothemund. Through the EYCB, the Danish organisers were brought into contact with the organisers of the SZIGET Festival – one of the largest music festivals in Europe – and together they organised a Living Library in 2001. Since then, the Living Library organized by the EYCB has been a part of the SZIGET Festival each year, 2010 being the only exception.

The Living Library at the SZIGET proved that the methodology could transcend borders, cultures and societies and be adapted to different contexts and settings. In 2008, the *Human Library Organisation* was created in Denmark by several of the founders of the first Living Library in Roskilde with financial support from the Nordic Council of Ministers' Youth Committee. The Human Library Organisation aims to increase social cohesion and respect for diversity and human rights by uniting active organisers from all parts of the world and by promoting the use of the concept. The network's website www.humanlibrary.org provides a global forum for organisers around the world, and the possibility to share experiences and to further develop the methodology.



Since the first edition of *“Don’t judge a book by its cover – The Living Library Organisers Guide”* was published in 2005, over 100 Living Libraries have been staged in Europe with Council of Europe advice and support. An equal number of Living Libraries have taken place worldwide as a result of the active promotion work undertaken by the Human Library Organisation. Driven by the creative energy of those involved, the methodology has seen application and development in different environments from festival settings, schools, conferences, professional fairs to smaller youth events such as seminars and international exchanges. The methodology has also been adapted to create a mobile Living Library travelling on a bus and an on-line Living Library chat.

As it has spread around the world, the Living Library concept has continued to respond to localized contexts while maintaining the original aim: to challenge stereotype, stigma, prejudice and discrimination. Thanks to its simplicity and its flexibility, the concept continues to spread and at the time of writing had been successfully implemented in over 60 countries worldwide.



WHY LIVING LIBRARY?

Understanding the methodology of the Living Library is a fundamental requirement for all Living Library organisers. In turn, the methodology has been devised and refined to serve the main goal of the Living Library: *to promote respect for human rights and human dignity by **challenging prejudice** through fostering constructive dialogue about stereotypes that frequently lead to discrimination against individuals or groups.*

Put simply, if you want to know how the Living Library works you have to understand why the Living Library exists.

The basic methodology of the Living Library has not changed since that first event at Roskilde in 2000: it was conceived in order to encourage dialogue that challenges prejudices, contributing to the breaking down of barriers between communities in the process.

We all have Prejudices

While there is vast academic literature on the typology of stereotype, prejudice and discrimination, for the purposes of this publication the following short definitions – reflecting the consensus of mainstream social psychology and of the human rights field – seem sufficient:

Stereotypes are generalized beliefs about groups and their members; prejudices are unfavorable emotional reactions to or evaluations of groups and their members; and interpersonal discrimination is the differential treatment by individuals toward some groups and their members relative to other groups and their members.

The most harmful forms stereotype, prejudice and discrimination are directed most commonly at members of stigmatized groups (historically groups low in structural power, including groups defined by gender, ethnicity, race, social class, sexual orientation, religion, age, physical or psychological impairments, immigration status, or language), including individuals who are members of multiple stigmatized groups (e.g., older women) and members simultaneously of stigmatized and non-stigmatized groups (e.g., gay men).



Stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination have the potential to particularly harm individuals who are members of groups that are afforded less societal power to counteract the negative effects of such discrimination. Crucially, they have negative effects on intergroup relations, by fostering distrust and promoting threat and can result in the loss of life, profound social, economic, and psychological consequences through violence, ethnic conflict, and, in extreme cases, even genocide.

The Living Library was created and is motivated by the realization that most people use stereotypes in their interactions with other people at least some of the time. Almost no one can truthfully declare that they have no prejudices at all or that they do not subject others, even if unconsciously, to stereotype. Stereotypes can automatically be activated even in individuals who strive to be prejudice-free. This is due to most people not being consciously aware of the precise moments when their attitudes and judgments are being influenced by a particular, pre-existing stereotype.

As we mentioned above, no one can truly declare that they do not stereotype others. A stereotype is a formulaic and generalized image of a person or group, which does not acknowledge any individual differences within a particular group, be it based on gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or any other such commonality. Stereotypes are naturally appealing because they allow us to categorize the people and things around us. Just like prejudice, stereotypes can be inherited from people and culture.

“Very often...stereotypes are used to justify and support the beliefs and values of the majority population. The ‘common’ is perceived as the ‘normal’ and things done by distinct social groups or minorities are devalued when they do not conform to these ‘norms’. One of the most striking elements of stereotypes and prejudice is that they are usually created by the powerful and applied to the weak who cannot control the way they are perceived by others nor are they able to change these perceptions.”

(Is this a stereotype? A tool for fighting stereotypes towards Roma, R Garbutt.)

Prejudice and stereotype can lead to stigma, - such as those surrounding mental health, sexual orientation, and gender reassignment, to name only the most obvious. When we negatively judge individuals or groups who we perceive to be different from ourselves we are engaging in discrimination.



Challenging your prejudice by meeting it

Research has shown that intergroup contact can significantly reduce harmful stereotypes and demonstrated that prejudice and contact are significantly and inversely correlated. In other words, the more people belonging to different groups are in contact with each other, the more pre-existing negative stereotypes are reduced. Three key stages of stereotype-mitigation have been identified:

- 1) Increased information about the other group results in cognitive “approaching” to that group.
- 2) As a result of personal contact, the negative tension relating to the other group decreases.
- 3) Empathy towards the other group is strengthened.

The Living Library is a prime example of contact-based prejudice reduction. Its methodology is based on facilitating intergroup contact in a widely familiar framework (i.e. the library).

As there are many ways to combat prejudices and stereotypes, why should we use the Living Library? The purpose of the Living Library is enabling short, intensive and facilitated contact between Readers and Books – offering those holding possible prejudices to meet the objects of their prejudice.

The library framework helps the participants to quickly understand the rules and to comply with them: the Librarians welcome the Reader and help him or her to select a Book from the Catalogue. The role of the Catalogue is central: it is essentially a list of stereotypes, intentionally compiled to be slightly provocative with assistance from each of the Books, based on their own personal experiences. Books are members of their groups who are both authentic and open to a personal discussion.

It is important to emphasize that the conversational framework of the Living Library is not trying to convince, convert or pressure anyone into accepting anything they don't feel they can agree with or relate to, but it does endorse the principle that under the appropriate conditions we are all capable of overcoming the fears we might have of “the other”.



The Living Library provides a unique venue for intercultural experience and interaction. There are precious few other occasions where one would have the opportunity, let alone feel comfortable, asking a complete stranger to describe what is like to be HIV+, where one could directly inquire why someone underwent gender re-assignment, or ask an immigrant why they chose to live in one's native country. And even more importantly, it is hard to think of another situation where one would be *encouraged* to ask a stranger such direct questions.

The Living Library experience is an unrivalled privilege where people are not discouraged from having prejudices, but indeed are offered the opportunity to come face-to-face with them. They are asked to open the cover instead of simply judging the book by it.

NEM KOLDUS, ALKOHOLISTA, BÜNÖZŐ, CSAK OTTHONA NINCS.



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ARE YOU READY TO BE AN ORGANISER?

Any association, organisation, institution, or initiative planning to organise and stage a Living Library event should first reflect on the intention and possibilities of doing so and set clear objectives for the Living Library itself and for the place and purpose of the activity within the wider context of the organisers' regular activities.

There are many reasons why the Living Library is an appealing concept to would-be organisers. Without doubt, the simplicity of the concept generates instant appeal, offering an interactive experience that can engage the public with big issues such as equality, diversity and human rights.

Organising a Living Library, however, involves a considerable amount of work and the task should not be underestimated. It requires a great deal of careful planning, preparation, and committed implementation.

The following pages are intended as a practical guide for both first-time and experienced Living Library organisers. For those who have never organised a Living Library event before, we would like to provide a clear roadmap to prepare and run their first event. For those who have already run Living Libraries before, we hopefully will be able to provide additional examples of best practices as well as some food for further thought about the possibilities – and indeed, some of the limitations – of the Living Library concept.

The following list is essentially an inventory of the basic pre-requisites for a successful Living Library event. All would-be organisers should consider these carefully before embarking on running a Living Library.

Understand the methodology

The methodology is the most important aspect of the Living Library concept. If an organiser begins their journey without understanding the methodology they are in danger of undermining the entire project. If their event deviates from the methodology and does not seek to fulfil the aims of the project, all of the



participants will have been given a false impression of the concept. Organisers must make sure that they fully understand and support the methodology of the Living Library and do not compromise, adapt or alter it to suit their needs.

Organise an inclusive event

Your event should strive to include Books from all groups that are subjected to negative stereotyping in your community. Remember, at its core the Living Library is a tool to promote human rights and human dignity and these concepts are both universal and indivisible. While there have been successful events in the past where the focus was on a specific group (e.g. immigrants or asylum seekers) these events are the exception rather than the rule. A Living Library should function as a kaleidoscope of a given community's diversity and thereby enable participants to come in contact with that diversity, understand it better and, eventually, accept and celebrate it.

Share our values

The by-now global nature of the Living Library concept means that your efforts in your local area will make a vital contribution to a much larger effort to tackle prejudice around the world. Therefore, as an organiser, you are about to write a new chapter in the history of the Living Library. Essentially, we are asking you to share our values in order to help us protect and maintain the integrity of the project.

Be a positive advocate

Your motive must only be to use the Living Library for its intended purpose – promoting human rights through challenging stereotypes and prejudice - and for no other. It is with this motivation that you will begin promoting the idea to potential partners, supporters and champions. Not only do you have an obligation to



subscribe to the values yourself, you must communicate these values to everyone who becomes involved – your organising team, your volunteer staff, your Books and your Readers. Everyone involved needs to understand what the Living Library is, why they are taking part, the history of the Living Library and how it works in practice. It is vital that everyone involved subscribes to this agreement, and that the you, the organiser, communicate this agreement clearly to all the parties involved.

Do you have the capacity?

Beyond subscribing to the values underpinning the Living Library concept and understanding its basic methodology there is the important matter of organisational capacity.

The following simple points will help you determine whether you have the sufficient personal and organisational capacity to plan, prepare, and implement a successful Living Library event.

1. Organising a Living Library will take up a great deal of your time.
 - *Are you in a position to devote a considerable amount of time to this project?*
2. You are going to need an organising team.
 - *Can you identify potential supporters or partners who might become part of your team? Can you lead your team?*
3. You will need the support of your employer or organisation.
 - *Do you have that support?*
4. You will be working hard to enthuse others to join your project and become organisers, Books and Staff. You will also have to reach out to partners and/or sponsors.
 - *Do you have the skills and enthusiasm to successfully promote the Living Library and recruit others to support it?*



DEFINING YOUR OBJECTIVES

As it was already established, the Living Library is a means of promoting respect for human rights and human dignity. It aims to raise awareness of and enable constructive dialogue about prejudices that frequently lead to discrimination against individuals or groups.

Accordingly, when taking on this activity, it is important to realise that the main aim of the Living Library is predefined, whereas more detailed and specific objectives should define the desired realistic and achievable local impacts for your specific event.

By way of suggestion, you may want to develop your Living Library's detailed objectives in relation to:

- young people's awareness of stereotypes and prejudices and their negative consequences
- visibility of human rights issues
- reactions to current or recent events in your country or community (e.g. increase in hate crimes or human rights violations)
- a specific occasion directly related to the mission of the Living Library to promote tolerance and respect for human rights (e.g. Human Rights Day, World Refugee Day, etc.)



CHOOSING YOUR SETTING

One of the great strengths of the Living Library is that it is flexible enough to work almost anywhere, provided there are people! A Living library can last from two hours to a week and the number of Books can range from 10 to 100. Provided you have the space, you can do it almost anywhere!

Choosing a suitable and appropriate venue for your Living Library is vitally important and will have a profound effect upon the project that you ultimately deliver. In many cases, the setting will determine the days on which the Living Library will take place, the opening hours of the Library, the number of Books you are able to recruit and accommodate, as well as the level and nature of promotional activity your Library will need, both before and during the event. And last, but not least, the setting of your Living Library will determine the composition of your likely audience.

For instance, large public events, such as major music festivals like Roskilde or SZIGET, offer an opportunity to organise larger Living Libraries that have the potential to reach a very wide and diverse audience. At the same time however, while you may have a greater number of potential Readers, the Living Library is competing for the attention of the audience with many other events, activities and opportunities for your potential Readers. Organising a Living Library in a school, public library or at a conference offers an opportunity to target a more specific audience, but can require a great deal of promotion and publicity in order to guarantee visitor numbers.

Whichever option you choose to take, you should be aware that the effort of planning and preparing a Living Library will be equally demanding, whether the Living Library is part of a larger event or festival, or a stand-alone event running for just a few hours.



General considerations on the setting:

- The number of potential readers will be hard to predict during the preparation period. Nonetheless, one can make educated guesses. In a large festival, if 5000 people pass by the Living Library daily, probably 500 will stop to take a look, 200 might look at the Catalogue, and 50 might become Readers.
- The duration and opening hours of your Living Library should conform to the type of event it is part of and the nature of your audience. In a festival, it is recommended that your Library is open between midday and 7 PM, the closing time indicating the latest possible time a Book can be taken out.
- An informal, visually attractive, inviting and relaxed setting puts both Books and Readers at ease and promotes dialogue.
- The inner area of the Library (where the Books sit) should be visible, while being semi-closed so that public flow can be regulated. The space should be large enough to provide seats and tables for all Books as well as the Librarians.
- The Librarians should be located at a front counter at the entrance as they are the first point of contact for the Readers. Their counters should have a space large enough for several Readers to sit and leaf through the Catalogue.
- The physical setup should clearly suggest to potential Readers that they cannot simply walk up to any Book and start talking.
- There should be soft drinks, small snacks and reading material available for Books during the opening hours.
- The setup should consider the possibility of inclement weather.



The Living Library as part of a festival or other large-scale event

The festival setting offers many advantages to the Living Library organiser. Summer festivals, youth events and NGO fairs often have large audiences and are primarily attended by young people and those generally open to a cultural experience. Typically, festival grounds are parks or other natural surroundings that provide many places for Readers and Books enjoy their conversations. In addition, many people who visit festivals are not necessarily involved in civil society movements and may not otherwise attend a human rights activity, such as the Living Library, as a stand-alone event.

Another advantage of festivals is that the audience and the general atmosphere, is usually relaxed and highly tolerant. This does not mean that Readers at festivals have fewer prejudices than people elsewhere, but rather that festivals tend to create an atmosphere that complements the aims of the Living Library. A disadvantage however is that many festivals charge an entrance fee, therefore access to the Living Library is only available to those who have bought a ticket. Organisers should also take into consideration the possibility of inclement weather conditions affecting the numbers of visitors to the festival or Living Library.

The Living Library organiser would normally contact the festival organiser with a proposal for staging the activity. Many festivals and youth fairs actively seek interesting new activities, and this should work to your advantage. As we have already discussed, it is an organiser's responsibility to clearly and effectively communicate the aims and methodology of the Living Library to any potential partner or supporter, and this would include a festival organiser. If the interest and support of the festival organizer is unclear, or if their aims will conflict with the values of the Living Library, we would recommend that you do not continue to pursue organizing a Living Library in this setting. The motivation of the host to support and uphold the values of the Living Library the event needs to be evident and would preferably be accompanied by a written agreement.



Péter Wootsch has been involved with the Living Library as one of the organisers of the SZIGET Festival in Hungary.

It was not difficult for one of the organisers of the Living Library at the 2000 Roskilde festival to convince me, one hot spring day in 2001 in the garden of the European Youth Centre Budapest, of the value of the Library for the SZIGET Festival's Civil Island section. However, the festival was just two and a half months away, and it was not easy to prepare the project so quickly. First of all, we had to understand clearly how the Living Library worked and how it is possible to implement it in practice. The result of the Living Library in 2001 was far from perfect. In planning for 2002, we tried to avoid obvious mistakes of the past; we began preparing earlier, training the librarians and involving them in the planning. We were more careful in choosing and briefing the Books and we introduced a slogan "Just read, don't judge." The Living Library was open for seven days and we ran it with 32 books and had more than 300 readers. The new T-shirt was very popular and with a special offer to our Readers ("Get a free t-shirt after reading four books") we substantially increased our loans.

Large festivals usually have a rigid infrastructure and are often commercial events, charging entrance fees to visitors. At the same time, space is often limited and the hosts have to meet many different requests. When negotiating with festival organisers, it is important to get their agreement to support the Living Library by providing:

- free festival passes for Books and staff
- the possibility to transport material and set up on site before the opening of the festival
- special access for Books with disabilities (e.g. a car pass)



- a central yet relatively quiet location for the Library, with sufficiently large space to accommodate all Books and Readers
- equipment, such as tents, chairs, tables, and access to electricity
- inclusion in promotional materials (festival programme, announcements, press releases, etc)
- access to camping grounds
- access to toilet and shower facilities
- additional financial support

In return, Living Library organizers should formulate realistic demands regarding space and the support they will require. They should also make efforts to mention the hosts as sponsors/supporters in all written and promotional materials, acknowledging their support in brochures, and printing the festival logo on all Library materials, though this should remain secondary to any Living Library branding.



The Living Library in a public or academic library

Public and academic libraries have hosted many Living Libraries to date. A Living Library in a public library will usually last for a few hours or maybe a whole day and might feature a smaller number of Books than a festival Living Library. The advantage of hosting a Living Library in a public or academic library is that you have an opportunity to use a regular footfall to your advantage. It is unlikely that the majority of visitors that day will come to the library to borrow a “living” book. However, if staff are proactive with promotion and engage with customers in a positive manner, many visitors will become Living Library Readers too.

If you choose a public library, promotional activities both before and during the event will ultimately determine the success of your Living Library. You must find a way to inspire the local community to visit the library, especially if they are not regular library users. If your promotion is successful you will attract new visitors to the library through the Living Library project (although your aim should remain challenging prejudice, this would be a welcome additional benefit).

The Living Library in a main square or public park

Another possible setting for Living Libraries could be the main squares and public parks in towns and cities, and even villages. Living Libraries in settings like this may be stand-alone events or might form part of wider celebrations such as public festivals, street parties, national or international celebrations. If your event is not attached to a larger event, the ultimate success of the Living Library will depend upon the number of people that pass by, and therefore the number of Readers will be hard to predict. However, organizing a Library in a main square or city park will be successful provided that there has been an intensive promotional campaign, particularly if you can involve local media.

Setting up a Living Library in a town or city centre is similar to organizing a Living Library within a large event. There are some advantages to this choice of setting: the Living Library may be the only activity in the surrounding area so visitors passing by are more likely to participate. Another advantage is that you get to choose the exact location of your Living Library (provided the local authority has



given you permission), and have more control over the way the Living Library is set up. Although there are some disadvantages too – you will need to provide all the materials yourself: chairs, tents, benches, tables, refreshments and possibly even toilets! In addition, if the Living Library is due to last for more than one day you might need to set it up and take it down each day depending upon the policies of the local authority and the security measures in places at the venue.

An advantage in a public setting is that you will get all sorts of visitors, from a wide range of professions, age groups and backgrounds. This gives you much more potential to challenge prejudice across the community, but might require a larger skill-set among your staff. If you understand your community well you can arrange to recruit staff volunteers who are capable and trained to engage with any type of visitor.

In addition, a Living Library in a public setting will also attract visitors interested in participating in the project as Books, volunteers, or potential partners and supporters. Visitors may include those already working in human rights, equalities or within the NGO sector who can promote the event on your behalf (this is very rare in festivals).

The Living Library in schools

Schools are a fantastic venue for a Living Library. As an organizer you are in a privileged position: you are offering a fun and innovative learning experience to a captive audience of young people. Living Libraries in schools can last for a few hours, or maybe a whole day, but should not exceed this timescale due to the impact upon the school's timetable. However, they can be hosted at different times throughout the school year and repeated each subsequent year for a different age group.

There are many advantages for a school in hosting a Living Library:

- Students will learn social skills and increase their understanding of minority groups.



- Students will become familiar with local issues and might even become inspired to become active within their communities
- Students will get first hand experience of learning from real life stories

Trygve Augestad was the local coordinator for a Living Library hosted at Alvarn Ungdomsskole (Alvarn Youth School) in Nesodden, Norway. It was organised by Norsk Folkehjelp (Norwegian People's Aid) in October 2003:

The Living Library was organized in connection with "International Week" at the Alvarn Community Youth School for 84 students. Norwegian "People's Aid", in co-operation with "Stop the Violence" Denmark, wanted to try out the concept of the Living Library as an educational method in a school environment. We established contact with three teachers at the school who expressed interest in the concept, and decided to organise the event for the students during normal classes. We were given a three-hour time frame for the activity, and the aim was to give the students new knowledge about people and groups that they have little or no regular contact with, and to bring issues of stereotypes and prejudices to their attention. The description of the stereotypes and prejudices was written in cooperation with the Books, and handed to the school the day before the event. The teachers then presented the Books to the students and made a list of their requests, which they in turn distributed to the Books. We set up some rules for loan and had a maximum of 5 readers per Book and a limit of 3 Books per reader. 84 out of the 350 students at the school were invited to take part as readers. The interest from the other students was overwhelming, but time constraints and the limited number of Books meant we had to apply this limit. The Books were pre-ordered by the students, and the list of loans was ready when the excited students showed up at the school media centre.

There are various ways you can organise a Living Library in schools:

- During classes – but here you must ensure that the classes are at least 90-minute long to ensure that students can borrow at least two Books.



- As a day event together with other organized activities taking place in the school.
- After classes.
- As a module consisting of a workshop and a Living Library together for a single class.

You have to consider a host of practical issues before deciding that arranging a Living Library at a school is feasible. As a start, you will need to negotiate with the school the day and time of the Living Library. You will have to make clear that it is you, the organiser who selects the final list of Books. You will have to prepare your Books regarding the type of school and the age of the students in order to enable the Books to accommodate their language and expressions to this particular audience.



YOUR TEAM – WHO IS WHO IN THE LIVING LIBRARY?

Organisers

It is strongly advised to assemble a core group of organisers from the outset, who will be enthusiastic about the Living Library and keen to introduce it in their community.

The organising team will be responsible for the planning, delivery and evaluation of the project. Based on experience, it is better to have a group of 5-7 people for the preparation phase and then involve more volunteers for the event itself; an organising group that is too big can be difficult to manage and motivate over a longer period.

If you work with a partner organisation, it is good to have a team made up of people representing each of the partners. Make sure already at the outset that all people on your team share the values of the Living Library and that they will not drop out because of some late realization that they do not want to work with a particular group (e.g. gay people or immigrants).

Books

As in a real library, the Books are the most important resource of the Living Library. It is important to put together a collection of good "literature" and to look after the Books well. The selection and recruitment of the Books is perhaps the most crucial, complex, and sensitive aspect of a Living Library.

Not everyone who wants to be a Book can be one. Books should consciously represent groups that are at risk of stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination. Books must be informed and trained on how to be a book. They have to be able to work well together and should be ready and able to talk about themselves. They should be both mentally and physically able and ready to be part of the Living Library. Books should have mature and stable personalities and be ready and able to communicate with wide array of Readers. Most importantly, they must be



authentic, with meaningful personal experiences on their subjects as well as reliable and willing to commit themselves to the expectations of the Living Library organisers.

Useful hints for would-be Books:

- Prepare yourself for your role of being a Book. You have to be convinced about the title you are representing.
- It can be useful to prepare some factual information (statistics, research, etc) in order to evaluate the relevance of information some readers might confront you with.
- Be yourself: be honest and open to talk. Listen carefully.
- Do not act another role or invent characteristics for yourself. The reader will eventually realize and you will lose credibility.
- Be ready to share your reflected personal experience. If questions become too intimate, feel free to say that you do not want to answer.
- Accept and remember that your Reader has borrowed your title and is interested mainly in that aspect of your personality. While it may feel limiting, this is normal in the context of the Living Library.
- While you might have to repeat yourself over and over to different Readers, try to treat each of your Readers as if he or she was the first one.
- Readers will be interested in your title for a variety of reasons. A good question to start the conversation is 'Why did you choose my book?'
- It may turn out that a reader is ignorant or for some reason becomes verbally aggressive and/or attempts to hold you responsible for a variety of social problems. Try to remain calm and show understanding, while expressing your disagreement where necessary.
- It may happen that you are borrowed by two or more people. While this can be very interesting, try to avoid being used to sort out differences of opinion between your Readers.
- If you work with a Dictionary, pause after every two-three sentences to ensure that everything you say is translated.
- If you feel uneasy or humiliated by a Reader, recall the rules of the Living Library: you have the right to end the discussion if you feel insulted.
- And above all, enjoy being a Book! It can be a very enriching and interesting experience.



Organisers should be mindful of the risks when inviting a Book that is simply interesting, but is not facing stereotyping or the risk of prejudice and discrimination. You can have more than one Book with the same title, especially when it comes to popular titles. This not only makes people generalize that particular title, but also, as a practical benefit, allows these popular Books to rest between readings.

Librarians

At the heart of the Living Library are the Librarians, who have the primary task of facilitating the loan of Books. The Librarians connect the reader and the Book: they are the first people the Readers come into contact with and must be able to communicate and work patiently with Books and Readers alike during the sometimes complicated and delicate deliberations and decision making processes.

If possible, it is recommended to recruit trained and experienced (i.e. real) librarians to fill the role in your Living Library as they already possess most of the skills necessary for the many practical functions they are expected to fill, such as issuing the Books, filling out library cards, updating the available list of Books, handing out and collecting evaluation questionnaires and guarding the Living Library's rules.

Librarians are responsible for issuing the Books. Their responsibilities include managing a desk or central point where records of loans are made and evaluations completed. Depending on context, other duties may include issuing library cards, counting Readers and handing out evaluation questionnaires and other administrative functions.

Librarians also have an important explanatory function: they help Readers understand the concept, find the relevant Book and understand the library rules. Librarians also might be approached by the press during the event, and therefore it is important that they have relevant and accurate information about the organisers and the hosts. A typical Living Library would need at least two Librarians working simultaneously and, for practical purposes, should be easily recognisable by their t-shirts or badges.



Good advice from past Librarians:

- Get to know the content and interesting facts about the Books in your collection prior to the event.
- Be strict in applying the library rules and demand the same from Readers and Books.
- Document all loans accurately.
- Set up a work-plan with your fellow Librarians.
- Use downtime to collect feedback from Readers and Books.
- Take good care of the Books and filter potentially difficult Readers (by redirecting the Reader to another Book, inviting them to stay within the library's premises or send an accompanying Dictionary).
- Get to know the environment of the library so that you can recommend places for reading outside the premises.

Staff

Volunteer staff are also crucial to the success of the Living Library. It should not be expected that merely organising a Living Library attracts Readers to participate. At every event volunteers and organisers must work in a variety of ways to ensure that the Books are read and that as many people as possible are given the opportunity to participate.

For all the organisers' time and effort to get everything ready in the build up, it will count for little if the event does not facilitate conversations on the day, or days, that it lasts. Staff are the people who will do this, so equally, without Staff there is no Living Library.

Staff members – In addition to attending to logistics, safety and security, press and media relations, and host relations – have two crucially important roles to fill:



Facilitators/Promoters

Facilitators/Promoters possibly have the most difficult job. They are responsible for engaging potential participants and encouraging them to become Readers. They must be confident communicators with a good understanding of the methodology. At large events they could also distribute promotional material and assist in evaluation by handing out and collecting readers' questionnaires.

Dictionaries/Translators/Interpreters

The special Books are responsible for providing translation services for another language or if the Book or the Reader requires further assistance due to disability or physical condition.



GEJ

Je poženšen?

Veliko menjava partnerje?

Ne sme imeti otrok?

Popolnoma razume ženske?

Ima smisel za lepoto in umetnost?

GAY

He is feminised?

He is promiscuous?

He is not allowed to have children?

He understands women?

He has a sense for beauty and art?

THE CATALOGUE

As it was already mentioned above, the compilation of the catalogue – and the subsequent recruitment of the Books that fit your needs – is the most difficult and sensitive, yet also the most crucial part of the preparation of your Living Library event. The size and content of your catalogue will differ according to the setting and the capacity of your Living Library.

General guidelines

The Book titles must relate to a representative group of people who are frequently subjected to stereotyping, prejudices and are at the risk of facing discrimination. It is the organisers' responsibility to interpret these guidelines in their own specific context, ensuring that their selection adheres to the values and mission of the Living Library.

The catalogue should be large enough to offer a real choice to the Readers, but at the same time it should not exceed the capacities of the organisers, in terms of available space and the resources required for recruiting, briefing, and looking after the Books. From experience, it is possible to suggest that a catalogue should include a minimum of twenty Books for it to be interesting, and be limited to no more than fifty Books to remain manageable.

The Book titles should be accompanied by descriptions detailing some of the frequently encountered stereotypes and prejudices. It is helpful to collect and discuss these before finally deciding on the Book titles.

Book titles

The following list gives some examples of successful book titles used previously in Living Libraries. The list is neither exhaustive nor binding; it simply aims to give inspiration for organisers preparing their final list to the setting where the Living Library is staged.



Animal Rights Activist, Asylum-Seeker, Black Person, Blond Woman, Blind Person, Born-Again Christian, Disabled Person, Ex-Drug Abuser, Ex-Neo Nazi, Ex-Prisoner, Feminist, Gay Person, Homeless Person, Jew, Lesbian, Muslim, Priest, Police Officer, Rabbi, Unemployed Person.

Compiling the catalogue

Compiling the catalogue for the Living Library involves three main steps:

- deciding on the criteria and composition of the collection,
- allocating the most frequent stereotypes and prejudices to the individual titles, and
- producing the actual catalogue to be presented to the Readers.

Criteria for the collection

The best approach to putting together the collection is often a brainstorming session between the organisers and, possibly, experts they might want to invite. Brainstorming involves listing on a flipchart those people in your community who could be subjected to stereotyping and prejudice. At this point, the goal is to simply get a list on paper. It is not advisable to use catalogues developed in a different cultural context without thorough revision and adaptation. Once you have your list, start whittling it down by eliminating those that do not find consensus in your group. This process will result in a shortlist, ideally anywhere between 20 and 50 Books, guided by the size of your event and the resources and possibilities available to you as the organiser.

When finalizing your catalogue, you are advised to take into account the following considerations:



- The titles should be concise and easy to understand. Stereotypes, prejudices – and, therefore, the eventual Book titles – are not exceedingly complicated and you should strive for simplicity and accessibility in order to make it easier for Readers to navigate the catalogue.
- The catalogue should include a diverse array of Books in order to attract a large number of potential Readers. A ‘specialized’ Living Library would likely attract only a limited audience and lose its attraction by appearing too narrow. This diversity you should strive for means recruiting Books from all walks of life and not composing a catalogue solely of, for instance, ethnic minorities or women who have been discriminated against.
- One possible limited interpretation of groups suffering discrimination could be based on legally existing anti-discrimination standards, such as those listed in the European Convention of Human Rights. In this case, the Books might stand for certain religious, sexual or ethnic minorities, such as gays or lesbians, Muslims or Roma.
- A wider interpretation also responds to prevalent, locally recognisable stereotypes of people according to their appearance, profession, or their consumption habits or lifestyle.
- The catalogue might also include representatives of professions particularly stereotyped by young people, such as teachers or social workers.
- The Living Library can provide a possibility to get to know young people’s subcultures and affiliations by including books such as Skateboarder, Graffiti Artist, and so on. This is particularly interesting for young people who may be prejudiced against members of a subculture other than their own.

Finally, and importantly: given the strong educational dimension of the Living Library, it is not advisable to include Books in the catalogue that could potentially promote unhealthy or dangerous behaviour (such as Drug Addict or Football Hooligan),



morally and politically questionable views (such as Neo Nazi), or those who might try to use the opportunity to promote their own interests or narrow mission, as with members of aggressively proselytizing sects or sales representatives. On the other hand, it is advisable to include Books that have overcome an addiction or successfully changed negative, destructive or antisocial behaviour (such as Former Drug Abuser, Former Bank Robber, or Former Skinhead). In such cases, it is best to recruit Books known personally to the organisers or those that come reliably recommended.

Allocating stereotypes to the Book titles

For each title on your list, you should try and collect the most frequent stereotypes and prejudices associated with it. The list of stereotypes and prejudices for each title should be agreed upon by consensus and should then be finalised by the Books themselves once they have been recruited. It is essential that the Books agree with the list of stereotypes and prejudices listed under their titles. Experience has shown that Books often make important changes and additions during the briefing meeting.

When finalizing the list of stereotypes and prejudices associated to each title, it is worth keeping in mind the following points:

- Readers usually glance through the catalogue quickly and therefore the language should not be complicated or overly technical.
- Simple adjectives are the best way to formulate rough prejudices ('dirty', 'lazy', 'dangerous', etc) but you should also consider including short half sentences if necessary ('not good enough for a real job' is easier to understand than 'unemployable', for instance).
- Slang can be helpful, but try to avoid foul language.
- Try to have no less than four and no more than seven adjectives/ statements when describing a Book.



- You may consider phrasing the stereotypes/prejudices as questions instead of statements (e.g. ‘Feminist: Hates men?’ vs. ‘Feminist: Hates men.’). This approach has the welcome effect of not appearing to confirm the given stereotype or prejudice and already encouraging putting these questions directly to the Books and enabling them to refute the implicit statement.

Producing the catalogue

The physical catalogue of the Living Library is the main tool for engaging the potential Readers once they have shown sufficient interest to approach the Library and consider taking out a Book. It is most often the basis for their choice among the Books and it should therefore be visually attractive, easy to leaf through, written clearly and concisely and, last but not least, sturdy to withstand heavy usage during the course of one or possibly more Living Library events.

Here are some practical suggestions for the catalogue:

- At large-scale events many people will browse through the catalogue without necessarily becoming Readers. Use materials resistant to dust, dirt, rain and that can be easily cleaned after a busy day.
- Ring binders provide the ideal cover for the catalogue as they allow for easy changes and additions (as the collection might change during the course of a multi-day event).
- Produce one sheet per Book on A4-sized paper. Protect them either by using plastic sleeves or by laminating them.
- The Book titles should be large type and bold to enable quick and easy recognition.



- Produce several copies of the catalogue (3-4 for a larger event). There will be peak times when plenty of people might want to browse through your catalogue as they become intrigued by seeing others studying it. Make sure you have more catalogues to go around so that no one loses interest due to having to wait to see the catalogue.
- Consider producing multi-lingual catalogues for events like festivals, where your reading public is multinational.
- If you have Books that speak additional languages, add those to their catalogue pages.
- If you have Dictionaries, you should add the list of available languages in the catalogue.



Section 3:

The Living Library in Practice



PLANNING, PREPARATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Living Library is a project that requires detailed organization and good delegation. Important considerations that influence the amount of work involved include:

- the size of the Library and the number of Books involved
- the duration of the activity and the opening hours
- the degree and nature of the support from the venue host
- the available budget for promotion and promotional materials

In general, the planning, preparation and implementation of a Living Library event can be divided into three principal work areas:

- 1. Budgeting, Venue and Physical Setup**
- 2. Preparing the Content and Running the Library**
- 3. Materials, Promotions, and Evaluation**

In the following pages – using the three main work areas as our framework – we are offering a detailed implementation toolkit for Living Library organizers to help them put the methodology into practice.



BUDGET, VENUE AND PHYSICAL SETUP

Budget

The cost of Living Library events can vary greatly, depending on their length, the number of Books involved, or the nature of their venue.

How much is your event or project going to cost? In order to budget for your expenses you must plan for any potential costs related to the various ingredients of a Living Library event:

Venue

Are there any costs incurred by the venue you have chosen? If so what are they?

- Is there a charge for occupying your desired venue?
- Do you need insurance?
- If the setting is a festival, are tables and chairs included or will you need to hire them separately? Will you need entrance tickets for your team?
- How much time will this take to organise?

People

Are there any costs associated with people?

- Will you have to pay per-diems for Books and staff?
- Will you have to provide transport for Books and Staff?
- How many people do you need to transport?
- How much will refreshments cost for your team?
- How much time will it take to organize the people?

Materials

How much will event materials cost?

- How many t-shirts will you need for Books and Staff?
- How many banners/posters/flyers will you need? What other signage do you need? How much will signage cost?



- Do you have access to a printer for event materials such as the Catalogue and Library Cards?
- How much time will it take to organize the event materials?

Promotion

How much will promotional materials cost? What do you need?

- How many posters/flyers will you need?
- Do you plan to advertise in magazines or newspapers or the radio? How much does that cost?
- How much time will it take to organize promotion?

Evaluation

Will my evaluation incur any costs?

- How many evaluation forms will you need?
- How many Books will you recruit?
- How many readers do you want to attract?
- How much time will it take to assess the feedback?

If you are preparing for your first Living Library event it is worth remembering that you will have to devote considerable time and effort (and therefore ultimately, money) for the search and recruitment of books, partners, venues and some visibility and equipment items. Most of these startup investments, however, will continue to serve your organisation for years to come. Consequently, costs for subsequent Living Libraries are likely to be much lower than those associated with the first one.

Venue and physical setup

Choosing a suitable venue is very important and your choice can have a huge impact on the Living Library that you eventually deliver. The venue directly impacts upon the number of Books and Staff you will recruit, how much



promotion and publicity you will require, the opening hours of your event, and how many Readers you can potentially attract.

Now is the time to return to your list of potential venues and make an analysis of each venue using the following criteria:

- Context of your event or project
- Location of the venue
- The space available to you
- The facilities on site
- Any costs you will incur
- The number of Readers you can potentially attract
- The Opening Hours of your Living Library

An example of this kind of analysis is given below:

Venue	Context	Location	Space	Facilities	Venue-related Costs	Potential for Readers	Opening Hours
Public Library	Stand Alone	Central Location	Good space	Toilets, Tables, Chairs Good Access	None	High	Daytime All week
Public Building (City Hall)	Stand Alone	Central Location	Limited Space	Toilets, Tables, Chairs Good Access	None	Less visitors (will require more promotion)	Daytime All week except sunday
School	Regular	Suburbs	Good space	Toilets, Tables, Chairs Good Access	None	Students Pupils Or Parents on Open Day	Daytime weekdays or weekend open day
Festival	Part of programme	Festival	Less space	Will need to be provided. Good Access	Festival access	High but competition with other events	According to festival opening



Context

You must ensure that the venue you choose is appropriate for your Living Library. To do this it is worth looking at the context in which your Living Library will be set:

- Will your Living Library be part of a larger event or are you planning to hold a stand-alone event?
- What time of year is your event taking place? Will it be hot, cold or wet? Is your venue suitable for the time of year?
- Will the venue impact upon the time you begin and end your Living Library?

Location

If your Living Library forms part of a larger event the location may be out of your control. If your Living Library is stand-alone you will need to consider the best venue available to you.

- Are you working within a specific community or geographical area? If so is your venue a suitable community space?
- Will you attract high numbers of visitors at this venue?
- Is the venue accessible?
- Will Books and Readers be able to have conversations safely?
- At festivals: does your Library's proximity to the various music and party venues allow for proper conversations to take place?

If you want to work with a specific community or in a certain area, then you may wish to carry out some consultation with Books and potential Readers and settle on a place that feels comfortable to all.

Space

The decisions you take regarding the context and location of your Living Library have to be balanced with the physical space that you will require. You may have to



compromise at this point: for example, the location may be crucial to achieving your aims so your plans may need to be adapted in order to make best use of the space available.

Facilities

Organisers also need to consider the facilities available at the venue.

- Is the building accessible to everyone you hope will take part?
- Can refreshments be provided by the venue or will you need to bring these with you?
- Does the venue have chairs and tables and the materials required to run the event or will these need to be transported there?
- Does the venue have available toilets?
- Does the venue have space available for praying?



PREPARING THE CONTENT AND RUNNING THE LIBRARY

For new organisers recruiting Books can be one of the most demanding tasks and can create great anxiety. It is common to wonder where and how you will find Books. And once you have found them it is equally common to feel anxious about whether they are suitable for the Living Library, or whether it will be a positive experience for them. After all, without Books there is no Living Library.

If you are organising an event for the first time you may also have some anxieties about how you will staff the event. Although an organising team can be fairly small in number, your event may require a larger staff team, especially if you have a large number of Books (say, over fifteen). You will need to ensure that both Books and volunteer staff are trained so that they can confidently deliver the event that you have been planning all this time.

Recruiting Books

By now, you should have a clear understanding of the methodology behind the Living Library and you have a list of all the Book titles that you would like to include. With this knowledge and preparation, finding Books should be much easier. The list of potential Books means that you are already aware of the type of experiences that Books will need. In fact, you may already have in mind several people who may be suitable. Even so, at this point we advise you to find some partner organisations or contacts / individuals who can help you to recruit the most suitable Living Books.

It can be really useful to utilise the experience of professionals who work with the kind of people you are looking for. For example, if you want to challenge prejudice towards young people you might contact a youth worker who can help you promote the Living Library to young people and who is likely to be in touch with people who have the right skills and experience to become a Book.

Therefore, using the list of potential Books that you have already created, start to think about which agencies, organisations, individuals, or NGOs might be able to help you find these people – indeed, in many instances staff members or volunteers



from these organisations will be ready and keen to take part in your event as Books. Once again, you have a responsibility to communicate the methodology of the Living Library to these partners in order for them to communicate it effectively and accurately to their clients.

Once you have identified potential Books it is essential that they complete a registration form and that one of your team meets with them to assess their suitability. If you are confident that they are suitable, you should invite them to a training day prior to your event.

If, for any reason, you have doubts about the suitability of a Book you will need to talk to them to explain your decision. You may still wish to offer that person the chance to get involved in another way - either as a volunteer Staff member or as a Reader. It may be that the individual in question was unsuitable at the time but may be suitable in future, in which case you may want to retain their involvement in the project.

Recruiting Staff

The first place to look for staff is within your own organisation or partner organisations. You may have potential candidates already in mind and may be in a position to staff the event entirely from within your current workforce. However, this is not always possible and so you might have to look for volunteers. A good place to start is with your local volunteer coordinating body. They are likely to have a network of volunteers that you could potentially recruit and may also be in touch with other agencies who regularly work with volunteers. They may also wish to become a supporting partner for your project.

It is also worth asking the agencies that you have identified to help you recruit Books if they can supply some volunteer staff. This has many benefits: you know that they understand the purpose of the Living Library and why they are involved, and they have an established relationship with the Books they have helped you to recruit. The skills and knowledge they will bring may be useful at the event if a Book requires additional support.

Alternatively you may have to advertise for volunteers. This might be more challenging and time-consuming and may incur some costs.



No matter where you draw your team, it is you, the organiser, who is responsible for training and managing this team. You may wish to delegate the management of the Staff team to a team leader, but if so, you must continue to communicate with this individual to ensure that the team is confident and prepared to deliver the event. The overall responsibility for the Staff team lies with the main organizer.

Briefing Your Books and Staff

It is highly recommended that once you have recruited your Books and your Staff you organise a briefing meeting for the entire Living Library team. While the Books, the Librarians, as well as the support staff have will received basic information already during the recruitment process, this meeting will help to clarify open questions, address possible anxieties and put the Living Library in the context of the organisers. The meeting is primarily important for the Books, but Librarians and support staff should also be present, if possible.

The meeting should take place in a quiet place in order to facilitate discussion and concentration – such as a large meeting room. The meeting should be scheduled for the later afternoon or a weekend, so that most of those involved in the project on a voluntary basis can attend. The meeting doesn't have to last longer than two hours and should facilitate discussion by a circular room setup.



In the box below, we are providing a sample agenda for a briefing meeting.

Briefing Meeting

- Welcome participants
- Introduction by the organisers, the librarians, and support staff and by the Books (name, Book title, association, where applicable)
- Review of the concept, aims and methodology of the Living Library
 - Why is it being organised?
 - What are the specific objectives?
 - What does it look like in practice?
 - What are the expectations of the participants?
 - General questions
- The role of the Book
 - The role and responsibilities of Books
 - The Catalogue
 - Explaining the rules of the Library
 - Working hours
 - Role-related questions
- Clarification of infrastructure and running of the Living Library
 - Provision of all relevant background documents (rules for readers, tasks of the Books, PR materials) to participants
 - Possibility for each Book to check and revise his/her page in the Catalogue
 - Agreement on working hours and the planned attendance of individual Books
- Refreshments, informal discussion between all participants



MATERIALS, PROMOTIONS, AND EVALUATION

Materials

One of the many benefits of organising a Living Library is that it can be successful with only a small amount of event materials. At the same time, if you have the financial resources, you can create a highly stylised and branded event that will add a visual impact to the project.

Every Living Library requires some core resources that are the same in every setting, and this is the material that we are going to focus on here. A list of additional material is provided at the end of this section.

Each event will require three areas: an Issue Desk, a Reading Space and a Bookshelf.

The Issue Desk

This is the point of contact with the public and is the central point of your Living Library. It is from here that Books are issued to Readers.

The Reading Space

Put simply, this is where the conversations take place.

The Bookshelf

And put simply again, this is an area where Books can wait while they are not being read, or where they can take a break.

Issue Desk Material

At the Issue Desk you will require a few tables for the material that allows you to record the number of visitors and the number of loans, to hold the library cards, and to display material relating to the methodology of the Living Library. (Samples of this material are provided in Section 4 of this guide).



You also need to make it easy for Readers to see who is in your Living Library, in which case it is worth attempting to have some kind of Availability Board displaying all of the Book titles. You may wish to make this an interactive feature of your event, with laminated titles that can easily be moved from 'Available' to 'On Loan' or 'In Conversation'.

In addition, it is worth making a large sign that you can display outside the event to attract potential readers. You could use the Living Library logo for this, or design one yourself in the appropriate language. Either way branding is very important and you should ensure that your event's visual identity is strong and attractive.

A suggested arrangement for your issue desk might include:

1. *Availability Board*

Here readers can see which books are available to loan and which books are in conversation. It is the responsibility of staff at the desk to keep this board up to date.

2. *Event-specific Information*

Opening times and information about the Human Library concept is displayed here.

3. *Branded Signage*

This has proved effective in drawing people to our desk. Branding helps to promote the concept and may be useful if you are planning a programme of events.

4. *Further Information Point*

This is where readers can get more information about some of the issues your Living Library is addressing, or the organisations that are supporting your event.



Reading Space

You must provide a space for conversations to take place and, depending upon the event setting, this may vary considerably.

At most events you will need to provide enough seating for the conversations to take place. Your chairs may be arranged in groups of two, with each chair facing each other. Alternatively, you may have benches and tables where Books and Readers find a space together.

If your event is at a festival (and provided that the weather is good) some conversations may take place away from the tent and Reader and Book may sit on the grass, or under a tree - somewhere away from your main desk. However, it is advisable that you make allowances for all conversations to take place under a tent in case there is poor weather, in which case you need to provide seating.

Bookshelf

At the Bookshelf you will require seating for Books and perhaps a small table for refreshments, reading material, board games or any other material that can help the Books relax and pass the time between two loans.

T-Shirts, Sashes and Bibs

Almost every Living Library in the world has invested in some form of clothing to identify who Books are. A person wearing a T-Shirt with 'BOOK' on the back or front not only adds to the intrigue that the event creates, but it empowers Books and helps Staff to identify where Books are.



Additional Materials

There are other materials which are optional but can add great value to your event. One such addition could be setting aside a space for evaluation. This can be useful in making evaluation become a feature of the whole Living Library experience, rather than just a task that you ask Readers to complete after they have read their Book.

Another thing to consider is showcasing some testimonies from previous events. These can be based upon feedback provided by Books and Readers and can be anonymous if necessary. This is a good way for Readers and potential new Books to understand what the Living Library is attempting to achieve, and what they are likely to experience. It also can inspire people to take part because they can see that others have had a positive experience.

Finally, it is worth considering what additional promotional material you may have, or may want to have. This could include leaflets advertising your next event, leaflets promoting the concept, information about how to become a Book, contact details of Organisers, and information about the global Human Library / Living Library project. In addition, you may wish to purchase additional banners which feature slogans such as “Don’t judge a Book by its cover”, “Borrow a Living Book”, or “People on Loan”. This is a good idea because it will give potential Readers an idea of what the Living Library is from much further away. People may be intrigued by a banner saying “People on Loan” and may come close to enquire as to what is happening.



Promotion

Organisers should begin the task of promoting the Living Library as soon as they have committed to an event. In which case you need to know exactly how, where, and to whom you are going to promote and market your event. Promotion should begin as soon as you have chosen your date, time and venue.

Many organisations have designated staff such as Communications Officers, Media Officers, Public Relations teams or people with similar roles. If this is the case, either for your organisation, the host venue or the festival you are part of, you need to make contact with this person or team as soon as possible. They will have established contacts with local or national media, promotion strategies already in place and knowledge of the principles of marketing.

As an organiser it is your job to communicate the details of the event effectively, so make sure that you provide clear information about your event and the wider Living Library project. It may even be helpful to let them have a look through this toolkit as it will help them understand the methodology of the Living Library, and how it actually works.

If you do not have access to a person or team that specializes in promotion, you can turn once again to your paragraph outlining what you are trying to do. This paragraph can now be recycled and adapted to promote the event to potential Books, Readers and Staff, or used as a press release, on posters, flyers, and instructional material. Do not simply use the same paragraph word for word, but adapt it to your audience – for example, promoting the Living Library to potential Books will require a different approach from promoting the event to the public and the language used will be slightly different.

The next step is to contact local newspapers, radio and TV broadcasters and let them know about your event. Providing an opportunity for Books to be interviewed has proven a good way to publicize events as it provides a very good ‘human interest’ angle, and empowers the Books to feel that this really is their event, and that they are making a difference.



„Daß irgendein Mensch auf Erden ohne Vorurteil sein könne, ist das größte Vorurteil.“*



When promoting your Living Library to the media is it crucial that you give a clear and consistent message about what the concept is and why it is important to your community. If you fail to do this, all your hard work could be undone by just a few seconds on a Radio show or in one page of a newspaper. Remember, the Living Library is organised to challenge prejudice and encourage greater understanding of difference and for no other reason.

You also need to promote your event to potential venues. Some venues might be attracted to the prospect of hosting an event if they know that it is going to receive media attention, or attract high visitor numbers. These are potential benefits to you as an organiser and may provide a useful means of negotiation, however you should not compromise the Living Library in order to secure a venue.

Promoting the Living Library to potential partners is arguably the most important element to consider. Partners have the potential to help you secure a venue, recruit Books and Staff, attract readers, provide funding, promote the event within their networks, and help you to evaluate the event in the follow up. You may need to work on a presentation or short script that you can use to attract potential partners to your project, and be prepared to perform this many times over! You will meet lots of people and organisations along the way, and after a time the presentation of the Living Library will become second nature.

However, take care not to lose sight of the methodology during this period. Partners may wish to see some benefits for their organisation and may wish to change or adapt the Living Library in order to commit. If this is the case then they are not a suitable partner. You should only work with partners who can see the Living Library for what it is and fully support the methodology.

This may mean that some potential partners are left out initially until you can invite them to the event so that they can see the benefits for themselves and may wish to support future events or projects as a result of their experience.



For most organisations, the most efficient and cost-effective way for promoting their Living Library event will be through their own website and/or various social media applications, such as Facebook or Twitter. These channels offer virtually free and unlimited space for your event to be advertised and they also can serve as platforms to engage with your potential audience before, during, and after the event. These tools are increasingly taking the place of traditional media and their popularity among young people – one of the key audiences for the Living Library concept – means that they should be used heavily for the promotion of your event.

Organisers should consider setting up so-called “micro sites” within their organisations’ websites, focusing specifically on the Living Library. In addition, organisers can also create a specific event in Facebook (as part of their organisation’s already existing profile there) and dedicated event-feeds on Twitter for the Living Library in addition to their already existing presence on those platforms. This will make it possible to reach those of your general audience who are particularly interested in the Living Library.

Evaluation

The dimensions, intensity and methodology of any evaluation should be defined by the organisers during the preparation process. In order to get sufficient material for an evaluation, it will be important to define the evaluation criteria and procedures early on in the planning process.

Evaluation serves two main purposes in the context of the Living Library:

- The evaluation of the event in relation to the achievement of measurable objectives defined at the beginning of the planning phase.
- The evaluation of the experience of organisers, Librarians, and Books with the purpose of reflecting on common experiences, and improving the planning and implementation process and, possibly, the methodology itself for future events.



Collecting quantitative data

How many readers, how many loans, how many reading hours? What were the most popular Books and which were less in demand?

Answers to these questions give you an important overall picture on the working and success of the Living Library. Collecting these data is relatively simple and is an important task for the Librarians. They should register every loan on a list, indicating the title of the Book, the time of the loan and the return, and whether it was a first-time reader. Based on the data collected, simple statistics can be produced almost immediately after the conclusion of your event.

How many people showed interest, but didn't become readers?

This can be a complicated undertaking to record this data, but the Librarians could approximate it by keeping a simple 'tick-list'.

Press coverage

Collecting newspaper articles, television and radio reports that cover or simply reference your event.

Feedback via social media

Collecting "likes" on Facebook or followers on your event's designated Twitter feed are new yet interesting and, above all, relevant sources of information regarding the impact and popularity of your Living Library.



Collecting qualitative data

Questionnaires

Considering the large number of people involved in a Living Library, questionnaires are an easily manageable and adequate means of collecting data. They should be prepared and produced before the event, and distributed to Books and Readers during it to ensure a good return rate. Ideally, you should produce different questionnaires for each group and personal data should not be collected.

When it comes to Books, they are generally very happy and eager to share their experiences and reflect on them in writing. Their questionnaires should be handed out to them before the event and collected afterwards, by a given deadline. The Books' responses can be collected and summarized for briefing purposes for future Books. Feedback from both Books and Readers should be carefully studied by the organiser team and reflected upon for possible useful suggestions for future improvements or changes.

Sample questionnaires

In the final section of this publication, you will find two sample questionnaires: one for Readers and another one for Books. They are suggestions and of course you should feel free to modify them as you see fit in order to glean the most relevant information for your particular event. However, it is important that Readers' questionnaires are short and can be completed in a couple of minutes. The questionnaires should be handed out and collected by the Librarians. They also have to inform the Readers that the questionnaires are for internal evaluation purposes only and that the Readers are not required to share any personal data.



Evaluation meetings

Evaluation meetings often take place during the event; many teams like to have a short check-in at the end of the day. A more thorough evaluation, however, including the Books, Librarians, and volunteer staff should take place a few days or a couple of weeks after the event. It can be useful to invite other partner as well, such as the NGOs sourcing the Books and the hosts of the event.

“გადალახე ბარიერები,
დაძლიე შენი ცრურწმენები”



“გადალახე ბარიერები,
დაძლიე შენი ცრურწმენები”



Living Library 2011

22 ოქტომბერი, 14.00ს.
ვაჟის პარკი, თბილისი

Living Library 2011

22 ოქტომბერი, 14.00ს.
ვაჟის პარკი, თბილისი

თანამშრომლობით



თანამშრომლობით



Section 4:

Materials and Resources

VISIBILITY ITEMS



Poster of the Living Libraries Australia which is a partnership project between Lismore City Council and Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

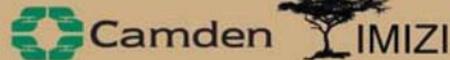
Visit the **LIVING** library and take out your prejudice...

People face prejudice every day.
In the **LIVING** library you could “take out” a
person who faces prejudice. Have a chat with
a goth, get to know a refugee or have a cup of
tea with a Ex-gang member.

Come and take out yours on
Sunday 20 April 12-4pm
Swiss Cottage Central Library

88 Avenue Road London NW3 3HA Enquiries: Tel. 020 7974 6522
www.camden.gov.uk/swisscottagelibrary

Tube: Swiss Cottage (Jubilee) Bus: C11, 13, 31, 46, 82, 113, 187, 268



In the **Living Library** books
are people. The shelves are
full of people who belong to
groups who frequently face
prejudices in society. In the
Living Library you can take out
your own worst prejudice
- choose from our catalogue!



LIVING library
Take out a prejudice

Announcement of the Living Library organised at the Swiss Cottage Library in London, UK.



V
ŽIVA
 V
KNJIZNICA
 Ne sodi knjige po platnicah!

26. maj in 6. – 8. julij 2007
 Prešernov trg, Ljubljana



Poster announcing the Living Library organised in Ljubljana, Slovenia in 2007.



Banners used at the Living Libraries organised by the European Youth Centre Budapest in the Sziget Festival and other events in Hungary.

living library
BOOK/KÖNYV
ÉLŐ KÖNYVTÁR

living library
CREW
ÉLŐ KÖNYVTÁR

living library
READER/OLVASÓ
ÉLŐ KÖNYVTÁR

don't judge a book by its cover



nézz a borító mögé!

Design of Book, Crew and Reader T-shirts used by the European Youth Centre Budapest during their Living Libraries organised in Sziget Festivals and other events in Hungary.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Guidelines For Loans From The Living Library

Before you are ready to take out a prejudice from the Living Library, you will need to register at the desk. Accept the rules of the living Library and get your free Library card.

Duration of Loans

The Living Library book must be returned to the Library no later than 30 minutes after the time of check out. Please respect the deadline and the closing hours of the living Library. You are only allowed to loan one book at a time. Loans can be extended or renewed by the librarians, unless the book is reserved for another reader. The last loan time is 3.30pm.

The Librarian Service

The Librarians are there to help you choose a living book that reflects your prejudice. To aid you in identifying stereotypes, the librarians have a list of the available literature, with examples of the most common stereotypes.

Living Library Card

You will need to fill in some basic details. All your loans will be registered on your card. A book can be shared by a maximum of two adults, or a family.

Where Can We Go?

The living Book may be taken around the Library but not out of the building. The Book will be familiar with the reading areas available so choose a quiet spot together to chat. You are not allowed to take the living book home with you or to lend it to someone else.

How To Go About It

Please remember that all living books have kindly volunteered to be lent out as examples of some of the most common prejudices in our society.

They must be returned to us in the same condition as they were in at the time of check out.

You are encouraged to ask questions and share your own point of view, but always with respect for the person who has volunteered. The living Book can choose to cut the loan short and return to the library if they feel they are being mistreated.

The original idea of a "Living Library" was initiated by the Danish youth movement "Stop the Violence" in the year 2000. The methodology was developed further by the European Youth Centre Budapest and the Living Library became part of the Council of Europe's youth programme on human rights education in 2003. For further information, please consult www.coe.int/hre

Rules of the Living Library from a brochure from the UK.

Élő Könyvtár! – Nézz a borító mögé!

Idén újra!

Ha már kipróbáltad, és tetszett; ha tavaly már láttál minket, de nem volt időm benézni, vagy ha most hallasz rólunk először:

Elgondolkodtál már azon, hogy milyen előfeltevések vannak másokkal szemben? Vagy azon, hogy mások mit tartanak rólad? Benned is sok stereotípia él például a romákról, zsidókról, rendőrökről, jegyellenőrökről, papokról, pszichológusokról, feministákról és melegekről, ex-bűnözőkről és eurókatrálról, fogyatékkal élőkről vagy a szőke nőkről? Még sohasem volt alkalmaid rá, hogy elbeszélges velük és megtudd milyen az életük?

Ha kész vagy szembenézni saját előfeltevéddel, és szeretnél személyesen találkozni 'stereotípiáiddal', akkor iratkozz be az Élő Könyvtárba, ahol a könyvek beszélni tudnak!

Hogy működik az Élő Könyvtár?

- Az Élő Könyvtár a Civil Szíjgöten található, az Európai Ifjúsági Központ sátra mellett.
- Amikor először keressz fel a Könyvtárat, beíratkozol, és kapsz egy **Élő Könyvtár olvasójegyet**. A beíratkozással elfogadod a kölcsönzésre vonatkozó szabályokat.
- A könyvtári katalógusból kiválaszthatod, melyik könyvet szeretnél elolvasni.
- Az Élő Könyvtár szótárt is tud biztosítani, ha olyan könyvet választottál, amelynek nyelvét nem beszéled.
- A kiválasztott könyvet a Szíjgöten területén belül bárhol olvashatsz, egy óra leteltével pedig vissza kell vinned az Élő Könyvtárba.
- Az Élő Könyvtár ingyen áll a beíratkozott olvasók rendelkezésére.

Milyen szabályok vonatkoznak az Élő Könyvtár olvasóira?

- Csak azok a beíratkozott olvasók kölcsönözhetnek könyvet, akik elfogadják a Könyvtár szabályait.
- Egyszerre csak egy könyv kölcsönözhető.
- A könyv egy órára kölcsönözhető, utána vissza kell vinni az Élő Könyvtárba. Az olvasó maximum egy órával hosszabbíthatja meg a kölcsönzési időt a könyvtáronnal.
- Az olvasónak a könyvet ugyanolyan fizikai és lelki állapotban kell visszazolgáltatnia, ahogy az kikölcsönözte. Tilos a könyvet megromlítani, a lapokat kitépni vagy elszakítani, étellel vagy itallal kóntani és másolásában bármilyen módon megsejteni. Az olvasó felül a könyv állapotának megőrzéséért.
- Az olvasó elfogadja, hogy a könyv bármikor megszakíthatja a beszélgetést, ha úgy érzi, hogy az olvasó nem megfelelő módon bánik vele vagy méltóságát megsérti.

Törzsolvasóknak nyremény!

A törzsolvasók egy „Élő Könyvtár – Olvasó” pólót kapnak ajándékba, miután a harmadik elolvasott könyvet visszahozzák!

Nyitvatartás:

Az Élő Könyvtár naponta 12 és 20 óra között tart nyitva, a könyveket legkésőbb 19 óráig lehet kikölcsönözni!

Az Élő Könyvtárat a Civil Szíjgöten a Budapesti Európai Ifjúsági Központ szervezi a Szíjgöten Iroda támogatásával.

Living Library - Don't judge a book by its cover!

Here we are again!

If you already visited it and liked it; if you saw us last year but didn't have the time to pop in, or if this is the first time you hear about us:

Have you ever thought about your own prejudices and stereotypes about other people? Or the impression that other people might have about you? You have a lot of stereotypes for example about Roma people or Eurosats, disabled or about blond women? But you have never had the chance to speak to one of them to find out what his or her life is like?

If you are ready to face your own prejudices and stereotypical judgements and meet "your stereotype" personally, you should become a reader of the Living Library where books can speak!

How does the Living Library work?

- The Living Library is placed in the Civil Szíjgöten, next to the tent of the European Youth Centre.
- When you come for the first time, you will have to register as a reader to receive your **Living Library Pass**. By becoming a reader you accept the policy of the Living Library.
- From the library catalogue you can choose a book you would like to read.
- If your book is in a language you do not understand, the Living Library can also provide you with a dictionary.
- You can spend an hour with the book of your choice anywhere on the Szíjgöten. Then you must bring the book back to the Living Library.
- The services of the Living Library are free of charge for registered readers.

What are the rules for readers of the Living Library?

- Only registered readers who have accepted the Library rules can borrow a book.
- Only one book can be borrowed at a time.
- A book can be borrowed for one hour, and then it must be returned to the Living Library. Readers can extend reading time for a maximum of one extra hour with the librarian.
- The reader must return the book in the same mental and physical condition as borrowed. It is forbidden to cause damage to the book, tear out or bend pages, get food or drink spilled over the book or hurt her or his dignity in any other way. The reader is responsible for preserving the condition of the book.
- The reader accepts the fact that the book can quit the conversation if she or he feels that the reader treats her or him in an inappropriate manner or hurts her or his dignity.

Award for regular readers!

Regular readers will receive the attractive "Living Library Reader's T-Shirt" after returning the third book to the Library!

Opening hours:

The Living Library is open every day from 12h to 20h, last opportunity to borrow a book is 19h!

The Living Library on the Civil Szíjgöten is organised by the EYCB with the kind support of the Szíjgöten Office.

Rules of the Living Library from the English-Hungarian LL brochure of the European Youth Centre Budapest.

Library Card  **LIVINGlibrary**
Takeout a prejudice

Name

City

Age Country

<input type="text"/> Book title	<input type="text"/> Date

English Reader's Pass of a library held in the UK.

 **ÉLŐ KÖNYVTÁR**
LIVING LIBRARY
Open Day 9 June

Név/Name: _____

OLVASÓJEGY
READER's PASS

Kölcsönzött könyvek
Book loans

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

Bilingual (English-Hungarian) Reader's Pass of the libraries organised by the European Youth Centre Budapest.

1 Social worker	1 Szociális munkás
Old hippie.	Vén hippí.
Badly dressed.	Rosszul öltözött.
Tries to like everybody	Megpróbál mindenkit szeretni.
Ugly.	Csúnya.
World-peace attitude.	Hisz a világbékében.
2 Yo-Yo fan	2 Jo-Jo kedvelő
Tries to be funny	Próbál vicces lenni.
Childish.	Gyerekes.
Infantile	Infantilis.
Maniac.	Mániás.
Shows off.	Felvágós.
Competitive.	Versengő.
Not serious.	Komolytalan.
Obsessive	Megszállott.
Out of fashion	Kiment a divatból.
3 Psychologist	3 Pszichológus
Rich.	Gazdag.
Manipulates you.	Manipulál.
Useless job.	Semmi haszna.
Can ask, but cannot answer.	Csak kérdezni tud, válaszolni nem.
Irritatingly calm.	Idegesítően nyugodt.
Thinks a lot about the client's money.	Sokat gondol a páciens pénzére.
4 Environmentalist	4 Környezetvédő
Smells bad.	Bűdös.
Self-made old clothes	Sajátmaga-varrtá, régi ruhák.
Missionary	Azt hiszi, küldetése van.
Idealistic but not realistic.	Idealista és nem realista.
Maniac.	Mániás
Obsessed	Megszállott.
Dangerous	Veszélyes.
5 Lesbian	5 leszbikus
Manlike.	Férfias.
Big, ugly.	Nagydarab, csúnya.
No dress sense.	Nincs érzéke az öltözködéshez.
Wants to be different.	Más akar lenni, mint a többiek.
Shows off about being lesbian	Felvág azzal, hogy leszbikus.
Hates men.	Gyűlöli a férfiakat.
6 Gay	6 Gay / Homoszexuális
Girlie.	Nőies.
Effeminate.	Puhány.
Shows off about being gay.	Felvág azzal, hogy homokos.
Wants to convert straight men.	Be akarja fűzni a hetero pasikat.
Very well dressed.	Igen jól öltözött.
Has some sexually transmitted disease.	Van valamilyen nemibetegsége.
Changes lovers frequently.	Gyakran váltogatja partnereit/szeretőit.
7 Ex-homeless	7 Volt hajléktalan
Rude.	Neveletlen.
Alcoholic.	Alkoholista.
Used to beat his family.	Verte a családját.
Ex-prisoner.	Börtöntöltelék.
Uneducated.	Műveletlen.
Unreliable	Megbízhatatlan.
Dirty and smelly.	Koszos és bűdös.
8 Punk	8 Punk
Weird hair.	Furcsa hajzat.
Wants to be different really badly.	Rettentő mód különbözni akar.
Dog collars and spikes.	Nyakörvek és szegecsek.
Rude, aggressive.	Neveletlen, agresszív.
Likes loud horrible music.	Rettenetes, hangos zenéket szeret.
9 Security guard	9 Biztonsági őr
Racist.	Rasszista.
Looks for trouble	Csak a bajt keresi.
Neanderthal.	Bunkó.
No education.	Nulla műveltség.
Likes power.	Szereti a hatalmat.
More muscles than brain.	Ízomagyú.
10 Refugee	10 Menekült
Big family.	Nagy családja van.
Does not want to return home.	Nem akar hazamenni.
Doesn't speak the language here.	Nem beszéli az itteni nyelvet.
Doesn't want to integrate here.	Nem akar integrálódni.

English-Hungarian bilingual list of prejudices: it is to be used in the catalogue to help possible readers meeting their own ones. The list can be a starting point for composing Living Library catalogues.



ÉLŐ KÖNYVTÁR LIVING LIBRARY

ALKOHOLISTA (JÓZAN)

- A társadalom kitaszítottja
- Labilis személyiség
- Örök vesztes
- Agresszív
- Munkanélküli
- Nincs önfegyelme
- Megbízhatatlan

ALCOHOLIC (SOBER)

- Social outcast
- On the edge personality
- Loser
- Aggressiv
- Unemployed
- Lacks discipline
- Unreliable



BIBLIOTHEQUE VIVANTE LEBENDIGE BIBLIOTHEK

ALCOOLIQUE (SOBRE)

- Exclu
- Personnalité instable
- Mentalité de perdant
- Agressif
- Chômeur
- Manque de discipline
- Peu fiable

ALKOHOLIKER (TROCKEN)

- gesellschaftlich geächtet
- labile Persönlichkeit
- Verlierertyp
- aggressiv
- arbeitslos
- undiszipliniert
- unzuverlässig

4-lingual (ENG-HUN-FRE-GER)sample page from the Living Library catalogue of the European Youth Centre Budapest, lists the prejudices against the alcoholic people in the society.

number	title	reader	time of borrowing	time of return
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				

Sample registration sheet (originally an MS Excel table) used by the librarian during Living Libraries organised by the European Youth Centre Budapest.

SAMPLE EVALUATION FORM FOR READERS OF THE LIVING LIBRARY

Dear Reader,
Thanks for taking some time to fill in this short questionnaire, to share your experience in reading one or more of the Living Books. Your comments will contribute to further developing the methodology of the Living Library. All answers will be treated confidentially and anonymously.

Your age:

Your gender: male female

Your nationality/ies:

Where did you hear about the Living Library?

- TV radio newspaper passing by our tent leaflets on the Sziget
 from previous readers other source:

Have you been a reader in a Living Library before?

- No, first time Yes, please specify:

Which Book did you borrow?
.....

How much did you like the idea of the Living Library?

- 1 2 3 4 5 (1-not at all, 5-impressed)

How did you like the selection of the Books and stereotypes presented in the catalogue?

- 1 2 3 4 5 (1-not at all, 5-impressed)

Comments:

How would you evaluate the service of the librarians?

- 1 2 3 4 5 (1-not helpful at all, 5-very helpful)

If you used a Dictionary, how satisfied were you with it ?

- 1 2 3 4 5 (1-not at all, 5-very satisfied)

What was the most important experience for you while you were reading the Book/s?

.....

Have you learned anything new in reading a Book or several Books from the Living Library?

.....

Would you recommend others to be a reader at the Living Library?

.....

Would you like to recommend any new Books to be presented in our catalogue?

.....

Thanks for your comments and time!

SAMPLES OF QUESTIONS OF AN EVALUATION FORM FOR THE **BOOKS** OF THE LIVING LIBRARY

Name:

Your title as a Book:

Age:

Gender: male female

Nationality/ies

Are you member of an NGO? If yes, which one?

How many readers did you have during the Living Library?

1-5 5-10 more than 10

How was your experience as a book?

1 2 3 4 5 (1-very bad, 5-very good)

What was your impression about your readers?

1 2 3 4 5 (1-not motivated to learn, 5-interested, very sincere attitude)

How useful was the description of your role as a Book , which you were provided with before the Sziget?

1 2 3 4 5 (1-inappropriate, insufficient, 5-very clear, well described)

How do you evaluate the support of the Library Staff (librarian and organisers)?

1 2 3 4 5 (1-not helpful at all, 5-very helpful)

If you used a dictionary, please assess your communication with it

1 2 3 4 5 (1-not helpful, poor, 5-accurate, very good)

How would you rate the duration and appropriateness of your working hours?

1 2 3 4 5 (1-inappropriate, too long, 5-very appropriate)

How did you feel your readers benefited from reading you?

.....
How did you benefit from being read?

.....
What were the most frequently asked questions?

.....
What was the most challenging part of being a Book?

.....
For the next Living Library, what advice would you give?

.....
To future Books:

To organisers:

To librarians:

To future readers:

For the presentation of the catalogue:

Would you be ready to be a Book again?

Other comments?

TEXTS



Woher stammt die Lebendige Bibliothek?

Die erste **Lebendige Bibliothek** wurde im Jahr 2000 von einer Jugendinitiative auf dem Roskilde Musikfestival in Dänemark organisiert.

Seitdem haben zahlreiche Organisationen die Möglichkeiten und Perspektiven des Konzeptes der **Lebendigen Bibliothek** erkannt und adaptiert.

Die **Lebendige Bibliothek** bietet sich als innovatives Konzept auch für Ihren Unterricht, eine Projektwoche oder ein Schulfest an.

Der Europarat hat ein Handbuch zur Methode herausgegeben. Eine deutsche Übersetzung ist erhältlich.

Kontaktaten für die Lebendige Bibliothek:

Katrin Oeser: katrin.oeser@jmd-portal.de
 Niko Schachner: niko.schachner@jmd-portal.de

Die BAG EJSA

Die Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelische Jugendsozialarbeit e.V. (BAG EJSA) ist der bundesweite Zusammenschluss evangelischer Jugendsozialarbeit in Diakonie- und evangelischer Jugendarbeit. Die BAG EJSA setzt sich für junge Menschen ein, die sozial benachteiligt werden oder von sozialer Benachteiligung bedroht sind.

Die BAG EJSA erreicht mit ihren Angeboten in der Jugendberufshilfe ca. 35.000 und ihren Jugendmigrationsdiensten rund 25.000 Jugendliche. Die BAG EJSA fördert Netzwerke zur Zusammenarbeit von Schule und Jugendsozialarbeit. Hierzu bietet die trägerübergreifende Wanderausstellung „anders? – cool!“ (www.anders-cool.de) ein Instrument der Netzwerk- und Öffentlichkeitsarbeit, das von Schulen, Jugendmigrationsdiensten und anderen sozialen Einrichtungen kostenfrei entliehen werden kann.

Veranstalterin:

BAG Ev. Jugendsozialarbeit (BAG EJSA)
 Wagenburgstr. 26-28, 70184 Stuttgart
 Tel: 0711- 16489-0, www.bagejsa.de
didacta@jmd-portal.de
anders-cool@jmd-portal.de
www.jugendmigrationsdienste.de

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft
Evangelische Jugendsozialarbeit e.V.
BAG EJSA



Lebendige Bibliothek

Kooperation von Schule und Jugendsozialarbeit

Suchen Sie eine Idee für Ihren Unterricht, eine Projektwoche oder ein Schulfest? Möchten Sie in Ihrem Unterricht das Thema Diskriminierung oder Interkulturalität behandeln?

Dann besuchen Sie unsere Lebendige Bibliothek und lernen Sie das Konzept kennen.

Wo und Wann?

Didacta, BAG EJSA, Stuttgart 2008

Messehalle 3 Stand Nr. 3 CB1	
Donnerstag, 21.02.08	15-18h
Freitag, 22.02.08	10-18h
Samstag, 23.02.08	10-18h



Was heißt Lebendige Bibliothek?

LeserInnen besuchen eine Bibliothek, leihen Bücher Ihrer Wahl aus und bringen sie nach einer bestimmten Frist zurück. In einer Bibliothek ist dies ein vollkommen normaler Vorgang.

Doch in der **Lebendigen Bibliothek** gibt es einen wesentlichen Unterschied: Die Bücher in der **Lebendigen Bibliothek** sind Menschen. „Bücher“ und „LeserInnen“ treten in einen persönlichen Dialog.

Die **Lebendige Bibliothek** bietet die Möglichkeit, mit diesen Menschen ein persönliches Gespräch zu führen.

Die **Lebenden Bücher** gehören Gruppen unserer Gesellschaft an, die mit Vorurteilen und Stereotypen konfrontiert werden und häufig Opfer von Diskriminierung sind. Sie schauspielern nicht, sondern vertreten ihre eigene Biographie.

Den „LeserInnen“ der **Lebendigen Bibliothek** wird die Möglichkeit gegeben, sich auf einen Dialog jenseits von Vorurteilen einzulassen.



Was erwartet Sie beim Besuch der Lebendigen Bibliothek?

Wir bieten Ihnen die Möglichkeit, das Konzept in der Praxis kennen zu lernen.

Lebendige Bibliotheken wurden bereits in 12 europäischen Ländern erfolgreich auf Musikfestivals, Buchmessen, Jugendkongressen, Straßenfesten, in Bibliotheken und an Schulen durchgeführt.

An unserem Stand freut sich eine Auswahl an **Lebenden Büchern** auf ein Gespräch mit Ihnen. Die „Lesezeit“ beträgt maximal 30 Minuten.

Ihnen steht ein „Katalog“ zur Verfügung, in welchem Sie sich vorab über die **Lebenden Bücher** informieren können.

Am Stand der Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelische Jugendsozialarbeit (BAG EJSA) stehen wir Ihnen für alle Fragen zum Konzept zur Verfügung.

Treffen Sie Ihr Vorurteil!



Diese Lebenden Bücher können Sie auf der didacta „ausleihen“:

- Jungendlicher Flüchtling
- Muslima
- HIV-positives Buch
- Hartz IV-Empfängerin
- Russlanddeutsche Jugendliche
- Ehemaliger jugendlicher Straftäter



German flyer of the Living Library held in Stuttgart, Germany in 2008 and organised by the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelische Jugendsozialarbeit e.V. (BAG EJSA).

Az **Európa Tanács** egy kormányközi politikai szervezet, amelyet 1949-ben alapítottak. Célja, hogy az európai kontinensen olyan értékeket övön, mint az emberi jogok, a kulturális sokszínűség, a demokrácia és a jogállamiság. Ma az Európa Tanácsnak 46 tagállama van, s ez több mint 800 millió európaít jelent. **Magyarország** 1990-ben, a Közép és Kelet-Európai régióból elsőként csatlakozott az Európa Tanácshoz.

A **Budapesti Európai Ifjúsági Központ** 1995-ben kezdte meg tevékenységét és nemrég ünnepelte alapításának 10. évfordulóját. Nemcsak Európa egész területéről, hanem azon túlül is fogad résztvevőket. Találkozóhely, képzés- és konferenciaközpont, valamint a nem-formális és az emberi jogi oktatás szakmai központja. Ideális környezetet biztosít a nemzetközi együttműködéshez, a közös tanuláshoz, a fiatalok részvételéhez, valamint az Európa-szerető helyi, nemzeti és európai ifjúsági munkában tevékenykedő ifjúsági munkások képzéséhez. A Központ a civil szervezetekkel, politikusokkal, közalkalmazottakkal, kutatókkal, valamint az ifjúsági munkában és képzésben résztvevő szakemberekkel együttműködve az ifjúságpolitika fejlesztéséhez is kíváló színter.

A Budapesti Európai Ifjúsági Központ képzési filozófiája azon az elven alapul, hogy az Európa népei közt létrejövő interperszonális kapcsolatok garantálják egy békés és kulturálisan sokszínű Európa létrejöttét.

Cím: Európa Tanács, Budapesti Európai Ifjúsági Központ, H- 1024 Budapest, Zivatar utca 1-3,
Tel + 36 1 212 4078, e-mail: secretariat.eycb@coe.int
Internet: www.eycb.coe.int, www.hrc.coe.int, www.coe.int

The **Council of Europe** is an intergovernmental political organisation, founded in 1949. It works for the safeguarding of human rights and cultural diversity, democracy and the rule of law on the European continent. Today, the Council of Europe has 46 member states, representing over 800 million Europeans. **Hungary** joined the Council of Europe as the first country of Central and Eastern Europe in the year 1990.

The **European Youth Centre Budapest** started its work in Hungary in 1995 and has recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. It welcomes participants from all over Europe and beyond. It is a meeting place, training and conference centre and a knowledge centre on non-formal and human rights education. It provides an ideal environment for international co-operation, shared learning, youth participation and youth workers' training for young people active in local, national and European youth work coming from all over Europe. It is also a place for the development of youth policies in co-operation with associations, politicians, civil servants, researchers and professionals in youth work and training.

The educational philosophy of the European Youth Centre Budapest is based on the principle that young people should be actively involved in all matters concerning them and that interpersonal relations between their peoples are the guarantee to create a peaceful and culturally diverse Europe.

Contact: Council of Europe, European Youth Centre Budapest,
H- 1024 Budapest, Zivatar utca 1-3,
Tel + 36 1 212 4078, e-mail: secretariat.eycb@coe.int
Internet: www.eycb.coe.int, www.hrc.coe.int, www.coe.int



SZIGET FESZTIVÁL 2006 SZIGET FESTIVAL 2006 CIVIL SZIGET



Élő Könyvtár! – Nézz a borító mögé!

Idén újra!

Ha már kipróbáltad, és tetszett; ha tavaly már láttál minket, de nem volt időd benézni, vagy ha most hallasz róánk először:

Egyszerűen arról van szó, hogy milyen előítéleteid vannak másokkal szemben? Vagy azon, hogy másként tartanak rólad? Banned is sok szereplője él példaként a romáról, zsidókról, rendőrökről, jegyellenőrökről, papokról, pszichológusokról, femmistákról és melegekről, ex-bűnözőkről és európaiakról, fogorvosokról, fogorvosokról vagy a sokféle nőről? Még sohasem volt alkalmaid rá, hogy elbeszélges velük és megtudj milyen az életük?

Ha kész vagy szembézni saját előítéleteiddel, és szeretnél személyesen találkozni 'sztereotípiáddal', akkor irkozz be az Élő Könyvtárba, ahol a könyvek beszélnek tudnak!

Hogyműködik az Élő Könyvtár?

- Az **Élő Könyvtár** a Civil Szigeten található, az Európai Ifjúsági Központ sátra mellett.
- Amikor először keresed fel a Könyvtárat, beiratkozol, és kapsz egy **Élő Könyvtár olvasójegyvet**. A beiratkozással elfogadjad a kölcsönzésre vonatkozó szabályokat.
- A könyvtári katalógusból kiválaszthatod, melyik könyvet szeretnél elolvasni.
- Az Élő Könyvtár szótárt is tud biztosítani, ha olyan könyvet választottál, amelynek nyelvét nem beszéled.
- A kiválasztott könyvet a Sziget területén belül bárhol olvashatsz, egy óra leteltével pedig vissza kell vinned az Élő Könyvtárba.
- Az Élő Könyvtár ingyen áll a beiratkozott olvasók rendelkezésére.

Milyen szabályok vonatkoznak az Élő Könyvtár olvasóira?

- Csak azok a beiratkozott olvasók kölcsönözhetnek könyvet, akik elfogadják a Könyvtár szabályait.
- Egyszerre csak egy könyv kölcsönözhető.
- A könyv egy óra kölcsönözhető, utána vissza kell vinni az Élő Könyvtárba. Az olvasó maximum egy órával hosszabbíthatja meg a kölcsönzési időt a könyvtárral.
- Az olvasónak a könyvet ugyanolyan fizikai és lelki állapotban kell visszazolgáltatnia, ahogy az kölcsönözte. Tilos a könyvet megsérteni, a lapokat kitépni vagy elszakítani, étellel vagy itallal konténni és méltóságában bármilyen módon megsérteni. Az olvasó felad a könyv állapotának megőrzéséért.
- Az olvasó elfogadja, hogy a könyv bármikor megszakíthatja a beszélgetést, ha úgy érzi, hogy az olvasó nem megfelelő módon bánik vele vagy méltóságát megsérti.

Törzsolvasóknak nyeremény!

A törzsolvasók egy 'Élő Könyvtár – Olvasó' pólót kapnak ajándékba, miután a harmadik elolvasott könyvet visszahozták!

Nyitvatartás:

Az Élő Könyvtár naponta 12 és 20 óra között tart nyitva, a könyvetek legkésőbb 19 óráig lehet kölcsönözni!

Az Élő Könyvtárat a Civil Szigeten a Budapesti Európai Ifjúsági Központ szervezi a Sziget Irada támogatásával.

Living Library - Don't judge a book by its cover!

Here we are again!

If you already visited it and liked it; if you saw us last year but didn't have the time to pop in, or if this is the first time you hear about us:

Have you ever thought about your own prejudices and stereotypes about other people? Or the impression that other people might have about you? You have a lot of stereotypes for example about Roma people or Jews, policemen or ticket controllers, priests or psychologists, feminists or homosexuals, ex-criminals or Eurocrats, disabled or about blond women? But you have never had the chance to speak to one of them to find out what his or her life is like?

If you are ready to face your own prejudices and stereotypical judgments and meet "your stereotype" personality, you should become a reader of the Living Library where books can speak!

How does the Living Library work?

- The **Living Library** is placed in the **Civil Sziget**, next to the tent of the **European Youth Centre**.
- When you come for the first time, you will have to register as a reader to receive your **Living Library Pass**. By becoming a reader you accept the policy of the Living Library.
- From the library catalogue you can choose a book you would like to read.
- If your book is in a language you do not understand, the Living Library can also provide you with a dictionary.
- You can spend an hour with the book of your choice anywhere on the Sziget. Then you must bring the book back to the Living Library.
- The services of the Living Library are free of charge for registered readers.

What are the rules for readers of the Living Library?

- Only registered readers who have accepted the Library rules can borrow a book.
- Only one book can be borrowed at a time.
- A book can be borrowed for one hour, and then it must be returned to the Living Library. Readers can extend reading time for a maximum of one extra hour with the librarian.
- The reader must return the book in the same mental and physical condition as borrowed. It is forbidden to cause damage to the book, tear out or bend pages, get food or drink spilled over the book or hurt hair or his dignity in any other way. The reader is responsible for preserving the condition of the book.
- The reader accepts the fact that the book can quit the conversation if she or he feels that the reader treats her or him in an inappropriate manner or hurts her or his dignity.

Award for regular readers!

Regular readers will receive the attractive "Living Library Reader's T-Shirt" after returning the third book to the Library!

Opening hours:

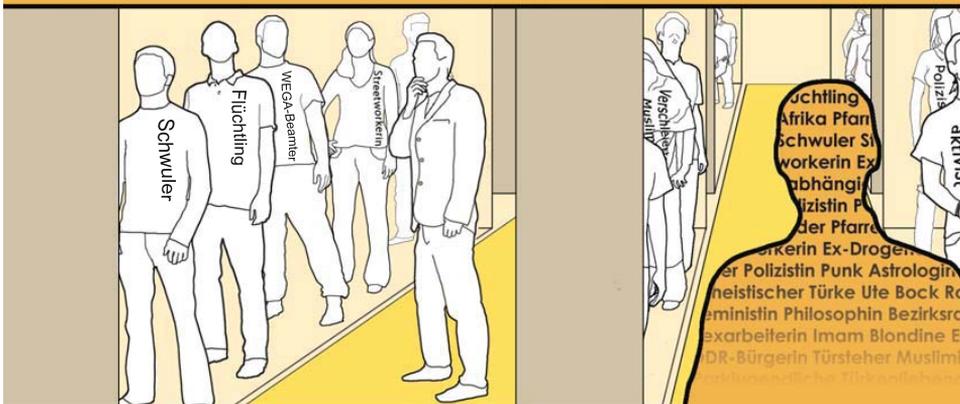
The Living Library is open every day from 12h to 20h, last opportunity to borrow a book is 19h!

The Living Library on the Civil Sziget is organised by the EYCB with the kind support of the Sziget Office.

English-Hungarian bilingual leaflet used in the Living Library held at the Sziget Festival in Budapest in 2006 and organised by the European Youth Centre Budapest.

Schon einmal einen Menschen "gelesen"?

Bei living books können Sie "lebendige Bücher" für ein Gespräch "ausleihen".



living books

19. Mai 2007, Samstag, 14:00 - 19:00
 25. Mai 2007, Freitag, 14:00 - 21:00
 26. Mai 2007, Samstag, 14:00 - 21:00

Brunnenpassage, Yppenplatz gegenüber Brunnengasse 70, 1160 Wien

living books

www.livingbooks.at.tf

Miteinander reden statt übereinander

living books funktioniert wie eine öffentliche Bibliothek. Die „Bücher“ sind jedoch Menschen die oftmals mit Vorurteilen konfrontiert sind. Als „LeserIn“ können Sie diese „Bücher“ für rund einstündige Gespräche in Kaffeehausatmosphäre kostenlos „ausleihen“. Nutzen Sie die Gelegenheit, bei living books mit Menschengruppen in Kontakt zu kommen die Sie persönlich kaum oder gar nicht kennen!

Hakkımızda konuşacağımıza birbirimizle konuşalım

living books bir kütüphane mantığıyla işliyor. "Kitaplar" çoğu kez önyargularla mücadele etmek zorunda kalan insanlar. Siz "okur" olarak bu "kitapları" bir cafe atmosferinde bir saatlik bir sohbet için ücretsiz olarak ödünç alabilirsiniz. Gelin, az veya hiç tanımadığınız insanlarla living books aracılığıyla tanışma fırsatından yararlanın!

Razgovarati jedni sa drugima umesto jedni o drugima

„Žive knjige“ funkcioniše po pravilima koja važe za svaku javnu biblioteku. „Knjige“ su ljudi koji su često konfrontirani sa predrasudama. Vi kao „čitaoci“, imate priliku da besplatno „pozajmite“ jednu od „knjiga“ na sat vremena i u prijatnoj, opuštenoj atmosferi razgovarate sa njom. Iskoristite mogućnost da u okviru ove manifestacije dodjete u kontakt i razgovarate sa ljudima koje lično ne poznajete i nemate mogućnost da ih upoznate.

Talking with rather than about each other

The Living Library is very similar to a public library with the only difference that the „books“ are real live humans, those who are often being confronted with all sorts of prejudices. As a reader you can "read" a book of your choice in the relaxed atmosphere of the Living Library. You can sit across your "book" to have an hour's conversation for free. So... why not use this occasion to get in touch with people you never dreamt of talking to!

Realisierung: Christian Hortulany
 Kontakt: livingbooks@gmx.at
 Web: www.livingbooks.at.tf

Layout:
 HONEYLAB Media
 Web: www.honeylab.at

Impressum:
 Verein Kids Company
 Huglgasse 14, 1150 Wien



4-lingual flyer of the library organised in Wien, Austria in 2007.

iniziativa gratuita promossa dal Punto d'Ascolto Anti-discriminazione e dal Centro Stranieri del Comune di Modena in collaborazione con Arci Milinda nel quadro della manifestazione *Le Città Visibili*



LA BIBLIOTECA VIVENTE

Prendete in prestito
un pregiudizio
e guardatelo in faccia

Modena, piazza Grande, 29 settembre 2007
dalle ore 16.30 alle ore 19.30



*I musulmani obbligano le loro mogli
a portare il velo*

Le suore non sanno com'è la vita

*Gli stranieri non si vogliono integrare
e ci vogliono imporre le loro tradizioni*

*Le donne dell'est vengono per sposarsi
con gli italiani*

*I meridionali sono pigri e vorrebbero
farsi assistere dallo Stato*

*Nei ristoranti cinesi cucinano i
e te li fanno mangiare con le mani*

I matrimoni misti non funzionano

Comune di Modena
Centro stranieri
Sportello Anti-discriminazione
Consulta delle Politiche Solidali



Cos'è: la biblioteca vivente è uno strumento ideato per rompere stereotipi e diffidenze, promuovendo la conoscenza e il dialogo.

Come funziona: la biblioteca vivente funziona come tutte le altre. Vieni e sfoglia il catalogo, se un titolo richiama la tua attenzione, prendi il libro in prestito e ascolta.

Libri viventi: i libri della nostra biblioteca sono persone in carne e ossa, disposte a raccontarti la propria storia e a rispondere alle tue domande e alle tue curiosità.

Regole: per consultare i nostri libri ci sono cinque piccole regole:

- 1) devi registrarti al banco prestiti
- 2) puoi prendere in prestito un libro alla volta, per un massimo di 30 minuti
- 3) devi restituire il libro nelle stesse condizioni in cui ti è stato consegnato
- 4) è vietato danneggiare il libro, segnare o strappare le pagine, sottolineare frasi, macchiare il libro con cibo o bevande, urtare la sensibilità o la dignità del libro
- 5) il libro può di sua iniziativa interrompere la consultazione in qualunque momento.

L'idea originale della "Biblioteca Umana" nacque nel 2000 presso la organizzazione danese "Stop alla Violenza". La metodologia venne in seguito sviluppata dal Centro Europeo della Gioventù di Budapest e la Biblioteca vivente è divenuta parte del programma per l'educazione ai diritti umani del Consiglio d'Europa. Per maggiori informazioni, consultare il sito www.cos.int/ire e il manuale "Don't judge a book by its cover - The Living Library Organiser's Guide", ISBN92-871-5766-9.

INFO: cultura.centro.stranieri@comune.modena.it - tel. 059 2033414/2033395

Italian Living Library flyer of the library organised by the Centro Stranieri del Comune di Modena in Modena, Italy in 2007.

PHOTO INDEX AND CREDITS

Cover photo; page 11, left side; pages 44-45; page 52, left side

Several readers reading a Book at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

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Page 4, left side

Librarians at Sziget Festival Budapest, Hungary

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Page 4, right side

Books and readers at European Capital of Culture, Pécs, Hungary

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Living Library T-shirt of the Palais de l'Europe World Refugee Day, Strasbourg, France

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Books and readers in dialogue, Darmstadt, Germany

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Page 6, left side; page 48, left side, page 49, left side

Reading a Book at European Capital of Culture, Pécs, Hungary

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Page 6, right side

Information table and faces of interest, Tbilisi, Georgia

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Page 6, below the text

Book wearing the Living Library T-shirt at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

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Human Library - Norfolk

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Librarians at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

Courtesy: Péter Wootsch, 2008

Pages 8-9

Who is the book? Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

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Page 10, left side

Rabbi Book at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

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Conversation between a Book and children, Darmstadt, Germany

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Conversation with Policeman Book at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

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Entrance to the Living Library at Roskilde Festival, Denmark

© Mathies Erlandsen, Stop the Violence Denmark, 2000

Page 12, right side

Conversation of Books and readers at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

Courtesy: Péter Wootsch, 2008

Page 13, left side

Conversation of a Book and a reader at the Palais de l'Europe World Refugee Day, Strasbourg, France

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Gay Book at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

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Roma Book at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

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Promotional banner "Pick a catholic", Human Library Wrocław, Poland

© Banner: Haveasign Studio, photo: Dorota Kuentzel, Incontro, 2010

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Advertisement of Living Library at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

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Page 15, right side

African Black Person Book at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

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Several readers reading a Book at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

© Council of Europe, European Youth Centre Budapest, 2006

Page 16, right side; page 28, left side

Books among themselves at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

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Page 17, left side

African Black Person Book and a reader at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary

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HIV travesty and an artist at Secondary School Kavci hory, Prague, Czech Republic
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Page 21, right side; page 41, left side
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Librarian at the librarians' desk with guests, Darmstadt, Germany
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The Living Library tent at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary
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All Books in the Living Library at the Alvæm Ungdomskole, Nesodden, Norway
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Page 32, left side
Children with reader's pass in the basic school Mikulova, Prague, Czech Republic
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Children reading a Book in the basic school
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Librarian and readers at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary
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Living Library staff member recruiting readers at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary
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Staff members preparing the Living Library tent at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary
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Living Library in a cafeteria, Prague, Czech Republic
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Books having a rest at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary
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Books and readers at Ljubljana Living Library, Slovenia
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Books «on a shelf», relaxing after the talks with readers, Human Library Wroclaw, Poland
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Living Library in the Night of Open Monuments, Budapest, Hungary
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Conversation under documentation, Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary
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Gay Book speaking to the microphone, Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary
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Several readers reading a Book at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary
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Living Library team preparing the venue at Sziget Festival, Budapest, Hungary
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The Living Library is an equalities tool that seeks to challenge prejudice and discrimination. It works just like a normal library: visitors can browse the catalogue for the available titles, choose the Book they want to read, and borrow it for a limited period of time. After reading, they return the Book to the library and, if they want, they can borrow another. The only difference is that in the Living Library, Books are people, and reading consists of a conversation.

Originating in Denmark, The Living Library became part of the Council of Europe's programme in 2003 and the driving force behind its inclusion was the realisation that human rights cannot be defended and promoted by legal texts alone. There is - today more than ever in the recent past - a need to raise awareness among the wider public about the importance of human rights to the fabric of our democracies and the responsibility of the individual citizen in realizing abstract human rights in his or her everyday interactions. Through its 40-year history, Council of Europe's youth sector has gathered unique and important experience in the field of non-formal and intercultural education based on the principles of human rights, pluralist democracy, and cultural diversity.

With this publication, the Council of Europe aims to continue its support and promotion of the methodology of the Living Library. We believe that the Living Library remains a uniquely useful tool to foster peaceful coexistence, understanding, and tolerance and to bring people closer together in mutual respect for the human dignity of the individual - whether as books, readers, or organisers.



The Council of Europe has 47 member states, covering virtually the entire continent of Europe. It seeks to develop common democratic and legal principles based on the European Convention of Human Rights and other reference texts on the protection of individuals.

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