Libraries & Accessible Design

2013
Presentation Developed by
United Spinal Association
2013 New York Library Association Annual Conference
Niagara Falls, New York
Goals of the Presentation

- Acquaint the audience with the American’s with Disabilities Act and the 2010 Accessibility Standards.
- Learn how to perform a basic accessibility library site assessment for compliance with 2010 ADA Accessibility Standards.
- Learn how to prioritize barrier removal (1991 vs. 2010)
Definition of Disability

Under the ADA a **person with a disability** is one who

- Has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life functions;
- Has a record of such an impairment; or
- Is regarded as having such an impairment.
Avoid Outdated Terms

**Never Use:**
- handicapped
- crippled
- physically challenged
- differently-abled
- wheelchair bound
- victim
- sufferer
Reasonable Accommodation

- Request help filling out library card application
- Reaching materials on high shelves
- Handouts in large print (18 Font)

- Do not have to help with personal care
- If person become aggressive or belligerent, treat them like any other patron
Definition of Mobility Device

Two tiered approach

- Wheelchairs and other devices designed for use by individuals with mobility disabilities, e.g., canes, crutches, walkers
- Other power-driven mobility devices (those not primarily designed for use by individuals with mobility disabilities - Segways)
Definition of Service Animal

- Only include a **dog** that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability.
- An emotional support animal (any animal that provides emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship) is **not** considered a service animal.
Service Animal - Questions

Staff may ask two questions

- Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
- What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?
Service Animal - Questions

Staff cannot ask

- about the person’s disability
- require medical documentation
- require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog
- ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.
Effective Communication

Determined based on the type of communication

- If a person who is deaf is looking for a particular book at a library, exchanging written notes with the librarian may be effective.
- If having a meeting or lecture, effective communication would likely require a sign language or oral interpreter because of the nature and length of the program.
Information Services

- Screen Reader software
- E-books
- Screen Magnification software
- ALD in meeting rooms
Induction loop

**Induction Loop System**
The induction loop system broadcasts electromagnetic current within an area encompassed by a big directional cable antenna. To get amplification an individual must be seated within the area that the cable circles.
Accessibility Requirements

- State & municipal Building Codes have accessibility provisions that apply to new construction, renovation, and alterations.

- The ADA is a comprehensive civil rights law not a building code. Designers are responsible to know the ADA Accessibility Standards as well as the applicable Building Code.

- Must apply the most stringent provision.
ADA Barrier Removal

- ADA requires that places of public accommodation, such as a library, not discriminate on the basis of disability in providing goods and services and must remove all structural and architectural barriers to access if such removal is readily achievable.

- Readily achievable means easily accomplishable and be carried out without much difficulty or expense.

- This is determined on a case by case basis.
Preparing for a Site Review

- Identify the type of building – library.
- Familiarize yourself with the facility, such as its size.
- Determine the applicable accessibility reference standard you will use (ADA).
- Bring the appropriate tools – checklist, measuring tape, level, pad, pens, digital camera, reference standard, and letter of permission.
The Basic Elements

- Site arrival points – parking, public transportation
- Path of travel to building – curb ramps, sidewalks, ramps
- Entrances – doors, vestibules
- **Primary function of the space**
- Bathrooms
- Drinking fountains
- Telephones
Library – Primary Function Areas

- Study areas
- Stacks
- Desks
- Book depositories
- Computers
- Meeting rooms
Reading, Study, and Computer Desks

- Are at least 5% of study areas (fixed seating, tables, or study cubicles) accessible?
- Is the top of the table between 28 and 34 inches?
- Is the knee clearance under the table at least 27 inches high, 30 inches wide, and 19 inches deep?
- Is there a flat, firm path at least 36 inches wide provided from the accessible entrance to the area?
- Is there a 30 by 48 inch clear floor space provided in front of work surfaces (11 inches permitted to go under surface)?
Desks, Tables, Cubicles
Stacks

Is the aisle between the stacks at least 36 inches wide?

** Note – shelf height in stack area is unrestricted – staff must be trained to assist a person using a wheelchair or person of short stature in retrieving books from shelves that are not in their reach.
Checkout Desk & Other Service Desks

- Is a portion of the counter at least 36 inches wide, the same depth as the rest of the counter, and no more than 36 inches high?

- In *alterations*, when providing a 36 inch wide counter would result in a reduction of the number of existing counters at work stations, the counter is permitted to have a 24 inch long portion with the required clear floor space centered on the *accessible* length of the counter.
If a book depository is provided does it have controls at a maximum height above the finished floor of 48 inches?

Is it accompanied by clear floor space of 30 by 48 inches that allows a forward or parallel approach by a person using a wheelchair?
Reach Range

15 min
380
48 max
1220
Meeting Rooms

- Is there a path at least 36 inches wide provided from the accessible entrance to the meeting rooms?
- Do the doors to meeting rooms have a clear opening of at least 32 inches?
- Are handles, pulls, latches and locks on accessible doors easily grasped, and can they be operated with a closed fist?
- Is there a 60 inch turning space provided within the meeting rooms?
- Is an assistive-listening device (ALD) provided within conference rooms or other areas of assembly?
- Is there signage identify the availability of the ALD?
Benches
Exterior Spaces

- Parking
- Curb Ramps
- Sidewalks
- Entrances
Accessible Parking

- Are accessible parking spaces provided and identified with permanently installed above-grade signage (bottom of sign is at least 60 inches above the ground)?
- How many accessible parking spaces are required?
- Do the spaces provide an access aisle that is at least 5 feet wide (NYS Requires 8 foot wide access aisles)?
- Do 1 out of 6 spaces provide an 8 foot wide access aisle?
## Parking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Number of Parking Spaces Provided in Parking Facility</th>
<th>Minimum Number of Required Accessible Parking Spaces</th>
<th>NYC Building Code</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 25</td>
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<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 to 50</td>
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<td>51 to 75</td>
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<td>76 to 100</td>
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<tr>
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<td>201 to 300</td>
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<td>301 to 400</td>
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<tr>
<td>401 to 500</td>
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<tr>
<td>501 to 1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1001 and over</td>
<td>20 plus 1 for each 100 over 1000</td>
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</table>
Parking
Parking

NY State
Path of Travel

- Is there a flat, firm path at least 36 inches provided from the public right of way to the entrance?
- Is the maximum running slope 5% or less?
- Is the maximum cross slope 2% or less?
Curb Ramps

- If the path is interrupted by a curb, is a curb ramp available?
- Is there a 36 inch wide landing at the top of the curb ramp? If no, then the flared sides must have a slope of 8.33% or less.
- Does the curb ramp provide a detectable surface?
Entrances

- Does the entrance door (not a revolving door) provide a clear opening of at least 32 inches?
- Is there a 60 by 60 inch level area in front of the entrance?
- Does the door provide adequate maneuvering clearances? If no is an automatic door opener provided?
- Are handles, pulls, and latches easily grasped, and can they be operated with a closed fist?
Ramps

- Is the maximum running slope 8.33% or less?
- Is the maximum cross slope 2% or less?
- Does the ramp provide 4 inch high edge protection?
- If the ramp overcomes a 6 inch elevation difference are handrails mounted 34 to 38 inches above the ramp surface?
- Are landings provided every 30 feet and at change of direction?
Ramps

- At least as wide as ramp run
- 60 min
- 1525

Diagram:
- Landing
- Ramp run
- Landing
- Ramp run
- Landing
- Ramp run
Public Restrooms

- Are accessible restrooms clearly marked with the international access symbol?
- Do doors have a clear opening of at least 32 inches?
- Are handles, pulls, latches and locks easily grasped, and can they be operated with a closed fist?
- Is there a 60 inch turning diameter or t-turn available in the bathroom so that a wheelchair user can maneuver?
- Is a 30 inch by 48 inch clear floor space provided in front of lavatory?
Public Restrooms

- Is the rim of the sink counter 34 inches above the finished floor and the bottom edge at least 29 inches from the floor for knee clearance?
- Are the faucets provided easily grasped, and can they be operated with a closed fist?
- Is insulation or a protective covering used on pipes under the lavatory?
- Is the mirror 40 inches above the finished floor?
Accessible Toilet Stalls

- Is there at least one accessible toilet stall?
- Is the center of the toilet located 16 -18 inches from the side partition or wall?
- Is the toilet seat 17 to 19 inches above the finished floor?
- Is the flush valve on the open side of the toilet or is an automatic flush valve provided?
- If 6 or more compartments are provided, is an ambulatory compartment provided?
Toilet Stall
Grab Bars

Parallel grab bar
- 12 inches from rear wall
- at least 48 inches long

Rear grab bar
- at least 36 inches long

Parallel & rear grab bar
- the gripping surfaces is within 33 to 36 inches above the finished floor
- the maximum distance between grab bar and wall is no more then 1½ inches
Elevators

- Are any floors not accessible by elevator?
- Are doors to elevator automatic?
- Do doors provide a clear opening of at least 32 inches?
- Are call buttons in lobbies and halls no higher than 48 inches above the floor with braille/raised character designations?
- Are controls within the elevator positioned no higher than 48 inches from the floor with braille/raised character designations?
Elevators

- Is the size of an elevator cab a minimum of 36 inches wide by 54 inches deep?
Drinking Fountains

- Is there a clear floor space provided in front of drinking fountain (30 inches by 48 inches – 11 inches permitted to go under surface)?

- Are accessible drinking fountains (spout height no higher than 36 inches) provided?

- Does the drinking fountain protrude more then 4 inches into circulation route?
Drinking Fountains
Public Telephones

- Are the highest operable part of the public phone no higher then 48 inches from the finished floor?
- Is the volume control feature provided on the phone?
- If there are more then 4 or more public phones provided on a site has a *text telephone* been provided?
Signage

- Has signage with raised/brailled characters and contrasting colors been provided to identify permanent rooms and spaces (Private Offices, Meeting Rooms, Computer Rooms, Study Rooms, bathrooms)?

- Are signs mounted on the latch side of door with the bottom line of characters 48 inches above the finished floor?
Protruding Objects

- Are there any protruding objects such as fire extinguishers, drinking fountains, dispensers with their leading edges between 27 in and 80 inches above the finished floor protruding more than 4 inches into circulation path?
Protruding Objects
Overhead Objects

- Are overhead objects less than 80 inches above the finished floor?
- Provide Cane detection
Overhead Objects
Questions

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