

Welcome

Making Your Library A Model For Disability Rights

Pause, Rewind and Play

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Visual descriptions See me as....

Her/hers/she Bio & RE in Program 18 Spinal stroke

Thank You

- **All of You! Attendees**
- **MLA**
- **TADL Dir. Michele Howard, TADL Family, Anita Chouinard/Larry Gorton Talking Book Library, BOT, Patrons, Partners, Ann, Maya, Lisa and friends, Jennifer, Tom and GTB**
- **I see you as literary activists...changing the world for the better**

Disability Rights Means At MLA Program

- Culture, trauma, maker space ADA, designing and building a library, Title II, Mixed Race, Anishinaabe, MI Legal Help; spec. ed., voting and disability benefits, sensory stories, Feds and broadband, dyslexic and mental health
- From 2024 MLA Annual Conference Breakout Sessions

A Model Library...

- Opportunities for growth
- Because you keep learning and utilizing persons with disabilities to stay on track and move forward...pause, rewind and play
- Persons with disabilities are your guides and advisers
- You ask persons with disabilities what they need and how you can help them...you don't assume
- What stories do you want to live?

As a Model Library You're

- Physically, educationally and attitude wise the most accessible public place in town
- You give careful and kind care
- Disability Rights information is on your website and in brochures at your front desk
- As a voting precinct, food distribution and emergency shelter...you are the hub of your community for everyone

As a Model Library

- You focus on a strength model of disability rather than a medical model...which focuses on what's wrong?
- You recognize what it took for your patron with a disability to get to the library
- You've learned from Covid/pandemic/lockdown and understand the function of mutual aid in the disability community

As a Model Library

- Your library is filled with persons with disabilities
- Your Director and Admin. Staff
- Board of Trustees
- Friends
- Staff
- Volunteers
- Committees
- Other

As a Model Library

- You have a deep disability collection...including disability fiction and graphic novels
- Recognize ancestry.com provides important information to the disability community
- Health resources and health kits
- Realize you provide information about disability law and rights

As a Model Library

- Visible disabilities help everyone know, persons with invisible disabilities are in the library as well

You're a Model Library

- Mobility:
- Wide aisles, books too high/low and sticking out, asking for help is not equal to privacy
- Value of curbside continues
- Meaning of being a certified autism center
- Service animals...know laws, may be dogs/pigs/monkeys and small horses
- Loaning wheelchairs, cans, walkers and scooters
- Restrooms are truly useable/ADA...not just because inspector said so
- Safety plan. Stairwell can hold more than a few people with disabilities

You're a Model Library

- Mental Health
- Library triggers PTSD. Ticking clock, whispering, gunning sound for security device...especially true for military veterans
- Aware of all mental health diagnoses and treatment plans, etc.
- Med.'s require food/drink
- Depression, etc. benefits from natural light/being around others without talking with anyone
- Certified autism center

You're a Model Library

- Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Loop system for movies, lectures and meetings
- Recognize value of website chat with librarians
- Cell phone texting is key
- Masks can impede lip reading
- ASL professional on staff or easily available

You're a Model Library

- Blind or Low Vision
- Service animals and the laws
- Floors free from obstacles
- Visual descriptions used
- Talking Book Library or access to one nearby
- Fun activities such as games in Braille

As a Model Library, You've Consulted

- Michigan Library Association
- Your area CIL Center for Independent Living
- Ask a Nurse...available through hospitals and health departments
- Disability Rights MI drmich.org
- Great Lakes ADA Center adagreatlakes.org
- MI Legal Help michiganlegalhelp.org
- Michigan.gov/disabilities

As a Model Library

- You are aware of barriers to library users in all capacities, not sharing their conflicts directly with you. They share their unhappiness about you/library with everyone but you. Why?

Not Sharing Conflicts

- Wanted to remain anonymous
- Library was defensive
- Library didn't hear them
- Didn't want to be a pest
- Tried in past...didn't go well
- Didn't know how to advocate
- Etc.

Thank you to My Guests

- Ann and Maya Tisdale
- Mighty Miss Maya Bee Mighty FB
- Lisa Thauvette and Full Tilt Comedy FB (formerly Full Tilt Improv)