Beyond Assistive Technology: Improving Library Services to People with Disabilities

Kate Todd
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Kate Todd

Worked as a librarian at The New York Public Library and Manhattanville College

Has taught face-to-face and online courses about services to people with disabilities for Manhattanville College and ALA

Kate Todd
“I was born in 1990 so I was surprised to learn that ADA is so recent.”

“I grew up with accessible buildings, and seeing people with all abilities in them.”

“ADA has been present my entire lifetime and I've benefitted from it tremendously.”

“I’ve taken ADA for granted as a given.”
How many of you remember the time when people with disabilities could legally be discriminated against in employment, education and services?
The First Decade: ADA in the 1990s
Physical space accommodations

1. Ramps

2. Elevators

3. Aisle widths

4. Accessible bathrooms
Assistive Technology

• Kurzweil Machine

• JAWS (Job Access with Speech)

• TV closed captioning (All sets sold after July 1, 1993)
The Second Decade: ADA in the 21st century
“No disabled person has ever visited my library”

“We spent tons of money and no one uses the equipment”
Expanded understanding of people with disabilities
People riding in wheelchairs
People with visual impairments
People who are Deaf or hearing impaired
People with cognitive or neurological disorders
What are some of the disabilities that you are now seeing among patrons visiting your library?
Welcoming Communication

• People First Language
  – Do not use the disability to define a person
  – Do not use “normal” to refer to people without disabilities
  – Avoid negative descriptors like “suffers from” or “afflicted by”

• Communication Etiquette
  – Always speak directly to the patron, not the companion
  – Use a normal voice level
  – Do not finish their sentences
  – It is all right to say you did not understand
1. Say Hello
2. Ask questions
3. Look at person—don’t try to make invisible
4. Just because they do not look at you or answer, doesn’t mean they don’t understand
Collections

1. Formats: large print, audio books, closed captioned films, Braille

2. Fiction, biography, films that portray people who have disabilities

3. Medical collections

4. Reading lists, displays
Booklists

10 Great Books About Disabilities For Grown-Ups

1. Know the Night
by Maria Nuch (2014)

Know the Night has become one of my all time favorite books. The author is a poet who uses creative literary techniques such as wordplay, metaphor, and counterpoint in her prose. The book is not just a personal memoir about raising a child with multiple disabilities; it is also a thoroughly researched meditation on the nature of night, darkness, night-waking, isolation, exploration and jazz. If you or someone you love has a sleep disorder, then you probably already know that all of those things are intimately connected – the author’s exploration is original and hopeful.

2. Criptonary: Disability Humor and Satire
by Maria Palacios (2013)

This book is a one-of-a-kind weapon against ignorance. Written in a dictionary format, the author takes full ownership of derogatory and offensive terms about people with disabilities. Perhaps the greatest magic of this book is the fact that every idea is pursued with absurdity. When you laugh out loud at the pool among puzzled bystanders, you may find yourself trying to explain what a “cripward” is.

3. The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving: A Novel

http://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2015/07/20/10-great-books-about-disabilities-for-grown-ups/

Best Children's Books with Disability/Accessibility Themes

5. Thank You, Mr. Falker
by Patricia Polacco

5.0 stars avg rating — 10,771 ratings
score: 296, and 3 people voted

6. A Boy and a Jaguar
by Alan Rabinowitz

4.23 stars avg rating — 656 ratings
score: 199, and 2 people voted

7. Can I Play Too? (Elephant & Piggie, #12)
by Mo Willems

4.49 stars avg rating — 2,968 ratings
score: 197, and 2 people voted

8. El Deafo
by Cece Bell (Goodreads Author)

3.98 stars avg rating — 12,798 ratings
score: 196, and 2 people voted

http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/14211.Best_Children_s_Books_with_Disability_Accessibility_Themes
The Third Decade: What’s Next?
New Programming Options

- Programming for youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Inclusive Programming for Adults with Disabilities
- Described and captioned film programs
- New programming, such as makerspaces, should be accessible
Programming for Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Event Detail

**Autism 101 for Libraries: What is Autism Spectrum Disorder and How Can We Help Students and Families at the Library?**

**When:** Thursday, September 17, 2015 (9:30 AM - 11:00 AM)

**Where:** [GoToWebinar](#) (Web Conference/Webinar)

- This webinar will be run through GoToWebinar. Use the "register" link below to sign-up for this event, and you will receive a follow-up email with instructions on how to join the webinar.

[Register](#)
Inclusive Programming for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

Chapters Ahead

Who We Are » What We Do » Get Involved » Support Chapters Ahead » Books » Contact Us

Articles Featuring NCBC » News

Next Chapter Book Club

The Next Chapter Book Club (NCBC) offers weekly opportunities for people with developmental disabilities (DD) to read and learn together, talk about books, and make friends in a relaxed, community setting. A program of The Ohio State University Nisonger Center, NCBC was established in June 2002 to provide adolescents and adults with DD – regardless of reading ability – the chance to be members of a book club. NCBC has become the preeminent program of its kind. Today there are NCBC programs in over 100 cities across North America and Europe.

Upcoming Trainings

• The Next Chapter Book Club and Beyond: October 18 & 19, 2013

Programs

• Next Chapter Book Club
• Jot It Down
• A Lifetime of Learning
• The Value of Giving

Ideas and Resources

• Inspiration for Poetry

Event Detail

Inclusive Programming for Adults with Developmental Disabilities

When: Thursday, November 12, 2015 (1:30 PM - 3:00 PM)

Where: GoToWebinar (Web Conference/Webinar)

• This webinar will be run through GoToWebinar. Use the "register" link below to sign-up for this event, and you will receive a follow-up email with instructions on how to join the webinar:

Register

http://nextchapterbookclub.org/
Described and Captioned Films

http://www.dcmp.org/about-dcmp
How makerspaces can be accessible to people with disabilities

Jennifer Langston

UW sophomore Kayla Wheeler, a congenital amputee, offers input on making makerspaces more accessible to people with disabilities. Dennis Wise/University of Washington

Closed Captioning on the Internet

Harvard and M.I.T. Are Sued Over Lack of Closed Captions

By TAMAR LEWIN  FEB. 12, 2015

M.I.T. and Harvard have extensive materials available free online, including edX, a nonprofit that offers dozens of MOOCs, or massive open online courses.

Gretchen Ertl for The New York Times

Assistive Technology Apps
• BARD
• vBookz PDF Reader
• Natural Reader
• Clear Captions
• Marlee Signs
• Class Dojo
• Alexicom AAC
• Verbally
• Dragon Dictation
Poll Question

How many of you:

1. have a member of your family who has a disability?
2. have a friend with a disability?
3. have a friend caring for a parent or child that has a disability?
4. have a disability yourself?
5. have never met a person with a disability?
When developing a plan for improving services to people with disabilities, start with family, staff, friends and current patrons
Some valuable partnerships

- Schools/Special education staff
- Parents/other family members
- Library Advisory Committee
- Senior Citizen Centers
- Job programs
- Veterans Groups
Staff Development

Autism 101 for Libraries (Webinar)
Thursday, September 17 (9:30—11 a.m.)
http://railslib.us/autism101

Mental Health Awareness Training
Wednesday, October 7 (1—4 p.m.) Skokie Public Library http://railslib.us/skokie
Thursday, October 15 (1—4 p.m.) Kewanee Public Library http://railslib.us/kewaneclibrary

Inclusive Programming for Adults with Developmental Disabilities (Webinar)
November 12: (1:30—3:00 p.m.)
http://railslib.us/inclusive
5 common myths about disabilities

1. People with disabilities don’t want to talk about it
2. All people who are blind know how to read Braille
3. People with similar disabilities want the same accommodations
4. All people who are deaf know sign language
5. People who are disabled are miserable and unhappy
Keeping up on Twitter

Disability.gov
@Disabilitygov
The U.S. federal government website for information on disability policies, programs & services nationwide. Sign up for tweets by email: bit.ly/1gDNOs5

NDSS
@NDSS FOLLOW YOU
The mission of the National Down Syndrome Society is to be the national advocate for the value, acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.

UCP national office
@UCPnational
The UCP mission is to advance the independence, productivity and full citizenship of people with a spectrum of disabilities through its affiliate network.

Disability in Kidlit
@DisabilityInLit
Reviewing & discussing portrayals of disability in MG/YA novels since 2013. By @kody_kеплингер, @corinmedyuvis, & @punkinonwheels....

Renee Grassi
@MissReneeDomain FOLLOW YOU
Librarian. 2012 LJ Mover & Shaker. #TargetingAutism Board Member. SNaLS Co-Founder. Accessibility Advocate. ALSC & ILA Member....

ASCLA (ALA)
@ala_ascla
The Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, a division of the American Library Association
Beyond Assistive Technology:
Improving Library Services
to People with Disabilities

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