### Supplemental file 5 - Characteristics of included studies

| Author(s),<br>year                          | Document<br>type      | Setting,<br>Country  | Aim/objective   | Book focus<br>(General/focuse<br>d)  | Readers<br>sample   |
|---|-----------------------|--|---|--|---|
| Ashmore<br>(2010)                           | Journal<br>article    | n/a, Canada  | 'provides a discussion of the development<br>and implementation of living library<br>programs in the context of creating and<br>fostering community engagement in the<br>library.'  | n/a  | n/a   |
| Bagci &<br>Blazhenko<br>va (2020)           | Journal<br>article    | University,<br>Turkey  | 'tested the effectiveness of HL as a direct intergroup contact intervention on affective (trust, empathy), cognitive (knowledge), and behavioural (e.g., willingness to talk to outgroup members) aspects of outgroup attitudes'                          | General. Books<br>included<br>'Schizophrenic'                                    | University<br>students                                      |
| Blizzard,<br>Becker,<br>&Goebel,<br>2018    | Journal<br>article    | University,<br>Canada  | 'describe the Augustana human library and how the team has used the event to take a new approach to teaching information literacy.'   | Focused. Books<br>related to<br>Women's<br>Studies                               | University students   |
| Chung,<br>Tse, &<br>Tasha,<br>2022          | Journal<br>article    | Educational<br>setting,<br>Hong Kong                                   | 'This study aimed to test the effectiveness of<br>a human library intervention at enhancing<br>MHL [mental health literacy]'  | Focused. Books<br>on mental<br>health (bipolar<br>disorder and<br>schizophrenia) | Young<br>adults in<br>tertiary<br>education                 |
| Constable<br>& Harris,<br>2008              | Journal<br>article    | Public<br>libraries, UK  | ' to explore a community development<br>model of Living Library within public libraries<br>in England.'   | General  | Public  |
| Copenhav<br>er &<br>Koclanes,<br>2019       | Journal<br>article    | University   | 'Raise awareness of social justice issues and<br>to expose students to issues present in our<br>local community'  | General  | University<br>staff/stude<br>nts and the<br>public          |
| Dreher &<br>Mowbray                         | Research<br>monograph | Public and<br>third sector<br>organisation<br>s, Australia             | 'comprehensive and independent analysis<br>of Human Libraries<br>(formerly Living Libraries) in Australia'  | Varied. Typically<br>General   | Varied.<br>Typically<br>public.                             |
| Fortune &<br>Leighton,<br>2022              | Journal<br>article    | Community<br>support<br>centre for<br>people with<br>mental<br>illness | 'we report on in this paper focused on the experiences of individuals living with mental illness who became living books for an initiative aimed at addressing stigma by dispelling stereotypes related to mental illness through inclusionary dialogue.' | Focused.<br>Mental health  | Under-<br>graduate<br>therapeutic<br>recreation<br>students |
| Gamtso,<br>Mannon,<br>&<br>Whipple,<br>2017 | Book<br>chapter       | High school,<br>university<br>and public<br>libraries,<br>USA          | 'describe the planning and implementation<br>of the New Hampshire programand a<br>discussion of the New Hampshire Human<br>Library's impact on participants' learning.  | Varied. Typically<br>General   | Students<br>and/or the<br>public                            |

| Garbutt,<br>2008               | Conference<br>paper | n/a,<br>Australia                                   | 'The purpose of this paper is to begin this theoretical discussion of living libraries and their aims.  | n/a  | n/a  |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Giesler,<br>2021               | Journal<br>Article  | University,<br>USA                                  | explored two research questions: How do those in the role of enlisted participants (Books) describe the HL [human library] experience? and What potential does the HL have to create IGD [intergroup dialogue] in the social work classroom?'   | General  | Social work<br>students                                    |
| Giesler<br>2020                | Magazine<br>article | University,<br>USA                                  | Discusses 'What makes the Human Library so powerful? How can social work professionals and educators use it to weave together the profession's core values?'  | General  | University students  |
| Giesler &<br>Juarez,<br>2019   | Journal<br>Article  | University,<br>USA                                  | '(1) to assess the power of the Living Library experience to bring people from disparate backgrounds(2) to discern how the Living Library project builds community(3) to add to the literature outlining potential benefits and risks of veterans who tell their stories of military service. | Focused. Books<br>on veterans'<br>experiences                                      | Varied   |
| Groyecka<br>et al.,<br>2019    | Journal<br>Article  | Public<br>library,<br>Poland                        | examined the effectiveness of the Human<br>Library (held Wroclaw, Poland) in reducing<br>social distance towards Roma, Muslims,<br>dark-skinned, and transgender people, as<br>well as in decreasing homonegativity.  | General. Books included titles related to bulimia and anorexia, and schizophrenia. | Public   |
| Hewlin-<br>Via et al.,<br>2021 | Research<br>poster  | University,<br>Australia                            | 'To evaluate the changes in students' cultural awareness and sensitivity after attending the HL. To understand the perspective of student OTs [Occupational Therapists] in participating in the HL [Human Library]'   | General. Books<br>included<br>growing up with<br>mental illness                    | Student<br>occupation<br>al<br>therapists                  |
| Huang &<br>Dobreski,<br>2017   | Conference<br>paper | Public and<br>university<br>libraries,<br>USA       | 'We present how libraries have attempted to utilize technologies and leverage community support to enable human library events.'  | General  | Students<br>and/or the<br>public                           |
| Inkster et<br>al., 2016        | Research<br>report  | Hospital, UK  | 'to challenge prejudice in healthcare'.   | General. Books<br>included<br>'mental health<br>problems'                          | Healthcare<br>staff  |
| Kudo et<br>al., 2011           | Conference<br>paper | University,<br>Japan                                | 'provides a first-person narrative of<br>preparation, challenges and success of a<br>one-day Human Library administered by 30<br>undergraduate students and their<br>supervisor at a Japanese university.'  | General  | Public   |
| Kwan,<br>2020                  | Journal<br>article  | Mental<br>health<br>service<br>centre,<br>Hong Kong | 'explores the relevance and usefulness of this<br>approach [living library] in a mental health<br>setting'  | Focused. Books<br>on mental<br>health  | People in<br>recovery<br>and other<br>community<br>members |

| Lam,<br>Wong &<br>Zhang,<br>2023 | Journal<br>article       | n/a                              | 'his article aims<br>to review the current body of knowledge on<br>HL by conducting a systematic narrative<br>review on the existing literature.'  | Varied   | Varied.                                    |
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| Little et<br>al., 2011           | Implementa<br>tion guide | Various,<br>Council of<br>Europe | 'This guide is intended to provide support<br>and direction to Living Library organisers<br>in Europe.'  | General  | Varied.<br>Typically<br>public.            |
| Michalak<br>et al.,<br>2019      | Journal<br>article       | Online,<br>Canada                | ' (1) to create an innovative Web-based Bipolar Wellness Centre, (2) to conduct a mixed-methods (i.e., quantitative and qualitative) evaluation to assess the impact of different sorts of engagement (i.e., knowledge translation [KT]), and (3) to support engagement with the selfmanagement information in the Bipolar Wellness Centre'  | Focused. Books<br>were people<br>with experience<br>of bipolar<br>disorder.                                  | People with<br>bipolar<br>disorder         |
| Orosz et<br>al., 2016            | Journal<br>article       | High School,<br>Hungary          | 'assesses the effectiveness of the Living<br>Library intervention and tests whether and<br>how perceived peer prejudices moderate its<br>effectiveness in reducing prejudice toward<br>Roma and LGBT people'   | Focused. Books<br>were Roma and<br>members of the<br>LGBT<br>community.                                      | High school students                       |
| Pardasani<br>& Rivera,<br>2017   | Thesis                   | University,<br>Finland           | 'to serve as a guidebook in itself as a reference for the implementation guidelines, training and promotional material and a resource material for the future Human Library events at DIAK or any other social work institutions.'   | General. Books included people with anxiety and depression.  | Students                                   |
| Pratchett,<br>2019               | Blog                     | Hospital, UK                     | 'to bring staff from different areas of the<br>trust together and enable them to hear the<br>lived experience of colleagues in their own<br>words.'  | General.   | Healthcare<br>staff                        |
| Russell &<br>Linsley,<br>2011    | Journal<br>article       | University,<br>UK                | 'The project centred on the running of a<br>'human library' event in which adult nursing<br>and social work students engaged with<br>mental health service users through an open<br>forum'.  | Focused.<br>Mental health<br>service users   | Student<br>nurses and<br>social<br>workers |
| Sen et al.,<br>2016              | Journal<br>article       | University,<br>UK                | 'describes the running of four Living Libraries<br>on a UK postgraduate social work course'  | General &<br>focused, with<br>Books related to<br>the experience<br>of social care.                          | Student<br>social<br>workers               |
| Sen et al.,<br>2021              | Book<br>chapter          | Universities,<br>UK &<br>Finland | 'Two approaches are presented from two universities In the University of Sheffield (UK), people with experiences of social work services, teachers and students have developed living libraries as a regular feature of the syllabus for a qualifying master's degree programme in social work since 2014. In the Diaconia University of Applied Sciences (Diak, Finland), bachelor-level students in social services initiated and organised a Human Library event' | General &<br>focused, with<br>stories related<br>young people's<br>experiences of<br>social care<br>services | Student<br>social<br>workers/Pu<br>blic    |

| Watson Thesi<br>2015 | s University,<br>Australia | 'The research question is: What does an examination of Human Library inform us about how people can challenge prejudice and increase respect for difference as a means for promoting humans' rights and freedoms?' | General | Public |  |
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