

Accessible Libraries 101

Presented by Angela Meyers, Bridges Library System Dec. 10, 2020

■ The (Not So) Fine Print

DISCLAIMER: Information included in this presentation is intended as a resource and is for informational purposes only. It is neither a determination of your legal rights and responsibilities under state or federal access laws or binding on any agency with enforcement responsibilities.



Agenda

- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- ADA and the public library
- Building access
- Program access
- Resources



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

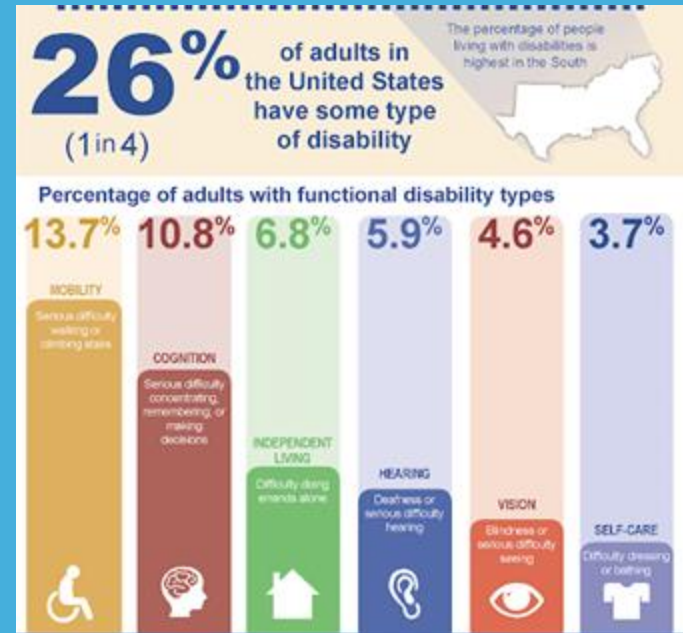
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) **prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability** in employment (Title I), state and local governments (Title II), and places of public accommodation and commercial facilities (Title III). Title IV is telecommunication services.

ADA was enacted by U.S. Congress in 1990 and amended in 2009 (referred to as ADA, 2010 Standards).



George H.W. Bush, surrounded by four people, signing the ADA into law in 1990

Disability Impacts ALL of US



■ Who is Protected by the ADA?

ADA defines a person with a disability as a person who has

- a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity
 - Includes people who have a record of such an impairment
 - Also includes people who do not have a disability but are regarded as having a disability

■ ADA and the Public Library

Title I - Employment

Title II - State and Local Governments

Title III - Public Accommodations and Commercial Facilities

Title IV - Telecommunications

■ New Construction and Alterations

If elements in existing facilities already comply with corresponding elements in the 1991 Standards and are not being altered, then entities are not required to make changes to those elements to bring them into compliance with the 2010 Standards.

New Construction and Alterations	
Dates	Applicable Standards
September 15, 2010, to March 15, 2012	title II: 1991 Standards, UFAS, or 2010 Standards title III: 1991 Standards or 2010 Standards
On or after March 15, 2012	2010 Standards

■ Grandfather Clause

There is no "**grandfather**" clause in the ADA. As a Title II entity, you must provide program access for people with disabilities.



A ramp was installed to provide access to the city activities conducted in this facility.

Arriving at the Library



[Accessibility for Visitors](#)

■ Accessibility Surveys

Bridges Library System worked with Centers for Independent Living to identify barriers in the libraries using the

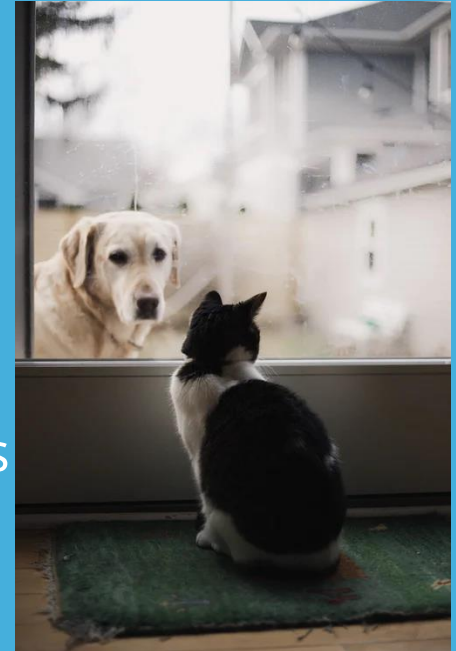


Accessibility consultant measuring slope of sidewalk at a public library

ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities from the New England ADA Center

■ Priorities for Accessible Facilities

- Priority 1: Accessible approach and entrance
- Priority 2: Access to goods and services
- Priority 3: Access to public toilet rooms
- Priority 4: Access to other items such as water fountains and public telephones



Dog outside looking in at cat

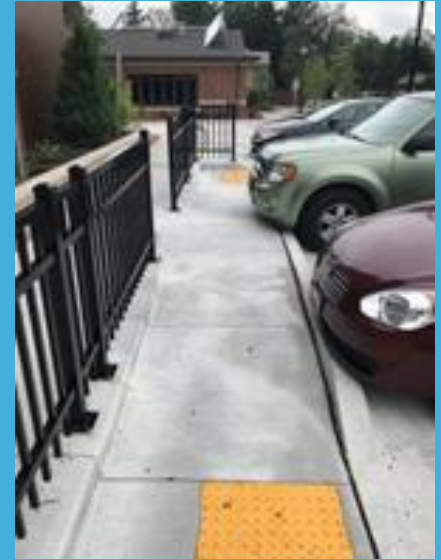
Physical Access: Approach and Entrance



No visible sign indicating front entrance



Each handicap accessible space should have its own sign



Parked vehicles intruding onto accessible path of travel

■ Physical Access: Outside the Library

- Sufficient parking spaces
- Parking close to the library entrance
- Clear and easy to read signs
- Smooth and non-slip surface at entrance
- Unobstructed well lighted access paths to the entrance

Total Spaces	Accessible Spaces
1 - 25	1
26 - 50	2
51 - 75	3
76 - 100	4
100+ see 2010 Standards 208.2	

Number of accessible parking spaces, ADA Checklist for Existing Facilities

Physical Access: Getting Into the Library

- Doors wide enough to enter
- Ground-level entry, ramped access, and/or elevators to the venue
- Steps marked with a contrasting color or flooring type
- Elevator buttons reachable from a wheelchair



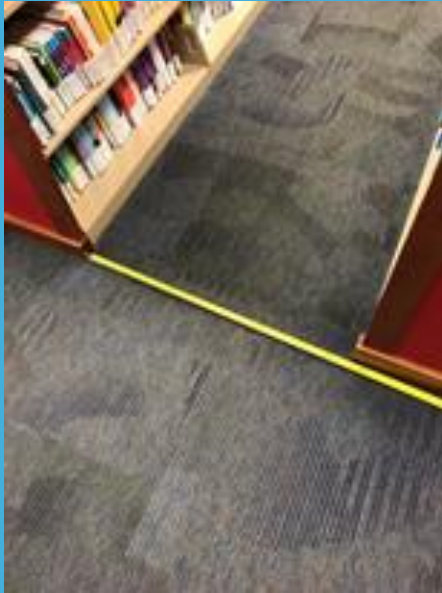
Secure or replace floor mats to minimize tripping hazards

Physical Access: Around the Library

- Signs with pictograms
- Reachable shelves, display cases, and counters from a wheelchair
- Accessible reading and computer tables throughout the library (5%)
- Chairs with sturdy armrests. Check weight capacities
- Visible and audible alarm system



Physical Access: Getting Around the Library



Measured 34.5"
Needs to be 36"
42" is ideal



27" clear width measured



Measured 31"

■ Physical Access: Around the Library



Clear items
(obstacles)
from aisles



Physical Access: Around the Library



Centerline of the water closet shall be 16-18" from the wall side or partition



Rear wall grab bar in incorrect position



Library director attempts to flush the toilet in the family restroom. 10 lbs of force is needed!

Easy Fixes



Coat hangers blocked



No door pull on interior



Hanger too high

Easy Fix



End shelf at the DVD aisle is 28" above the floor, presenting a hazard for someone with vision loss



Library director lowers DVD shelf 1" to meet the recommended 27" cane sweep height

Easy Fixes



Consider how wastebaskets may be blocking paths of travel - in this case, door clearance.

People with disabilities can save lives, too!

Put first aid boxes and defibrillators at an accessible height.

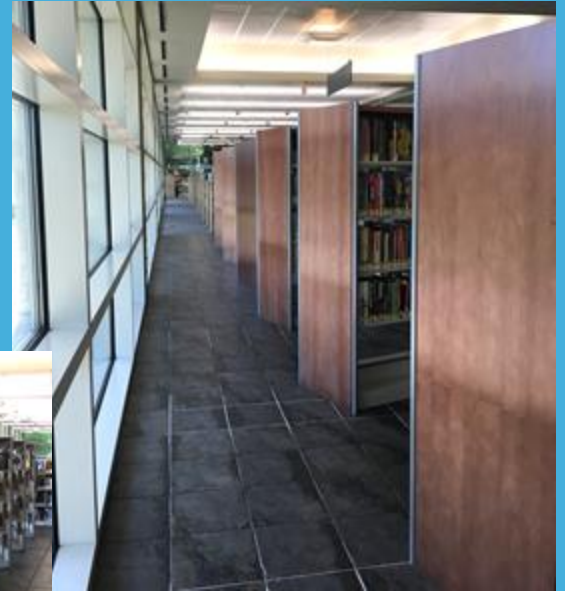


Measured at 52"
at its lowest point

Easy Fix



Shelving created dead-end aisle



Shelving moved away from the window, creating space to turn and a new sightline

Easy Fix



Online catalog station is nearly accessible, but insufficient knee clearance. Easy to add risers!

Any questions?



■ Program Access



\$41 Million Hunter's Point Library

Is Not Accessible

What do you observe?

The Hunter's Point Library has an elevator, but it does not stop at three fiction sublevels.

10/4/2019: A Queens Public Library officially announced that the books in the three fiction levels would be relocated to another place inside the library.



■ Your Collection: Media Formats

- Braille
- Large Print
- Audio
- Described video
(e.g. [descriptive video demonstration](#))
- Hi/Lo Books



Special Services

- Home delivery & outreach
- Guided (video) tours of the library to highlight special services and materials:
 - large print
 - audio books
 - DVDs
 - accessibility features on library's website, catalog or Libby (Dyslexic font)



National Library Service Equipment

Visit [WI Talking Book and Braille Library](#)

Special Services Promotion

Menomonee Falls Public Library offers a variety of special services and adaptive technologies to assist those with diverse needs.

Services for those with mobility concerns

- **Parking** – handicap accessible parking is located at the main entrance, and along the south side of the library.
- **Building Entrance** – the main entrance to the library features no steps and automatic doors.
- **Walkers and Transport Chair** – available at the entrance in the main lobby. We ask that you limit your use of the walker to one hour.
- **Elevator** – conveniently located in the center of the library, and features braille signage.
- **Handicap Accessible Restrooms** – off the main lobby, in the youth library (1st floor), and in the adult library (2nd floor).
- **Wheelchair Accessible Catalogs** – Downstairs in the youth library and on the 2nd floor near current magazines.

Assistive Services

- **Retrieval of Library items** – books, periodicals, CDs, DVDs, and so on. Just ask!
- **Specialized materials**
 - large print books
 - audiobooks (on CDs, Playaways and digital)
 - captioned DVDs
 - downloadable Audiobooks and eBooks

TIP: Create a **Know Before You Go** Video for your visitors

Visit [Menomonee Falls Public Library: Assistive Services](#)

Programs

- Sensory storytime
- Drop in activities
- Next Chapter Book Club
- Memory cafés
- Volunteer opportunities



Program Considerations

- Universal appeal
- No registration required
- Turn captions on for movies
- Presenter must use a microphone
- Provide ample wheelchair seating
- Visual schedule
- Visual timers
- Noise canceling headphones
- Fidgets
- Assisted Seating
- Off-site



Back Jack Chair

Program Flyers

- **Font:** avoid *scripts*, minimum 12 point font, avoid CAPITAL letters
- **Color & contrast:** background images should be avoided, do not use color to emphasis, use **bold** or *italics* or ***both***



<https://learn.g2.com/color-contrast>

Check out this [Accessibility Guide to Documents](#)

Sample Accomodation Text for Events

If any accommodations are needed, please contact (individual's name) **at** (telephone number and TTY). **Requests should be made as soon as possible but at least (time frame) prior to the scheduled meeting.**



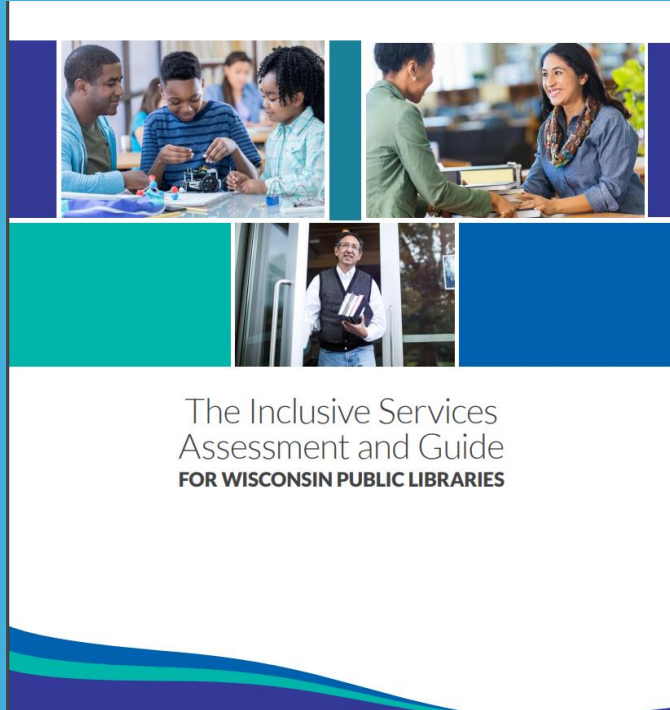
Communication

- Print materials in alternate formats, including Braille, large print, digital
- Large print, high contrast signs
- Sign language interpretation
- 7-1-1 for Telecommunications Relay Service
- Assistive listening system (service desk hearing loop pictured at right)



Check out this video on [How Hearing Loops Work](#)

Inclusive Services Assessment and Guide



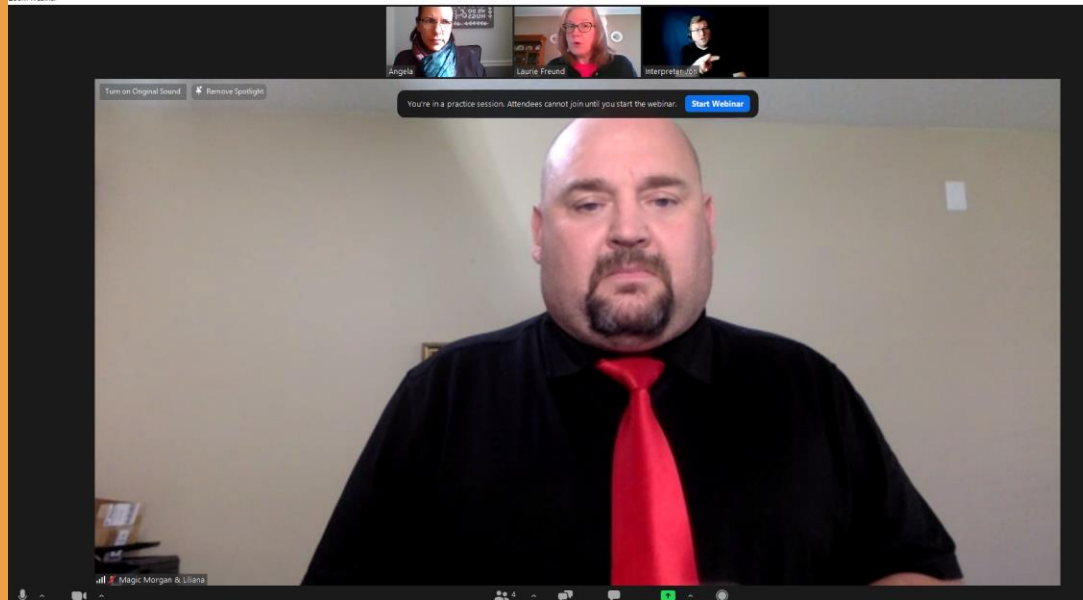
- The Inclusive Services Statement
- The Inclusive Services Assessment and Guide

Get started with the [Inclusive Services Assessment and Guide](#)

Any questions?



Virtual Accessibility



Deaf magician Matt Morgan, with ASL interpreter Jon, go over details for an upcoming event with Laurie and Angela from Bridges Library System

■ Web Accessibility



Dominoes v Robles

■ Web Accessibility

- Add Alt Text to images
- Keyboard friendly
- Color contrast
- Use headers to structure content
- Design forms for accessibility
- Keep your tables simple
- Caption videos
 - [Rev.com](#): \$1.25/minute or [YouTube](#): free (with tweaks)



Get started with [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1](#)

Continuous Learning

Online:

- [Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference](#)
- [Project Enable: Expanding Nondiscriminatory Access By Librarians Everywhere](#)

In-person:

- [Public Library Association](#)
- [American Library Association](#)
- [Wisconsin Library Association](#)
- [Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability \(LEAD\)](#)
- [National ADA Symposium](#)

Resources

- U.S. Department of Justice - Information and Technical Assistance on the Americans with Disabilities Act
800-514-0301
- U.S. Access Board
800-872-2253
- Great Lakes ADA Center 800-949-4232
- Centers for Independent Living

Web Accessibility

- WebAIM (Web Accessibility in Mind)
 - WAVE
Accessibility Tool



Self-Reflection

What are two takeaways as a result of attending today's webinar?



THANKS!

Any questions?



You can find me at:

ameyers@bridgeslibrarysystem.org

or (262) 896-8245