



Disabilities and the Library

Fostering Equity for Patrons and Staff with Differing Abilities

Clayton A. Copeland, Editor, Foreword by Blanche Wools

1 VOLUME

Understanding the needs and abilities of patrons who are differently abled increases librarians' ability to serve them from childhood through adulthood. While some librarians are fortunate to have had coursework to help them understand the needs and abilities of the differently abled, many have had little experience working with this diverse group. In addition, many persons who are differently abled are—or would like to become—librarians.

Differing Abilities and the Library helps readers understand the challenges faced by people who are differently abled, both as patrons and as information professionals. Readers will learn to assess their library's physical facilities, programming, staff, and continuing education to ensure that their libraries are prepared to include people of all abilities. Inclusive programming and collection development suggestions will help librarians to meet the needs of patrons and colleagues with mobility and dexterity problems, learning differences, hearing and vision limitations, sensory and cognitive challenges, autism, and more. Additional information is included about assistive and adaptive technologies and web accessibility. Librarians will value this accessible and important book as they strive for equity and inclusivity.

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Philosophy, Values, and Issues

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FEATURES

Identifies the differently abled who are patrons and employees in libraries

Details the needs and abilities of a special clientele

Encourages the interest of management in hiring applicants who are differently abled

Includes chapters written by working librarians, educators, and researchers

Offers advice to strengthen services, programming, collection development, accessibility, and legal compliance

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