

# Sensational Spaces

Disability Justice in Academic and Public Libraries  
Quincy Knapp, Nicole Cunha

## Outline

### I. Disability Justice and Libraries

#### A. Disability

1. In a social framework - “impairments” created by society

#### B. Access

1. Deconstruct ableism within the library system
2. Work *with* the patron, not *for* the patron

#### C. Third Space

1. “Libraries...are so filled with the essence of their identities that they tend to resist...reinvention” (Elmborg, 2011, p. 345)
2. A third space outside of home and work: where community is created
3. Make a space that empowers patrons

### II. Sense of Physical Space

#### A. ADA - Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)

#### B. Universal Design - flexible spaces for flexible use

#### C. Textured and Colored Flooring

#### D. Glass Walls

#### E. Textured Walls

### III. Digital Space

#### A. Website

1. High Contrast
2. Captions and Alt-tags

#### B. Public Access Computers

1. Icon organization
2. Install tools

### IV. Sensory Programming and Collections

#### A. Manipulatives

#### B. Makerspace - Patron Empowered Accessibility

1. 3D print: signs, Braille books, tactile books

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## Extra Resources

- Beasley, S. (2017). On deaf ableism: Disabled people aren't broken. *Sigh Less + Live More*. Retrieved from: <https://silasbeasley.wordpress.com/2017/02/13/on-deaf-ableism-disabled-people-arent-broken/>
- Elmborg, J.K. (2011). Libraries as the spaces between us: Recognizing and valuing the third space. *Reference & User Services Quarterly* 50(4), 338-350.
- Hurley, A. (2016). Gallaudet University's brilliant surprising architecture for the deaf. *Washingtonian*. Retrieved from: <https://www.washingtonian.com/2016/01/13/gallaudet-universitys-brilliant-surprising-architecture-for-the-deaf/>
- Kumbier, A. and Starkey, J. (2016). Access is not problem solving: Disability justice and libraries. *Library Trends* 64(3), 468-491. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1353/lib.2016.0004>
- Lamm, N. (2015). This is disability justice. *The Body Is Not An Apology*. Retrieved from: <https://thebodyisnotanapology.com/magazine/this-is-disability-justice/>

## Activists to Follow

Lydia Brown	Nirmala Erevelles	Disability Law Center
Dominick Evans	Alison Kafer	ADA Center (New England, Regional)
Colin Kennedy Donovan	Mia Mingus	Disability Policy Consortium
Emily Ladau	Sharon Snyder & David Mitchell	Association of Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD)
Haben Girma	Kim Q. Hall	Abilities Expo- Boston Chapter
Rosemarie Garland-Thompson	Susan Wendell	National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Massachusetts
Leonard Davis	Aimi Hamraie	Human Centered Design