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

Elita Baldridge, Department of Biology and the Ecology Center, Utah State University, Logan, UT, USA, @elitabaldridge
Ethan White, Department of Wildlife Ecology & Conservation and the Informatics Institute, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, USA, @ethanwhite

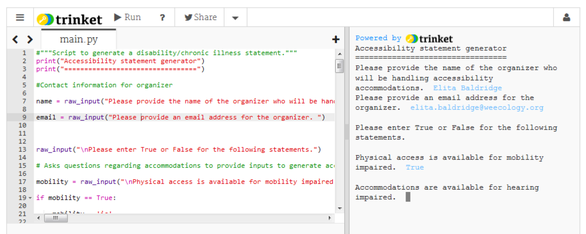
Background

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



Solutions

- Conferences/Workshops
- Web-accessibility
- Talks
- Education
- Research

Wrap-up