

Sign Language for Librarians

An introduction to sign language and how to communicate with Deaf patrons.



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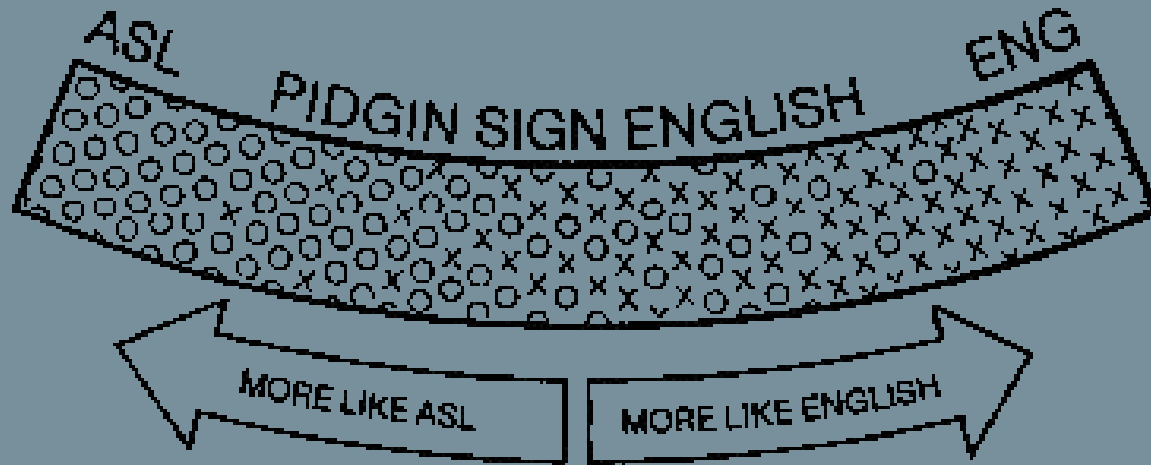
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Oh, i'm sorry...
Did the middle of my
sentence interrupt the
beginning of yours?



Sign Language Basics

- Types of Signing
 - ASL (American Sign Language)
 - SEE (Signed Exact English)
 - PSE (Pidgin Signed English)



Visual Communication

- Eye Contact
 - Necessary for visual communication
- Facial Expression
 - Gives meaning and clarification
- Physical Contact
 - Tapping shoulder, banging on table, stomping feet
- Big Box Signing

General Communication Tips

Don't Assume Method of Communication

- Writing (vocabulary)
- Interpreter facilitated (Look at Deaf person, not interpreter)
- Signing/Fingerspelling
- Lip reading (Activity ILY)

Be Patient

- Ask for clarification, take your time

General Communication Tips

- Practice, Practice, Practice
 - ABC's in word form, not alphabet
 - Say finger spelled words
 - Sign songs & rhymes
 - Find friends to practice with
 - Be patient with yourself



Alphabet and Numbers

- Learn the basics

Library Signs!

See handout...



Additional Signs

- Book
- Library
- Librarian
- Computer
- Website
- Internet
- Reference Desk
- Circulation
- Video
- Search
- Research
- Others?

Deaf Friendly Library

- Educated Staff
 - Relay protocol knowledge
- Equipment
 - Interpretype
 - Video phone capability
- Activities
 - Sign club
 - Captioned videos
 - Interpreters available



Resources

- ASL PRO Dictionary
<http://www.aslpro.com/cgi-bin/aslpro/aslpro.cgi>
- Resources Handout

Questions?

