Libraries for peace and hope: Memories of future of Colombian’s war victims in the Magdalena Medio region

How do memories inspire people who suffered decades of violence in sending messages to their beloved ones?

The following concepts were the most significative words, ideas or expressions people used in their written or verbal messages to them. They are showed here as a topic tree in English but also in Spanish, the original language in which they were phrased.

¿What are the Challenges for libraries in the Colombian post-conflict time?

1. To Make visible situations in which people were creating history in their own communities before and during the conflict.

Through:
• Local history maps’ workshops and displays.
• Exhibitions with representative objects of missing or lost community members.
• Meetings for using local collections through discussions about impact of war and space’s transformations.

2. To ensure memories will be available in the future.

Through:
• Meetings for developing a plan within the community for audio-recording the memories of the elderly.
• Library policies in which freedom of speech will be assured but without affecting people’s reputation.

3. To develop networking alliances for sharing experiences and practices.

Researchers: Carolina Roa Higuera, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Colombia. Member of the Alumni Network of Information Science. www.redegresados.info PhD student at Universität Leipzig. Germany. crozo@javeriana.edu.co
Mario Roberto Solarte Rodriguez, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. Colombia. rsolate@javeriana.edu.co

Results achieved within the research Project: Magdalena Medio’s archives of memory. Winner of the competition: human Rights and Archives and supported by the AGN (National General Archive) in 2015. Final results were gained in 2016.

The main aim of the project was to described the stories of some of the victims and/or victims’ relatives in which they recall their past but with a narrative that envisions a better future for them, for their families and their communities.