

# Serving the Blind and Vision Impaired

## How Public Libraries Can Provide Support and Resources for this User Population

Jessica Dadisman | LIS 4015: User and Access Services | Dr. Peter Organisciak | Annotated Bibliography

### Information Needs of the Vision Impaired:

Rayini, J. (2017). LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES TO THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED PERSONS. *Library Philosophy and Practice*, , 1-13.

<https://du.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://www-proquest-com.du.idm.oclc.org/scholarly-journals/library-information-services-visually-impaired/docview/1931961265/se-2?accountid=14608>

**Rayini outlines the various needs of visually impaired library users and the ways librarians and information professionals can meet them through resources and services.**

### Services Available:

Abdelrahman, O. H. (2016). Use of Library Technology and Services by the Visually-impaired and the Blind in the University of Khartoum, Sudan. *DESIDOC Journal of Library & Information Technology*, 36(2), 93–97. <https://doi.org/10.14429/djlit.36.2.9803>

**Abdelrahman provides a history of the technology and services provided to the blind and visually-impaired at the University of Khartoum in Sudan, many of which are also used in other countries, such as the United States (Braille translations, Talking Books, DAISY players, audiobooks, etc.).**

Ciccone, M. (2018). Equitable public library services for Canadians with print disabilities. *Reference Services Review*, 46(3), 379–398. <https://doi.org/10.1108/rsr-04-2018-0041>

**Ciccone details the inception and growth of the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) in Canada, a library service dedicated to advocating for public library users with print disabilities. CELA is responsible for making accessibility possible in public libraries all over Canada.**

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### Studies and Challenges:

Kumar, S., & Sanaman, G. (2015). Web challenges faced by blind and vision impaired users in libraries of Delhi. *The Electronic Library*, 33(2), 242–257. <https://doi.org/10.1108/el-03-2013-0043>

**Kumar and Sanaman conducted a study to determine the usability and accessibility of web-based catalogues in Delhi, India. They surveyed a total of 125 vision impaired library users to pinpoint areas of difficulty and challenges in the use of the library's web-based resources. This information can be used to curtail potential challenges when developing digital resources for the vision impaired.**

Manžuch, Z., & Macevičiūtė, E. (2016). Performance evaluation as a tool for strategic decisions about serving visually impaired users: The case of the Lithuanian Library for the Blind. *Library & Information Science Research*, 38(2), 161–169. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lisr.2016.05.002>

**Manžuch and Macevičiūtė detail a five-year study on the Lithuanian Library for the Blind. They note that there is very little research available on the performance and effectiveness of libraries for the blind, and thus were driven to conduct their own. Some of the indicators they used are costs per active visually-impaired user, instances of staff accessibility training, median time of production for materials in accessible formats, and library visits per active visually-impaired user. The authors encourage fellow library science researchers to borrow their indicators to study other libraries for the blind around the world.**

Tu, Y.-F., Hwang, G.-J., & Lai, C.-L. (2021). Facilitating learning by the visually impaired: development and usability evaluation of a specially designed ubiquitous library. *The Electronic Library*, 39(1), 169–185. <https://doi.org/10.1108/el-10-2020-0284>

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**Tu et al** conducted a study aimed to develop a ubiquitous library for the visually impaired (ULVI) application. The study included ten visually-impaired participants who were given tasks to perform using the ULVI app. Feedback on the app was collected via a system usability scale as well as interviews with each of the participants.

### Innovations and New Developments:

Brown, S. (2018). Big Impact with littleBits. *Library Technology Reports*, 54(4), 28-31.

<https://du.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://www-proquest-com.du.idm.oclc.org/scholarly/journals/big-impact-with-littlebits/docview/2092391796/se-2?accountid=14608>

**Brown discusses a STEM-based makerspace kit called littleBits and its adaptation for the vision impaired as well as library users with other disabilities. The kit integrates a variety of sound, light, and tactile responses to give users a sense of how the pieces can fit together. This kit is especially popular amongst children.**

Tesendic, D., & Boberic Krsticev, D. (2015). Web service for connecting visually impaired people with libraries. *Aslib Journal of Information Management*, 67(2), 230–243.

<https://doi.org/10.1108/ajim-11-2014-0149>

**Tesendic and Boberic Krsticev describe a case study on the development of a web service that will act as an intermediary between the Audio Library system for the visually impaired and the library management systems. Its purpose is to be a single access point that connects visually impaired users to a larger number of electronic resources, since the Audio Library system can be limited.**

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### How We Can Do Better:

Dali, K., & Brochu, L. K. (2020). The Right to Listen: A Not So Simple Matter of Audiobooks.

*Library Resources & Technical Services*, 64(3), 106. <https://doi.org/10.5860/lrts.64n3.106-119>

**Dali and Brochu discuss how librarians of all types can advocate for the inclusion of audiobooks in their programs, as well as the pushback and challenges they may encounter.**

Graves, S. J., & German, E. (2018). Evidence of Our Values: Disability Inclusion on Library

Instruction Websites. *Portal: Libraries and the Academy*, 18(3), 559–574.

<https://doi.org/10.1353/pla.2018.0033>

**Graves and German detail a study on the disability inclusiveness within various library websites. They highlight areas which can be improved, such as integrating more accessibility into library events.**

Lazar, J., & Briggs, I. (2015). Improving Services for Patrons with Print Disabilities at Public

Libraries. *The Library Quarterly*, 85(2), 172–184. <https://doi.org/10.1086/680155>

**Lazar and Briggs discuss how public libraries can improve in various areas such as website accessibility, digital databases, physical library accessibility, staff training, and marketing.**