Accessibility Resources

This document contains a range of informational resources related to accessibility to support further professional development and learning, including organizations, educational websites, books, films, and webinars.

General Resources

ADA National Network provides information, training, and support for implementing the ADA through regional centers across the country. The Northeast ADA Center specifically serves the regional network of NY, NJ, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, but we also recommend accessing the robust resources available through the regional center in your area.

American Association of People with Disabilities is a national cross-disability rights organization that advocates for the civil rights of all Americans with disabilities by promoting equal opportunity, economic power, independent living, and political participation.

#CriticalAxis is a community-driven project of The Disabled List that assesses the representation of people with disabilities in the media on an axis that ranges from traditional to emerging (x axis) and stigma to amplify (y axis) with a range of examples from advertisements and the media and explanations of tropes, pitfalls, and successes.

Disability Etiquette: Tips on Interacting with People with Disabilities is a useful reference guide published by the United Spinal Association that describes etiquette and language choices.

Disability Visibility Project is a nonprofit dedicated to “creating, sharing, and amplifying disability media and culture.” This organization has partnered with StoryCorps to document the stories of people with disabilities and is associated with Disability Visibility: First Person Stories from the 21st Century, a collection of essays edited by Alice Wong and published in 2020.

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**Institute for Human Centered Design** is a leading organization in human centered design. The website includes information, resources, and publications to human centered design and related research.

**International Association of Accessibility Professionals** provides professional development, a professional network, and certification programs that encompass accessibility as it applies to technology and websites, the built environment, human resources, and other areas.

**UniDescription** is a grant-funded research initiative based at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa that seeks to enhance audio description practices and research. This project provides free and open-source tools for audio description and is a useful resource for any staff member who may be seeking to improve audio description skills or guidance and tools for developing audio description of brochures, exhibits, etc.

**Web Accessibility in Mind (WebAIM)** provides resources and tools to help individuals and organizations improve website accessibility.

Cultural Accessibility Networks and Resources

**Access Smithsonian for Museum Professionals** provides resources for museum professionals, including the latest research on interactive digital interactives, guidelines for accessible exhibit design, and Smithsonian standards and guidelines for accessibility.

**Art Beyond Sight’s Handbook for Museums and Educators** provides step-by-step guidance on creating accessible programs for a range of audiences with disabilities.

**Leadership Exchange in Arts and Disability** is a network that explores practical methods for implementing accessibility and facilitating the exchange of resources and knowledge through hosting an annual

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conference and communications network supported by the Kennedy Center.

**Museum, Arts, Culture, and Access Consortium (MAC) and Chicago Cultural Arts Consortium (CCAC)** bring together the disability, culture, and arts communities to share practices that create more inclusive environments for visitors and staff with disabilities.

The **NYCMER Peer Access Group** is a peer learning network that is hosted through the New York City Museum Educators’ Roundtable and provides opportunities for museum professionals to ask questions and share knowledge and information related to accessibility in cultural institutions.

**Service organizations and resources**

There are many disability service organizations that can partner with cultural institutions to provide consulting and training services for staff. Below are just a few examples of organizations that the Brooklyn Botanic Garden has partnered with in recent years.

**CaringKind** provides information, tools, and training to support people and their loved ones who are affected by dementia.

**Guide Dog Foundation** and **America’s VetDogs** are sister organizations that train and place guide dogs and service dogs to support increased independence for people who are blind, have low vision, or have a range of other disabilities. These organizations also provide training and consulting support to cultural institutions.

**Hearing Loss Association of America** seeks to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss through information, support, education, and advocacy.

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VISIONS/Services is a rehabilitation and social service organization that provides support to people who are blind or visually impaired to lead independent lives and public education on the needs and capabilities of people who are blind and visually impaired.

There are many free or low-cost resources online that staff can use to start learning basic signs in American Sign Language, including but not limited to the ASL app, Signing Savvy, HandSpeak, LifePrint/ASLU, and the ASL Video Dictionary and Inflection Guide developed by Rochester Institute of Technology. Virtual and in-person classes are also taught by many universities, libraries, and the Sign Language Center.

Books

Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist by Judy Heumann and Kristen Joiner, 2020

Disability Visibility: First Person Stories from the 21st Century, a collection of essays edited by Alice Wong, 2020

Demystifying Disability: What to Know, What to Say, and How to be an Ally by Emily Ladau, 2021

Extraordinary Bodies: Figuring Physical Disability in American Culture and Literature by Rosemarie Garland Thomson, 1997

History of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Disability Rights Movement, an online exhibition curated by the American Association of People with Disabilities

Films and webinars

Crip Camp is a film that was released in 2020 that traces the disability rights and disability justice movement through the stories of people with

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disabilities who attended an inclusive camp in the Catskills in the 1960s and have gone on to transform American society. The website includes access to recordings of their virtual webinar series and a curriculum kit that examines issues related to issues of power and disability justice.


**American Alliance of Museums** - Watch Stories of Inclusion: Inclusive Practices at Cultural Institutions, a webinar series from fall of 2015

**MoMA Accessibility Training Resources** - Disability Equality training resources that include video profiles and tutorials with New Yorkers sharing their passion for art and perspectives on disability equality.

**ReelAbilities Film Festival** - Showcases films, conversations and artistic programs that explore, embrace, and celebrate the diversity of our shared human experience.

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