

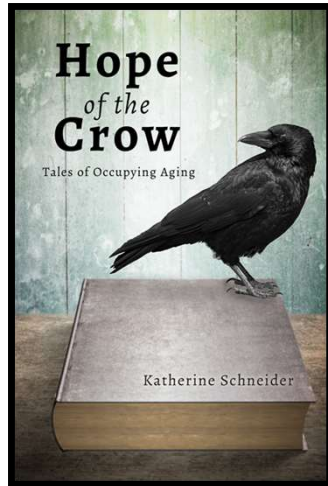
# Information Access: Leveling the Playing Field for Librarians

Katherine Schneider, Ph.D.

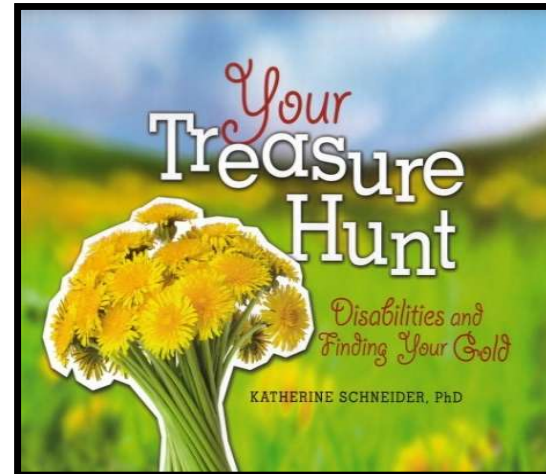
[schneiks@uwec.edu](mailto:schneiks@uwec.edu)



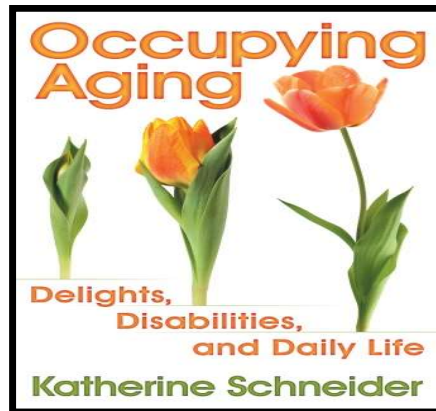




**Hope of the Crow**



**Your Treasure Hunt**



**Occupying Aging: Delights,  
Disabilities, and Daily Life**

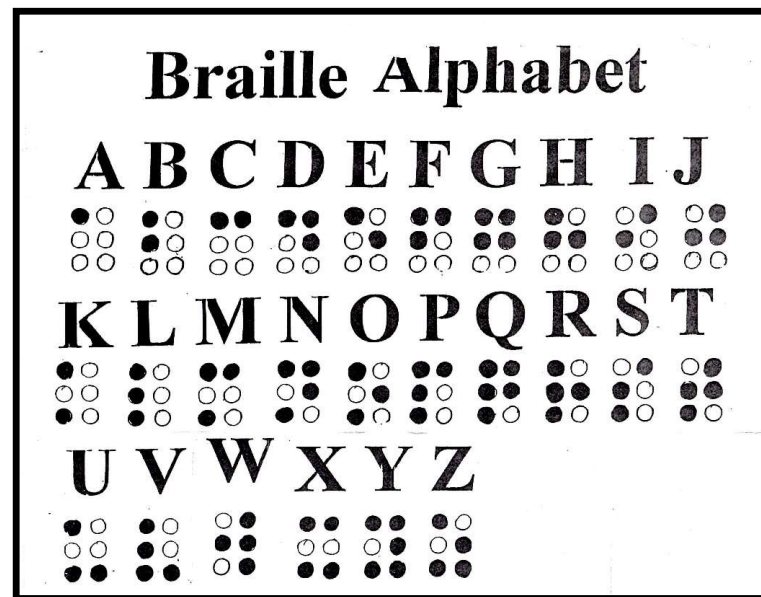


**To the Left of Inspiration**

# INFORMATION ACCESS TRIVIA QUIZ!



# When was Braille invented?



**Braille was invented in the 1820s.**



In what year did the “**Help America Vote Act**”  
guarantee a **secret ballot** in Federal elections  
to people with disabilities?



# **2002!**

**IN 2002, THE “HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT”  
GUARANTEED A SECRET BALLOT  
TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.**



**According to U.S. Census data,  
what percent of people  
have a disability and  
what percent of people  
over sixty-five do?**

**20% of people have a disability**

**50% of people over sixty-five  
have a disability**

**Kinds of Information  
Blind, Low Vision and  
Print Disabled People  
Need Access To**

# PRINTED INFORMATION



# SMARTPHONES

## COMPUTERS

## PROGRAMS

## APPS



# FLAT SCREEN DEVICES



# ACCESS SOLUTIONS



# TACTILE





# SCREEN READERS



# SPECIAL DEVICES AND APPS



# HUMAN MEDIATED INFORMATION



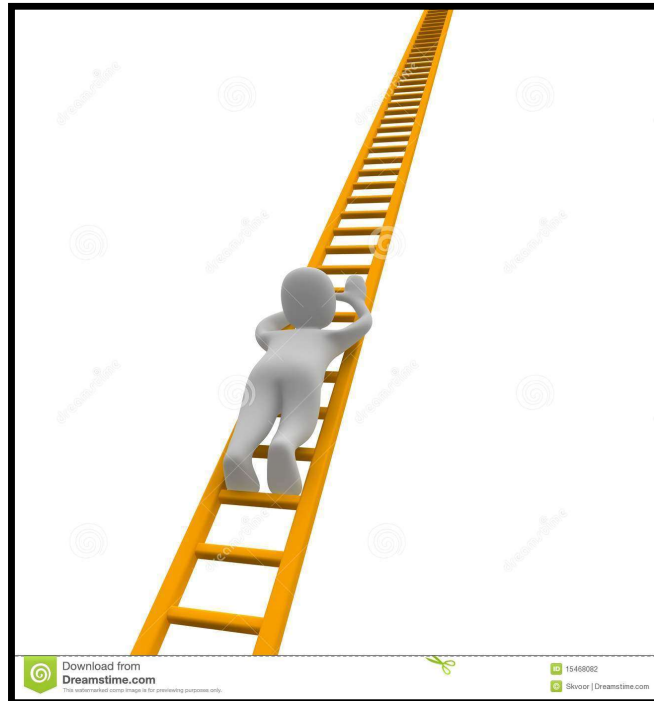
**WHY NOT JUST BUILD IT RIGHT  
TO BEGIN WITH?**



# **WHERE ARE WE IN LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD OF INFORMATION ACCESS?**



# MY PROCESS FOR GAINING ACCESS



# WHAT YOU CAN DO



## **YOUR LIBRARY**

- **materials**
- **website**
- **programs**
- **staff training**
- **policies and procedures**



# **MATERIALS**

- **screen reader**
- **Braille printer**
- **print/Braille books**
- **audio-described videos**
- **accessible games**
- **accessible art**
- **books in multiple formats**
- **clear signage**
- **Braille elevator buttons**

# WEBSITE

Meets WCAG 2.2 guidelines with features like:

- alt text tags on pictures
- use of headings to mark important links

Contact listed on website for access issues

# PROGRAMS

- Be willing to audio describe on the fly
- Have multi-sensory experiences at children's programs like passing around a small model of the object you're showing a picture of

# STAFF TRAINING

- Yearly staff training about serving customers with disabilities, including blindness and low vision

Include:

- Service dog etiquette
- Info about National Library Service equipment and services

## **TIPS FOR EVERYDAY INTERACTIONS**

- **Greet a blind person so they know you're there.**
- **Say "bye" to a blind person when leaving them.**
- **If you want to pet a service animal, ASK the handler for permission.**



## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Access policy and procedure for requests on front page of website
- Procurement policy requiring preference for accessibility, if available

# TO LEARN MORE:

<https://www.bemyeyes.com/>  
<https://blindfoldgames.org/>

<http://www.acb.org/adp/>  
**The Audio Description Project**

**National Library Service and Print Disabled**  
<https://www.loc.gov/nls>

**Bookshare**  
[www.bookshare.org](http://www.bookshare.org)