Sign Language for Librarians
An introduction to sign language and how to communicate with Deaf patrons.

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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
  - Interprettype
  - 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?