Beyond 36" Clearance:

Conducting an Accessibility Audit

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Why should you do an accessibility audit?

Inclusivity

Everyone should be able to access their library.

Expectations

New tech means patrons expect more services.

Legality

Many only audit once, raising ADA concerns.

Challenges you might face in your audit

Inclusion

One size does not fit all patrons

Logistics

Time and resource demanding

Legality

Wide leeway (so why bother?)

Bottom line:

Access is blocked if you don't know the additional resources disabled patrons need

Therefore:

You _really_ should go beyond 36" clearance requirements and conduct an audit

Conducting an Audit: The Virginia Beach Public Library

VBPL: Who was involved

Matthew Myers Web Services Librarian

Hannah Duggins- Warf Strategic Data Analyst

Lori Shedlock Municipal Reference Librarian

Susan Paddock, Branch Manager

VIRGINIA BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The digital audit

Background

Tested a few years back

- Committee made up of Technology Training Coordinator, Municipal Reference Librarian, and Strategic Data Analyst

Vendor Accessibility

A BIG challenge!

- Committee asked to create evaluation checklist for vendor purchases
- Used formal accessibility tool to evaluate vendors and databases

Site Accessibility

Couldn't personally check due to City control

- City runs a formal accessibility checker weekly
- Checks for broken links and reports on contrast, fonts
- Our website: 84%

VIRGINIA BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Physical Audit

Overall the Library is very accessible for its users. Some takeaways and areas identified for further engagement were:

Furniture

Some dug into the 36" walkway in parts.

Computers

Issues due to magazine racks, low keyboards

Doors

Met minimum width and had an accessible entry

Tables/Desks

Some were accessible due to low height

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CRRL: who was involved

CRRL Administration, Branch Managers, & Steering Committee

Digital Services Manager Samantha Duncan

Tracy McPeck, Adult Services Coordinator, & Adult Services Team

As you can see, a *lot* of people were involved: this is a *good* thing!

Library

Audit Procedures

**Physical audit:
shared ADA checklist and
conducted walkthroughs**

**Digital audit: discussed web
accessibility and did website
review using WAVE plugin**

Accessibility Audit Results

Physical

In Good Shape!

- **Libraries are easily maneuverable**
- **A lot of resources available on request**
- **Challenges: ensuring awareness of resources**

Digital

In Good Shape!

- **Vendors already follow WCAG 2**
- **Simple designs = little conflict**
- **Challenges: ensuring ease of browsing**

Other results

Other lessons learned

- ***Much* positive feedback**
- **Lots of partners out there willing to help**
- **Experience shows process itself is pretty easy**

Library

Next Steps

Physical

Continue checking branches as time allows

Digital

Continue working to ensure ease of browsing

Communication

Increase awareness of resources, aids, and services

Community

Continue building relationships with community partners

Overall Goal:

To continue building from our strong base to continue offering the best accessibility assistance possible

For resources to conduct your own audit

(Whether checking for digital or physical accessibility!)

Please click here to view additional articles and checklists.

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The End

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