Universal Access:

Electronic Information in Libraries
Opportunities = Electronic Resources + Adaptive Technology + Computers
Program Outline

- Success stories
- Legal issues, statistics
- General library access
- Adaptive technology
- Electronic resources
Handouts

- Making Library Resources Accessible to People with Disabilities
- Working Together: People with Disabilities and Computer Technology
- Meet the Speakers in the Videotape: Working Together: People with Disabilities and Computer Technology
- World Wide Access: Accessible Web Design
- Meet the Speakers in the Videotape: World Wide Access
Success Stories

- Ben: mobility impairment
- Sarah: learning disability
- Anna: blind
- Shane: mobility/speech impairment
- Sherri: low vision
- Katie: hearing impairment
Section 504/ADA

No otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his/her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of a public entity.
“Title II of the ADA requires a public college to take appropriate steps to ensure that communications with persons with disabilities “are as effective as communications with others.” OCR has repeatedly held that the term “communication” in this context means the transfer of information, including (but not limited to) the verbal presentation of a lecture, the printed text of a book, and the resources of the Internet.”

“The more technology that has been purchased by a public library to serve non-disabled patrons, the more reasonable the expectation that it will employ technology . . . to serve its patrons with disabilities.”

Person with a disability = any person who:

• has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more major life activities.

• has a record of such an impairment.

• is regarded as having such an impairment.
Examples of Disabilities

- spinal cord injuries
- loss of limbs
- multiple sclerosis
- muscular dystrophy
- cerebral palsy
- hearing impairments
- visual impairments
- speech impairments
- specific learning disabilities
- head injuries
- psychiatric disorders
- diabetes
- cancer
- AIDS
1 in 10 Americans has a severe disability that limits at least one major life activity.
The number of patrons with disabilities will increase because of:

- Advances in medical technology.
- Advances in adaptive technology.
- Increased awareness.
- Increased educational support.
- Older average age.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>% Disabilities</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-44</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-74</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75-84</td>
<td>42%</td>
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