Accessible Libraries

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SOME BACKGROUND
- ~ 20 percent of U.S. population identified by U.S. government as having a disability - but this group is often overlooked and/or ignored.
- Disability takes many forms. If you have met one person with a disability, you have met *one* person with a disability.
- People may identify as a person with a disability or as a disabled person
- Not all disabilities are visible

OUR RESEARCH
- Nicole Cunha has been working with two fellow students on a survey of the assistive technology available at Boston Public Library branches
- Nicole Cunha is also exploring how to use children's and young adult literature to facilitate discussion of disability, and offer one way in which readers can gain exposure to the community, and tropes perpetuated in popular culture
- Gretyl Macalaster is in the early stages of research focused on how well (or not) public libraries are serving patrons of all abilities
- Mare Parker-O'Toole, our esteemed advisor, is a force for change in the Massachusetts library world and advocates for universal design, most recently in Makerspaces.

WHAT CAN I DO?
- Check out model programs like A Child's Place at the Brooklyn Public Library
- Always consider universal design when creating programming, library spaces and websites
- Visit our webpage: http://www.compassionatelibrarian.net/ and stay tuned for updates and helpful resources.

RESOURCES

ASCLA: http://www.ala.org/ascla/asclaprotools/accessibilitytipsheets
> The ASCLA "Library Accessibility –What You Need to Know" toolkit series of fifteen tipsheets was developed to help librarians in all types of libraries understand and manage access issues.

CAST: http://www.cast.org/
> CAST is a nonprofit education research and development organization that works to expand learning opportunities for all individuals through Universal Design for Learning.

NCAM (National Center for Accessible Media):
http://ncam.wgbh.org/invent_build/web_multimedia/tools-guidelines/magpie
> MAGpie (Media Access Generator) is the original free caption- and audio-description authoring tool for making multimedia accessible to persons with sensory disabilities.

Perkins School for the Blind: http://www.perkins.org/library
> Perkins Library circulates more than a half million accessible books, newspapers and publications in braille, large print and digital audio formats annually to thousands of registered patrons in New England and beyond. Access to the Perkins Library is free for Massachusetts residents who meet eligibility guidelines.