

# EASY ACCESS

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## 1. Introduction

- One of the most insidiously annoying components of having a disability is mostly related to the fact that the level and type of accessibility any place has is never clearly stated anywhere. Sure, they checked the “Wheelchair accessible” box on the Yelp or Google questionnaire. But are they really? Unless you or a person you know has visited the location before, you mostly have to cross your fingers.
- One option disabled people have typically had to resort to is calling ahead to speak with an employee of the location. However, this is a less reliable route than one would imagine. The is true because employees are not trained on access needs and businesses typically don’t want to use their resources (as in: time) to teach their employees any more than the ADA demands of them. Disabled, blind, and d/Deaf/HoH people are mistakenly considered a negligible portion of potential visitors but actually comprise more than 20% of the population.
- The website I have in mind would serve disabled folks and anyone attempting to make social plans with them. If a person can find out ahead of time that a place can provide access to them, they’re obviously far more likely to go than to stick with the same 3 or 4 places they already frequent.

## 2. Expected List of Features

- The website would allow a person to look up a location and check the likelihood that it will be *accessible to them, specifically*.

- Creating an account would be the most time-consuming part of the user-experience while on the website. A person would select their disability type (mobility, sensory, intellectual, mental, etc.) and then have the option to select any mobility equipment or access needs they require in order to reasonably use a space. So this would be mostly forms and tick-boxes. The more information a person provides, the better use the website will be to them.
- Once an account is created, users can then find a place using the location browser and, once they have actually gone there, simply swipe left or right depending on whether or not they can reasonably use the space.

### 3. Market Survey

- Similar website concepts:
  - AXS:
  - Is This Venue Accessible?: <http://itvaccessible.com/>
  - Brett Approved: [brettapproved.com](http://brettapproved.com)
  - Wheelmap: <https://wheelmap.org/?locale=en-us>
  - SageTraveling: <https://www.sagetraveling.com/>
- My idea would rely heavily upon crowdsourced data and usage of the site, but once enough data is established by users determining whether or not they can use a space, the algorithms will be able to distinguish which features a location has or doesn't have. A person could, if interested, enter extra data about a specific place, but that would be completely optional. Having their access needs in their user profile would provide all of the data needed to determine what features a place has based upon several ratings by different people. Eventually, I'm hoping it can

provide the opportunity for disabled, blind, and d/Deaf/HoH members of society to participate more confidently in life with their friends and family.

- Other similar websites require users to rate each place based upon multiple criteria, and let's be real here: nobody has time for that minutiae.

## 4. References

- Is it rude to just say: my entire lived experience?
- Data on disability population data comes from the CDC's website.
- So. Many. Misinformed. Employees.
- Did any of you know HOSPITALS aren't even always accessible? No bathrooms I can use! (This has happened several times. Imagine having to find a Wendy's McDonald's to use the bathroom while you wait for your grandma to get out of surgery when you are literally AT A HOSPITAL. Not mad. Incredulous.)

\* Wendy's has THE least accessible fast-food restrooms that I've seen so far in my life.