

## Serving Patrons with Hearing Impairments: A Resource List for Librarians

### Books

Video Collection Development in Multi-type Libraries, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Greenwood, 2002. (See chapter devoted to “Video Services for the Deaf.”)

(Patrons with hearing impairments have special needs that go beyond captioning. This chapter discusses what those needs are and how librarians can best meet them beyond captioning services.)

### Professional Periodicals

Day, John Michael. “Online Deafness and Deaf Culture Information Resources.” Education Libraries 1999: 5-8.

(Deafness is not just a disability, but a culture. People who are deaf have communication and social practices that apply only to their subpopulation of the general society. This includes how they communicate online. Day discusses how patrons who are deaf express and receive information in electronic form.)

Lajoie, Linda. “Embracing the Silence: How librarians can help deaf children develop their reading skills.” School Library Journal Aug. 2003: 43.

(Whoever does story hour in the Children’s Department must read this.)

McKenna, Janet. “Huh? What? Interacting with Your Hard of Hearing Patrons.” Public Libraries Jan.-Feb. 2003: 9-11.

(There’s nothing like first-hand experience. The author of this article is a librarian who has a profound hearing loss. She provides many common sense suggestions that should be brought to the attention of any library staff with public contact. She includes suggestions for collection development and weeding.)

McLean, Doug. “Following the Right Signs.” Public Library Journal Winter 2001: 138.

(Find information here about the right signs to use when dealing with patrons who use sign language as a means of communication.)

MacMillan, Kathleen Kelly. “Signs of Success: ASL Access Opens the Door between Deaf and Hearing.” Public Libraries Jan.-Feb. 2003: 17-19. (Find information here about signed videos.)

MacMillan, Kathleen. “Hands-On Collection Building: A librarian offers tips for sign language materials selection.” School Library Journal Mar. 2004: 46-47.

(There are two people at your library who need to read this article: the person who buys instructional books about sign language, and the person who buys videos. You already

know that many videos are captioned, but did you know that they also make signed videos?)

Marks, Kimberly S. "Deaf Patrons in the Rural Library: the benefits of community networks." Bookmobile and Outreach Services 8 (2005): 7-19.

(You would think that people who cannot hear well would be heavy library users, since the library is the place to go if you get your information visually, that is: through written language. This article explains that, although the Deaf badly need the help that is available at the public library, they are often reluctant to seek it out because of low literacy. If you have ever wondered what it would be like to work in the public library of a rural community, this article is interesting reading, quite apart from the disability issues.)

Mechlinski, Joanna. "A Garden for the Sensory Impaired." Hartford Courant 13 Aug. 2002, statewide ed.: D.1.

(What a wonderful project for the Friends or even a librarian with green thumb.)

Nelson, Jessica Medinger. "Struggling Readers' Best Friends; Therapy Dogs Listen, Bark and 'Don't Judge'" Washington Post 25 Nov. 2004, final ed.: T.03.

(Children's librarians take note: you may hear a child reading out loud, not to himself, not to his parents, but to his assistance dog.)

Noland, Abigail. "How Cleveland Serves the Deaf Community." Public Libraries Jan.-Feb. 2003: 20-21.

(This is an example of a big city library that has really involved all departments in its effort to serve the deaf community. The technical services department has to process specialized materials for which copy cataloging does not exist. The publicity staff can't just use standard press releases; they have to adapt their methods for a different population.)

Noonan, David. "A Little Bit Louder, Please." Newsweek 6 Jun. 2005: 42-49.

If you thought hearing loss was a problem associated mainly with the aged, this article is a must-read. It explains why hearing loss is becoming more prevalent in young people. It also does a good job of covering the latest medical treatments.

Rodriguez, Rosa and Monica Reed. "Our Deaf Family Needs to Read, Too." Public Libraries Jan.-Feb. 2003: 38-41.

(This is a unique situation in that the Deaf community in this Florida county is one of the largest in America. Although this library's response may seem unrealistic for your local needs, it is worth reading the article for the background information about how being deaf is a barrier to acquiring literacy.)

## Web Sites

### Libraries Serving Deaf Children

<http://leep.lis.uiuc.edu/publish/klingham/deafkidslibs/>

The title of the site is a little bit misleading; the information here is not only for children's librarians. The three library school students who built this site in 2003 assembled a body of information that is directly pertinent to librarians and the hearing impaired. Our appreciation goes out to them.

### National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders

<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/health/hearing/>

Besides being a wonderful source of general background information about hearing loss and the auxiliary aids available for the hearing impaired, this government agency is a big help to libraries who wish to stock brochures and bookmarks on this subject. Keep them in mind if you are building a book display about hearing loss.

### Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/today/pr/2006/06-061.html>

Read about the Library of Congress' recent celebration of National Deaf History Month. Supposedly, there is a kit available from Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action to help libraries put together their own Deaf History Month celebrations; however, the link to the kit did not work as of the date of this list.

## Collection Development

### The Deaf Resource Library

<http://www.deaflibrary.org/>

You might want to add one or two deaf-oriented magazines to your periodicals collection, and you can find a list of them here.

2006 Blue Book (also known as the TDI National Directory & Resource Guide – Promoting Equal Access to Telecommunications and Media for People who are Deaf, Late-Deafened, Hard-of-Hearing or Deaf-Blind)

Available online from TDI: <http://www.tdi-online.org/ebb/storeproducts.asp>

“Secret Signs: an escape through the underground railroad” - a children's book by Connecticut author Anita Riggio.

See brief note at Reyna, Bessy. “Where Are the Relevant Children's Books?” Editorial. Hartford Courant 20 Dec. 2002: A.13.

Developed by Dana M. Lucisano and Sherry Gelbwasser, members of the Connecticut Library Association's ADA Committee

Look for future updates of this document on the Connecticut Library Association web site. In the event of broken links, contact Dana M. Lucisano at [dlucisano@bronsonlibrary.org](mailto:dlucisano@bronsonlibrary.org)