LIBRARY ACCESSIBILITY MAP

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Significance of the Project

Accessibility

- The libraries house many resources that aid students
- Each student or staff member should have the same access to these resources
- Inclusive Design

Current Needs

- Around 11% of undergraduate university students have a disability
- Outdated and old buildings may not accommodate for people with disabilities

Equality

- By making libraries and other buildings on campus accessible, the University is promoting equal chances for students to learn, explore, and create

Inclusive Design Principles

- **Equitable Use**: the design does not disadvantage or stigmatize any group of users
- **Flexibility in Use**: accommodates a wide range of abilities
- **Simple, Intuitive Use**: easy to understand, regardless of the user's knowledge or language skills
- **Perceptible Information**: communicates necessary information effectively
- **Tolerance for Error**: minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental actions
- **Low Physical Effort**: can be used efficiently and comfortably, and with a minimum of fatigue
- **Size and Space for Approach & Use**: Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use, regardless of the user's body size, posture, or mobility

https://www.humancentereddesign.org/inclusive-design/principles

Main Evaluation Criteria

Physical Accessibility

- Elevators
- Tables that can accommodate mobility devices
- Bathrooms with larger stalls railings
- Close parking spaces

Easy to Navigate

- Floor plans available both online and inside the library
- Braille on the signs
- Detailed directory of the building

Access to Information

- Easy to navigate website
- Knowledgeable staff to provide assistance
- Additional accommodations ie reserved rooms and at-home services

http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s9/nd1/iflapr-89e.pdf

Examples of Information Accessibility

In person

- Easy to reach shelves
- Media types
  - .mp3
  - Books in Braille
- Computer accessibility

In library

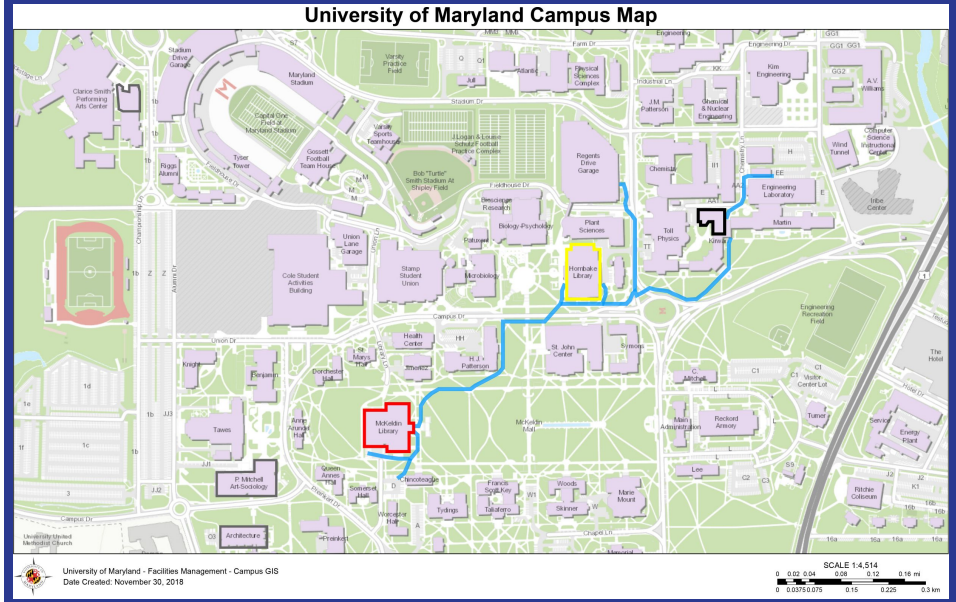
- Fetching service
- Scanning service
- Media conversion
  - .mp3
  - Braille
  - .pdf
- Convenient book drops

At home

- Media delivery via email, cloud, etc.
- Clearly listed services on website
- Web resources
- Informative calls

Library Accessibility Map

- McKeldin Library
- Hornbake Library
- STEM Library



Interview with a librarian

James V. Spring
Library Services Unit Coordinator
McKeldin Library

- Knowledge
- Acknowledgements
- Qualifications
- Attitude
- More resources

Conclusions

Overall Themes

What Is Available

- Accessible Bathrooms
- Signs with braille
- Clear, ubiquitous directories
- Elevators
- Staff services (McK and STEM)

What Is Inaccessible

- Crowded and narrow arrangement of furnishings
- High and narrow shelves
- Low tables
- Movable bookcases

“Best” library

- McKeldin library
- Has the most informed staff
- Adaptive Technology Lab
- Designated study carrels
- Most information services

What can be done?

Physical

- Rearrangement of furnishing
- All floors serviced by elevator
- Adjustable tables for wheelchair heights
- Parking

Information

- Website reformation to make accessibility services visible
- Train student workers on accommodations and disability services

Limitations

- Old, outdated library buildings
- Costly to implement building-wide change
- High turnover rate for student workers
- Decentralized library system

References

- checklist: http://archive.ifla.org/VII/s9/nd1/iflapr-89e.pdf
- Library accessibility: https://www.lib.umd.edu/services/disabilities
- General info on inclusive design: https://www.humancentereddesign.org/inclusive-design/principles
- UMD Accessibility information: https://umd.edu/policies-and-procedures/accessibility
- Statistics: https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=60