

Relindial Cartonera Guidelines

创造书籍、连结生活
خلق كتب للاتصال حياتنا
Crear libros para encuadernar
nuestras vidas

Créer des livres pour relier nos vies

Create books to bind our lives

Bücher machen, um unsere Leben
zu verbinden

Творить книги, чтобы
объединить жизни

"Relindial Cartonera": Guidelines

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Relindial Presentation

Relindial is a Special Interest Group (SIG) organized under the aegis of the Social Science Library section.

IFLA is a worldwide NGO of libraries: International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

The Relindial acronym means: "Religions: Libraries and Dialogue".



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Aim of Relindial

The aim of Relindial is to gather persons from different religions, spiritualities, beliefs, to facilitate access to the other's culture and in this way, contribute to a better social compact.

The aim is to help the librarians understand the fact that they can play a crucial role in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue, and bring them to be efficient actors in this domain.

When Relindial was launched, it was: "a new adventure... that wanted to highlight the specific contribution that libraries can bring to the dialogue between cultures, always closely linked to the dialogue between people of different religions. It seems quite difficult to understand a religion, in a specific region of the world, if one's do not know the local culture and conversely, the local cultures are influenced themselves both by the present religions and by the newcomers' religions."

This "Relindial Cartonera" project is one easy way to highlight the input of libraries in this diversity dialogue.

¹ Odile Dupont, responsable du SIG IFLA Relindial, *Les Bibliothèques au service du dialogue*, De Gruyter, 2014.



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What is a Cartonera?

Cartonera's technic was born in Argentina, in 2001, during the big economic crisis. Cardboard and recycled papers are used to build handcraft books, unique or in limited edition. This technic provided materials for different learning processes.

The Cartonera project spread out the boarders of Argentina, and knew a worldwide success. This success goes on because of the opportunities it brings for social links, sustainable development and citizen approach.

The "Relindial Cartonera" project

The "Relindial Cartonera" project will be driven by a librarian or a group of librarians linked to the IFLA SIG Relindial.

The libraries are in good position to link people from different origins. They are the ideal place to share and interchange on the different personal cultures of their patrons.

The main aim of the "Relindial Cartonera" project is to bring together individuals: ladies, men or children from different cultures, religions or ages. The dialogue between them will be opened so that they experience the creation of a common work, an artcraft book from recycled material, a "Relindial Cartonera", fruit of their differences. It will highlight, at the end of an exchange of view, what is important for them.

Sharing in truth and in goodwill brings to better know the other. It brings also to accept him, with his differences and features. Paradoxically, the discover of the other enables self-understanding, so important to progress through life.

It is a real Peace project.



Leading a group

The proper running of a group is mostly depending on the facilitator and on the welcome that each member of the group receives throughout the workshop "Relindial Cartonera".

Role of the leader

The role of the librarian / facilitator is crucial and needs a lot of talents and abilities:

- ♦ Open-mindedness and self-control: the leader must not underestimate the difficulty of being exposed to some beliefs, diverse and perhaps conflicting. The expression of an idea can be very disruptive for the members of the group as for the facilitator him-self. Be aware of that, keep that in mind will facilitate a suitable answer.
- ♦ Intellectual curiosity, real interest for the religions and cultures of the world
- ♦ Capacity of giving self-confidence to the members of the team
- ♦ Care of everybody, from the most talkative to the shyest. Everybody must be heard and have the possibility to express one's self.
- ♦ Benevolent authority to drive and lead the group and the theme in a spirit of harmony
- ♦ Interest in manual activities and / or be able to receive a help to manage them

Building confidence

Each person of the group must feel one's self welcomed, as he / she is, in a whole and in one's differences whatever the age, religion or community, welcomed by the facilitator as by the group.



Making everybody involved, even the shyest

Whatever the subject and the debate, everybody must involve one's self in the discussion for the benefit of all. The facilitator will be cautious to ensure that all will speak from the most exuberant to the shyest. Graphical expression perhaps could lead to highlight hidden talents.

Diligent refocusing on the theme

As time is limited during the meetings, it is important to focus regularly on the theme and don't let the group go out too far.



Building a group

Prerequisite:

Have an idea of what could burst from and with this group.

There is a great deal of opportunities to build a group. Depending on the topic chosen, but also on the interested audience to participate, the facilitator can chose to build homogeneous or heterogeneous groups. The facilitator have to adapt the preparation depending on the public.

A homogeneous group (age, social context, ...) will allow more structured exchange. The culture and common knowledge will be more or less identical, it will be easier to work on a common topic.

It is possible to build a heterogeneous group, as intergenerational for example.

The chosen theme must be of interest for everybody, as the key life events that will highlight the fact that it is really interesting to discover the different way of experiencing these events.

A team made of different social contexts will show the richness of the city.

In all case, keep in mind that the diversity of the persons will nourish the richness of the dialogue as it nourishes the richness of the life.

Determining the sharing time

The time needed to build a "Relindial Cartonera" depends on many factors:

- ♦ age of the attendees
- ♦ are they used or not to express themselves speaking or writing
- ♦ have they artistic skills or not

The time depends on the necessary lapse of time needed to create links, confidence. It depends also on the agenda of the different persons.

It is the reason why there is no definitive assessment as to how the value of time should be accounted to build a Cartonera. The main thing is to create links between different persons. It is necessary to let time for the ripening process to accept and discover the other in his / her difference, so that everybody can welcome each person of the group.

The facilitator must be adaptable to the needs of the group during the whole time of the workshop.

And if the manufacture of the "Relindial Cartonera" drags on, only because people enjoy speaking and meeting together it is that the target of the project is achieved!



Choosing the theme

In dialogue between the group

The theme must be adapted with the nature of the group. As part of the "Relindial Cartonera", we will discuss on issues related to cultures and beliefs.

With children, it will be easy to discuss about the different family celebrations. With teenagers it will be possible to enter topics as what the religion and its practice bring, for example "Believe in joy"

With adults, the topic can be a societal one, they will try to highlight it through their sacred texts, traditions or own experiences.

The theme must involve each participant

The most important is that each participant is concerned by the theme, and gain total ownership on the project. Then, the involvement will be full and creativity will burst.

The facilitator can propose a general topic that will be defined by the group, or some more focused to be chosen by the group.



Choosing the final aspect of the "Relindial Cartonera"

When the full concept of the "Relindial Cartonera" has been presented and is understood, the group has to define the style / design wished for their creation. There is a real freedom of choice. It is necessary to decide the chosen form (book, notebook,... which size...).

It gives a general view on the project, a goal, a course of action. It can release the quiet speakers or the shyest artists.

Material needed

The principle of a cartonera is to use recycled materials and to put them together whenever one's like.

The Cartonera is a creation. Creating is supposed to help imagination working. The "Relindial Cartonera" will be truly successful if everybody express his feeling, from the bottom of his heart, in a sense of sincerity.

Let the members of the team choose the material they will use: paper, cardboard, fabric. It will be possible to use pencil, pens, markers, painting, stickers, flakes, pictures, different writings, calligraphy, fabric, different sort of papers... everything that can be layed on a leaf can be used through different techniques (pasting, stapling, superimposing layers, sewing...)

It is easier to choose the same size of sheet for every member of the team, but it is also possible to take different formats. It is possible to distribute the sheets so that each person make his/her creation. Then proceed to the binding of the sheets, it will be easier if all sheets have the same size.

Assembling the "Relindial Cartonera"

It is not necessary to know how to bind to make a "Relindial Cartonera"

Different types of assembling

- ♦ Prepare a cover together and only staple the sheets together with the cover
- ♦ If you can thread a needle, it is possible to sew with running stitch
- ♦ If sewing is not a problem, you can use Japanese binding, not so difficult and well documented on the internet.
- ♦ For those who know the binding techniques, it is possible to assembly each sheet on a guard and make a classical binding.

Cover of the "Relindial Cartonera"

If each sheet is an individual creation, it is important to plan and design the cover together: it must be a common work to give an idea of the spirit inspiring the team.

Everybody can enjoy the building of the "Relindial Cartonera" through one's own wishes, one's binding knowledge and the skills of the group.





How to deal with mishaps?

Mishaps can always happen. It's the reason why it is so important, at the very beginning of the meetings, to insist on the mutual confidence that has to burst between the participants. The members of the team will sign, at the project start, the code of good behaviour and they have to endorse it. Then, everybody should set in his or her minds a goodwill attitude. He or she will learn to increase their emotional self-awareness. In that way, everything should go well.

Discrepancy between two participants or misunderstanding can create discords. Whenever the necessity arises, the facilitator will remind the code of good behaviour of the group, based on openness and goodwill.

It is not necessary for everyone to agree with all what is said, but to let the other think in his own way. It is necessary to keep self-control and avoid taking personally what is only another way that one's look at life. The frictions are part of the long learning of accepting others as they are, and not as we dream them.

This fresh look at the others will facilitate relationships in each community, beginning by the family of each member of the team!

Code of good behaviour

- I welcome the other and I fully respect him/her
- I respect the others thought
- I do not wish to convert the other
- I let everyone express his thought
- I wait for my turn to speak
- I do not disparage other's ideas, opinions, thoughts and feelings
- I do not make fun of the fruit of other's work
- I accept that my achievement is under Creative Common Licence

Date and signature



Image Rights Form

For adult

I, the undersigned

.....

Hereby authorize the institution

.....

To use my image for the purpose of "Relindial Cartonera" project related communication in which I was involved.

Date and signature

This authorization is optional. It is possible to participate to a "Relindial Cartonera" project without having signed this authorization.

For children

I, the undersigned

.....

- Father Mother Legal guardian(1)
 Legal guardian(2)

Hereby authorize the institution

.....

To use the image of

.....

for the purpose of "Relindial Cartonera" project related communication in which he/she was involved.

Date and signature

This authorization is optional. It is possible to participate to a "Relindial Cartonera" project without having signed this authorization.

Summary of the key points to buy "Relindial Cartonera"



For the librarian/facilitator

- ◆ Possess cross cultural sensitivity and religious interest, without wanting to convert anybody.
- ◆ Show kindness to everybody
- ◆ Have a good self-understanding. The leader must know what is important for him / her: belief, agnosticism, atheism...
- ◆ Be open and flexible during the steps of the project
- ◆ Be able of creative thinking
- ◆ Remain vigilant to avoid any mishap. Be reactive, keeping self-control if a problem arises despite of all that
- ◆ Ensure that right concerns are taken into consideration:

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Do not use the picture of the participants without their authorization (or the authorization of the parents for minor children)

For the members of the group

- ◆ Be true, discuss in all good faith of what is important, meaningful to you
- ◆ Be benevolent
- ◆ Do not want to be the winner: there will be no winner, no loser: everybody will go out enriched by a better knowledge of the cultures of the world, of the others, of themselves
- ◆ The qualities to highlight for this truthful debate will be humbleness, heart and maturity