Archives and Library Accessibility

AMRT/RMRT Joint Working Group on Accessibility in Archives and Records Management

Working Group Charge
To contact and network with persons with physical impairments in the archives and records management profession (archivists, records managers, and researchers/patrons), identify and study the challenges for them in same, and develop tools to assist them in overcoming these challenges.

“Making Archives Accessible for People With Disabilities”
Frank Serene

“Library Accessibility – What You Need to Know”
ASCLA, Monique DeLatte, editor
Includes an extensive accessibility “toolkit”
http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/ascla/asclaprotools/accessibilitytipsheets/index.cfm

“Best Practices for Working with Archives Researchers with Disabilities”
http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/BestPract-Disabilities_Researchers.pdf

“Best Practices for Working with Archives Employees with Disabilities”
http://www2.archivists.org/sites/all/files/BestPract-Disabilities_Employees.pdf

Accessibility Is For Everyone!
A Quick Guide to Accessibility and Archives
Compiled by the Society of American Archivists AMRT/RMRT Joint Working Group on Accessibility in Archives and Records Management

http://www2.archivists.org/groups/amrtrmrt-working-group-on-accessibility

Compilers:
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Working Group Presentations

SAA 2011:
Thursday, August 25, Noon-1:15 pm
“Accessibility For All: Practical Tips for Creating Access in Archives”

SAA 2010:
“Archival Accessibility for All: An Awareness Forum”
http://saa.archivists.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/events/eventdetail.html?
Action=Events_Detail&InvID_W=1681

SAA 2009:
“Strategies for Accommodating People with Physical Impairments and Disabilities in Archives”
http://www2.archivists.org/groups/amrtrmrt-working-group-on-accessibility

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### Accessibility Information Resources

**Definitions:**

**Glossary of Disability-Related Terms**
University of Washington
https://www.washington.edu/doit/Brochures/Programs/glossary.html

**Laws and Regulations**

U.S. Department of Labor
http://www.dol.gov/dol/topic/disability

International and Comparative Disability Law Web Resources
Syracuse University Law Library

**Disability Studies:**

Academic Literature
University of Washington
http://depts.washington.edu/disstud/related-links

**Video:**

Accessibility: For Everyone’s Benefit: You Tube Video discusses how accessibility is a benefit to everyone.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U86PW0VdxeA

### Disability-Related Organizations

**Access Board**
http://www.access-board.gov

**International Disability Alliance**
United Nations
http://www.internationaldisabilityalliance.org

**Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)**
http://www.w3.org/WAI

**The International Disability-Research Discussion List**
http://www.leeds.ac.uk/disability-studies/discuss.htm

**Trace: Research to Make Everyday Technologies Accessible & Usable**
University of Wisconsin, Madison
trace.wisc.edu

**Accessibility and Mobile Devices**

**Apple:**
www.apple.com/accessibility

**For Blackberries:**
http://us.blackberry.com/support/devices/blackberry_accessibility/

Find general information about mobile devices and accessibility:
http://www.w3.org/WAI/mobile/

### Disability-Related Organizations

**Voice Recognition Devices**
For people who have limited physical dexterity.
Use speech to input information into a computer and to navigate applications, menus, and the Internet.

**Text-to-Speech Software**
For people with reading difficulties and/or visual impairments.
Written text on a computer, including email and web pages, is converted to audio files.

**Screen Readers and Talking Browsers**
For people with visual impairments.
Software that can ‘speak’ graphics and text.

**Screen Magnification Software**
For people with low vision.
Used to enlarge sections of computer screens.

**Portable Note-Takers with Braille Display**
For people with visual impairments.
Lightweight devices that include speech synthesizers. Some use Braille input, others use regular keyboard input.

**Visual Organization Software**
For people with learning disabilities.
Mind-mapping software that helps with note-taking and organizing information for reports.

**Scanning and Literacy Software**
For people with learning disabilities or who are blind.

### Accessibility Tools and Gadgets

**Closed Circuit Television Video Magnifiers**
For people with low vision.
Cameras that project images of documents, graphics, etc. on a television screen, computer monitor, etc.

**Ergonomic Pointing Devices**
Help to prevent strain and tension of upper extremity muscles.
Used to point or type on a keyboard—can be worn on the head, held in the hand or in the mouth, or strapped to the chin.

**Head Tracking and On-Screen Keyboard**
For people who have limited physical dexterity.
A reflective dot is worn on the forehead and a camera and software track the positioning and translate this into mouse movements and clicks.

**Augmentative Communication Devices**
Portable, lightweight devices that let users with physical disabilities communicate by punching various programmable labeled buttons.

**Find More Tools and Definitions**
Family Center on Technology and Disability Assistive Technology Glossary
http://www.fctd.info/factsheet/glossary