

HANDBOOK
FOR THE
*Recently
Deceased*



Developing Death Literacy In LIS

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*Who am I and why am
I here?*

Presentation Overview

- ◆ Death Education
 - Background
 - Myths
 - Language
 - Trends
- ◆ In the Library
- ◆ In Archives

1. Death Education

As a movement and
as a resource

Death Education

- ◆ What is it?
- ◆ Who is it for?
- ◆ When does it happen?

The Many Myths

“The 5 Stages of Grieving”

Stages of grief
popularized by
Psychiatrist
Elizabeth
Kubler-Ross:

Denial
Anger
Bargaining
Depression
Acceptance

“Grief is a Reaction to Death”

It can have many
other associated
feelings or
memories
associated with it..
heartbreak,
addiction, illness,
injury etc

“Grief = Sadness”

It isn't just
sadness.. It can't be
just one thing.

Sadness may be
grief for one person,
but so can
confusion, anger, or
depression.

Paying Attention to the Language we use

“I’m sorry for **your loss**”

“**Passed away**”

“No longer with us”

“Went to **sleep forever**”

“In a **better** place”

“Six feet **under**”

“**Meet** one’s maker”

“On one’s **last legs**”

“_____ **didn’t make it**”

Other Trends

- ◆ Death Positive Movement
 - “*The Order of the Good Death*”
- ◆ Death Doulas (aka End of Life Coaches, Transition Guide)
- ◆ Community centered Death Care
 - Ex: The Canadian Death Care Movement
- ◆ Death Cafes



Caitlin Doughty [Digital image]. (2014). Retrieved from: <https://medium.com/9-things-we-learned-about-death-from-caitlin-doughtys-ask-me-anything-2ee8f5d189>

2.

Applying Death Education in Libraries



“

“Death Literacy involves the skills and knowledge required to plan for and support ourselves and others at the end of life”

- Dr.Kathy Kortes-Miller

How to Help?

- ◆ Active Listening
- ◆ Empathy > Sympathy
- ◆ Cultural & Religious Awareness (*LivingMyCulture.ca*)
- ◆ Spacial Awareness
- ◆ Get to know your collection!



Duck, Death and the Tulip. [Digital Image]. (2016). Retrieved from: <https://www.brainpickings.org/2016/05/04/duck-death-and-the-tulip-wolf-erlbruch/>

What Can Libraries do?

- ◆ Death Cafes
- ◆ Training for staff
 - Death Education
 - Familiarity of Resources
- ◆ Posters
- ◆ Brochures
- ◆ Host speakers that specialize in death related areas



Green, K. (Photographer). (2015, October 15). Anchorage Death Cafe [Digital image]. Retrieved from <https://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/2015/10/30/when-subject-is-death-library-death-cafes/>

3.
Applying Death Education
in Archives

When is 'Death' relevant in Archival work?

- ◆ Acquisitions
- ◆ Donor relations
- ◆ While helping researchers and visitors



U of T Archive. [Digital Image]. (n.d). Retrieved from <https://utarms.library.utoronto.ca/archives>

Conclusion

*“We need to make sure we’re
not just letting our movies
and books do our
Death Education for us”*

- Kathy Kortés-Miller



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Credits

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