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Bibliotherapy in public libraries and next steps...
Bibliotherapy & Public Libraries

1) Identifying opportunities (two truths and a lie)
2) Developing a user-directed, user-oriented service
3) Mining your collection
4) Starting where you can
5) Building collaboration
Identifying Opportunities

- Karen - adult mother of three in her early forties struggling with addiction
- Alice - nine-year-old who is bullied at school
- Micah - fifteen-year-old male who wants to explore other religions (other than his family’s)
SEMANTICS

The term “bibliotherapy” has not been widely accepted. Many have said that it is too broad a designation. They suggest narrower terms such as “bibliodiagnosis” for assessment, or “biblioprophylaxis” for the preventative use of literature. Others claim the nomenclature is too narrow and suggest “biblioguidance,” “bibliocounseling,” or “library therapeutics.” These terms have broader application because they are not limited by the word “therapy.” “Tutorial group therapy” and “literatherapy” have also been used to avoid the prefix “biblio.” As Dr. Michael Shiryon states:
Identifying Opportunities

- Karen - adult mother of three in her early forties struggling with addiction
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Mining Collections

- Spectra of narratives
- Moving beyond print
- Other community services
- etc.
Abstract narrative engagement

Concrete narrative engagement

- children’s stories & fairy tales
- poetry
- fiction
- “true story” fiction
- biographies & autobiographies
- generalized/popularized nonfiction
- specialized/scholarly nonfiction
Starting Where We Can

- Book lists and reading guides
- One-on-one check-ins/chats
- Group sessions
Building Collaboration

- Online opportunities
- Database/wiki
- Training
- etc.
Thank you!

1) Sherrill Sherwood (ssherwood@haliburtonlibrary.ca) - Collection Development Coordinator at Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL)

2) Barb Fraser (barb.fraser@hhfht.com) - Registered Social Worker with the Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team

3) Natalia Tukhareli (ntukhareli@cmcc.ca) - Director of Library & Information Services at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College

4) Jennine Agnew-Kata (jakata@lindr.on.ca) - Executive Director at Literacy Network of Durham Region (LiNDR)

5) Brandon Kidd (bkidd@ideaexchange.org) - Youth Services Librarian at the Idea Exchange libraries in Cambridge, Ontario