Maximize Access for All: Serving Disabled Patrons in Your Community

Kyle Evans, Reference Associate, Springfield-Greene County Library District

Lisa Hellman, Youth Services Librarian, Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

Amy Nickless, Adult Services Librarian, Wolfner Talking Book and Braille Library

Patrick Wall, Library Director, University City Public Library
Resources Recommended by

Missouri Secretary of State
Wolfner Library

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Missouri Resources

• Independent Living Resource Centers
  • https://mosilc.org/mo-centers-db/

• KidSight
  • https://kid-sight.org/

• Missouri Assistive Technology
  • https://at.mo.gov/
Missouri Resources

• Missouri Council of the Blind (MCB)
  • http://www.mobblind.org/

• Rehabilitation Services for the Blind
  • https://dss.mo.gov/fsd/rsb/
Textbooks in Alternative Formats:

- Bookshare
  - https://www.bookshare.org/cms/

- Learning Ally
  - http://www.learningally.org/

- Missouri School for the Blind
  - https://msb.dese.mo.gov/
Youth Braille Programs

- American Action Fund for Blind Children and Adults (AAF)
  - [https://www.actionfund.org/free-braille-books](https://www.actionfund.org/free-braille-books)

- National Federation of the Blind (NFB)-Braille Reading Pals Club
Accessible E-Resource Programs

Amy Nickless, Adult Services Librarian, Wolfner Library
• Accessible Features:
  • For those with sight and no physical issues:
    • Increase font size
    • Increase font boldness
    • Change font
    • Change contrast

• Non-Accessible Features
  • Everything else
• Issues with screenreaders:
  • Only hyperlinks are read
  • No ability to navigate site or within books (e-book or audio)
  • Text in e-books is not continuously read
    • Must select each paragraph individually
  • No timeout warnings
  • Help and FAQ pages described in visual terms only
Language Learning Programs

Accessible:
- Rosetta Stone
- pronunciator
- HADLEY

Non-Accessible:
- duolingo
- mángolanguages
- Transparent Language®
Serving Patrons with Visual Disabilities

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Staff Training (homegrown)

• Paired building walk-throughs
• Raise awareness
• Identify building problem areas
• Low/no cost
• Equipment: blindfolds, swim goggles with Vaseline
• Compile results!
Staff Training (from the pros!)

- Various disability organizations statewide can assist
- Pair work: canes and chairs
- Varieties of visual impairment
- Patron focus group!
Part 2:
Staff Training (from the pros!)

Focus Group
How well does *your* PAC play with JAWS?
Label It!
Programming: One Book, Many Formats

Regular Print

Audio CD

Downloadable Audiobook

Wolfner Talking Book

Downloadable eBook

Large Print
Materials:
Think about your existing resources!

A more accessible audiobook collection
And a quick survey of MO public libraries...
Q18 Does your library have a computer (or computers) available with any of these screen-reading software packages for patrons with visual disabilities?

August-September 2017 Survey of Missouri Public Libraries; 28 libraries responding
Assistive Technology Pilot Project and Patron Response at Springfield-Greene County Library

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Questions?