HIV AIDS
in the spotlight

MONICA WAGNER
Graphic designer

The current national and worldwide drive to address all aspects of HIV/AIDS presents an ideal opportunity for librarians to have an informative display. Select a prominent area in your library where you can set up a permanent display. The display need not be large, but must be bold and very visible. The example we show here might help you to make a start.

Use of colour

Red is synonymous with AIDS, therefore maintain the AIDS identity by using only the colours red, black and white for dramatic contrast. Note that we have used white and red on a black background and black and red on a white background. The use of the symbol in red ribbon creates a three-dimentional effect. This can also be made by cutting a red strip from paper and folding it into the shape of the symbol.

Lettering

Select and photocopy articles on AIDS from newspapers and trace the wording on them in pencil as a guide to tearing the letter shape out of the newspaper. This method is suggestive of the trauma induced by AIDS.

Information

Use a box covered with black paper and/or newspaper articles covering another box. Leaflets, brochures and other promotional material can be displayed on these and made available for library users to take home.

Check the daily newspapers for the latest articles on the subject and photocopy them, enlarge if necessary, to use in the display. For emphasis use a red arrow pointing to the article, to encourage people to read it.

Celebrities and activists are draw cards. Display photographs of them - enlarged on a photocopier. As there are many of them you can renew the photographs often. We have used possibly the most influential man of our time…our own dear Mandela. This picture of him was photocopied from a book and linked with the news article.

The display needs to be 'kept alive' and must contain as much information and contact numbers as possible. Photocopy and duplicate these as a list, which can be cut out and placed on the display for anyone to take.

Depending on available space this display can be huge, medium or small but whichever size you use, remember to keep it eye-catching and easily accessible to library users.

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