Ecologist in silico: Facilitating access for chronically ill/disabled ecologists

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Background

Members of under-represented groups face unconscious and conscious biases which create societal barriers to doing science, but chronically ill/disabled scientists in particular often face physical, as well as societal, barriers to pursuing science.

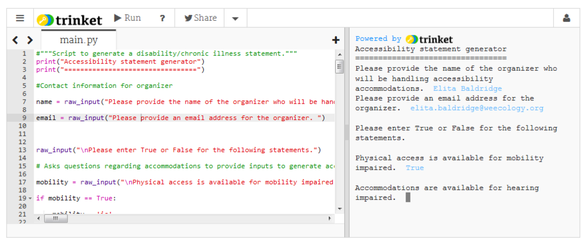
Disabilities can be visible or invisible, mental or physical, present with constant severity, get worse over time, or fluctuate from bad to less bad.

Increasing accessibility for chronically ill/disabled ecologists also supports accessibility for ecologists who have traditionally had difficult accessing ecology for other reasons (lack of funds, distance, etc.). I present recommendations to encourage ecology to become a more accessible discipline to those with chronic illness/disability, from a general perspective and on the scale of individual collaborations.

The Bare Minimum

Default state for disabled scientists is inaccessibility.

Provide information on what accessibility accommodations are and are not available. It takes little time on the part of an organizer, but it helps let fellow chronically ill/disabled scientists know that their presence is not an afterthought, and it saves a lot of time and heartache trying (and often failing) to get accommodations after the fact.



https://trinket.io/python
https://github.com/embaldridge/accessibility-statement-generator

Solutions

Conferences/Workshops
Web-accessibility
Talks
Education
Research

Wrap-up