See What I See: Serving Persons with Visual Disabilities – A Resource List

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<u>Books</u>:

Basu, S. G. <u>Public Library Services to Visually Disabled Children</u>.
Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland, 1991.
Call No. Z711.92.V57B37 1991 (Buley Library, Southern Conn.
State Univ.)

The author's purpose in writing this book was to make people in the library profession aware of the results of a national survey conducted in 1987 to find out what kinds of services public libraries across America were offering to children with visual impairments. Although the information in the book seems dated now, it nonetheless could be a useful source for anyone planning a similar type of survey. The methodology and results of the survey are discussed in detail. The first chapter of the book would be useful to anyone who wants a general, succinct history of the pioneers in this country and abroad who labored to make print accessible to people with vision impairments.

Courtney Deines-Jones and Connie Van Fleet. <u>Preparing Staff to Serve Patrons with Disabilities: a how-to-do-it Manual</u>. New York: Neal-Schuman, 1995.
Call No. 027.663 DEI (Middletown Library Service Center)

Here is another indispensable all-around planning tool for librarians which goes far beyond making the building accessible. Learn what you need to do in terms of programming and outreach. There is a whole chapter devoted to the special needs of children and young adults who have disabilities. This book is still in print!

Jahoda, Gerald. <u>How Do I Do This When I Can't See What I'm Doing? Information Processing for the Visually Disabled</u>. Washington, DC: National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, The Library of Congress, 1993.

This book was highly recommended in Rhea Rubin's Planning for Library Services to People with Disabilities. Although it is written primarily for a person with a visual impairment, the fact that the author is a library professional has relevance for us.

Rubin, Rhea Joyce. <u>Planning for Library Services to People with Disabilities</u>. Chicago: American Library Assoc., 2001.
Call No. 027.663 RUB (Middletown Library Service Center)

When you get ready to create or update an ADA plan for your library, this book guides you through the process, including how to survey patrons, convene a planning committee, inventory equipment, and improve services. See pages 76-77 for tips related to serving patrons with visual impairments.

<u>Serving Print Disabled Library Patrons: a textbook for facilitators of library service to people with visual or physical impairments</u>. Ed. Bruce Edward Massis. Jefferson: McFarland, 1996.
Call No. Z711.92.V57 S47 1996 (Buley Library, Southern Conn. State Univ.)

Although most of the articles in this book were written by and for library professionals in countries other than the United States, it is still a good source to help you get the "big picture" in terms of making libraries more inclusive for those who cannot read standard-sized print. Those who plan curriculum for MLS candidates should take note: many authors represented in this collection stress the need for more formal training so that future librarians will be better prepared to assist people with vision impairments. It should be a core requirement. If you work in a college library, you would be interested in the detailed articles that address the needs of college students with visual impairments. The technical aspects of producing Braille or talking books are covered in several chapters.

<u>Magazine Articles</u>

Lori Bell, Sharon Ruda, and Tom Peters, "The Librarians' Quest: Transforming the Printed Word so that All May Read," <u>Computers in Libraries</u> Nov./Dec. 2003: 14.

Just when we got used to audiobooks on cassette, we now have DTBs, digital talking books. Reading this article will enable you get a sense as to the potential of this electronic format.

Laura Gasaway, "Making Copyrighted Works Available to Persons with Visual Impairments," Information Outlook May 2003: 33.

This article focuses on the legal complications involved in using assistive devices to make e-books more accessible to people with visual impairments.

Web Sites

National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress
http://www.loc.gov/nls

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Libraries for the Blind Section
http://www.ifla.org/VII/S31/index.htm

Publications available: International Directory of Libraries for the Blind; Guidelines for Library Service to Braille Users. You can also download their newsletter.

Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), a division of ALA
http://www.ala.org/ala/ascla/asclaissues/libraryservices.htm
Library Services for People with Disabilities Policy

Disability Resources.org
Librarians' Connections – Professional Association
http://www.disabilityresources.org/DRMlibs-ala.html

Find links to websites of professional library associations targeting the needs of the disabled, including less well-known groups working at the state level.

Los Angeles Public Library
http://www.lapl.org/central/low_vision.html

Here is a public library that wants to let the community know what services it offers to patrons with low vision.

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