CONSERVATION CENTER
for Art & Historic Artifacts

Creative Solutions for Accessibility

Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts

In a typical year:

- Preservation Services specialists complete over 50 survey projects.

- Approximately 60 CCAHA-sponsored workshops, conferences, webinars, and training sessions are presented.

- The Digital Imaging Services staff digitizes thousands of pages of fragile archival documents, books, and photographs.

- Conservators assess and treat more than 6,000 individual artifacts, from over 400 clients.

- Housing & Framing Services house approx. 75% of the artifacts treated (folder, sleeve, box, mat and frame, or sealed package).

Creative Solutions for Accessibility

Art-Reach

Photo Credit: Wide Eyed Studios

Katie Samson

(she/her/hers)
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Katie is a mid-40s aged white women, with blonde, shoulder-length hair, freckles, green eyes and dimples. She is seated in a motorized wheelchair wearing a purple sweater. She is seated next to a window with an abstract artwork framed behind her.

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Agenda

I.   INTRO- Accessibility is Everybody's Job

II.   ADA: Baseline of Accessibility for Historic Collections & Archives

- Participants will learn the key components of the ADA as they relate to visitors with disabilities
- We will look at the **Areas of Focus** organizations can use to broaden their awareness of audience access needs.

III. Adaptation & Inclusive Design

- We will focus on the social model and develop an understanding around the attitudinal, communication, technological, organizational, and physical barrier that exists among our spaces.

- Adaptation & Inclusive Design-Participants will develop an understanding of the difference between the two as it relates to the social model and where there is opportunity to create inclusive design within your organization.
  .

IV. Case Studies

- Examples from Art-Reach partners of how visitors with disabilities can engage uniquely in historic content while preserve objects safety and care

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Part I: Accessibility is everyone's job

Disability is…

- An Identity
- A Community &
- A Body/Mind Experience

Graphic Source: Tamman (https://tammaninc.com)

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Things to Consider Today

I. DEI What about the A?

- **Diversity**, everyone is invited
- **Equity**, everyone has the opportunity to participate
- **Inclusion**, everyone can take part in planning and participate
- What about **Accessibility**?

II. Post Pandemic *Real Talk* & What's ahead

III. We grow more when we know more

IV. Be intentionally inclusive rather than accidentally exclusive

V. Kiss of Death- NMJ Not My Job

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Part II: ADA: Baseline of Accessibility for Historic Collections & Archives

Key Points of the ADA

Title III
Private entities (Places of Public Accommodation)

1. Operate in a nondiscriminatory manner ensuring individuals with disabilities have the same opportunity to participate in and benefit from the services, activities, and goods offered as all other customers, patrons, or clients.

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Key Points of the ADA

Title III
Private entities (Places of Public Accommodation)

2. Ensure that communication with individuals with disabilities is as effective as with others, including providing auxiliary aids and services when necessary to eliminate communication barriers.

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Key Points of the ADA

Title III
Private entities (Places of Public Accommodation)

3. Effective Communication

A place of public accommodation shall furnish appropriate auxiliary aids and services where it is necessary to ensure effective communication with individuals with disabilities.

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Key Points of the ADA

Auxiliary Aids

Examples of auxiliary aids and services.

- Effective methods of making aurally delivered information available to individuals who are Deaf/deaf and hard of hearing.
- Effective methods of making visually delivered materials available to individuals who are blind or have low vision.
- Acquisition or modification of equipment and devices.
- Other similar services & actions

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Key Points of the ADA

Effective Communication

- The type of auxiliary aid or service necessary to ensure effective communication will vary in accordance with the method of communication used by the individual.

- In order to be effective, auxiliary aids must be provided in accessible formats, in a timely manner, and in such a way as to protect the privacy and independence of the individual with a disability.

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Key Points of the ADA

Under Title III, private entities have three mandatory areas of obligation:

Provide accessibility by:

- Removing barriers in existing facilities when removal of barriers is readily achievable.

- Providing alternatives to barrier removal when modifications to remove barriers are not readily achievable.

- Providing accessibility in all renovations or additions to facilities and construction of new facilities by complying with the ADA Standards for Accessible Design.

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Key Points of the ADA

People with disabilities are entitled to auxiliary aids and services, unless the result is a fundamental alteration, undue burden, or undue hardship.

- A fundamental alteration is a modification that is so significant that it alters the essential nature of the good, services, facilities, or programs.

- Undue burden and undue hardship are defined as "significant difficulty or expense."

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Let's Practice- What Auxiliary Aids could be used for this?

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Core Accommodation: Four focus areas

- Mobility

- Blind / Low Vision

- Deaf / deaf / Hard of Hearing

- Neurodiverse / Intellectual Disability / Developmental Disability

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Mobility

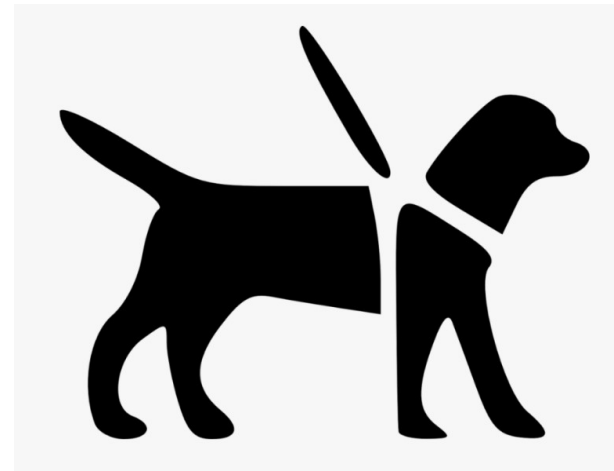Example accommodations

Doors

Restrooms

Elevators

Service Counters

Seating Areas

Rest Areas

Parking

Lighting

Surfaces

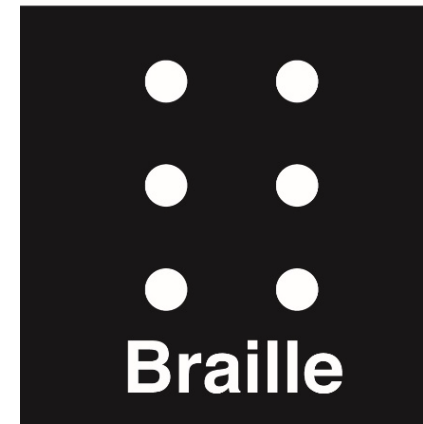Art-Reach

Blind / Low Vision

Example accommodations

AD Tours
Website
Screen Readers
Exhibit Labels
Alt Formats for Info
Braille/Large Print
Tactile Displays

AD)))

Large Print

Braille

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Blind / Low Vision

Technology & Smartphone Apps

- Seeing AI
- Speechify
- Be my eyes
- Aira

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Deaf / deaf / Hard of Hearing

Example accommodations

ASL Policy

Captions (CC/OC)

ALD (asst list devices)

Amplification

Acoustics

Online captions

Scripts/transcripts

Loop System

Deaf / deaf / Hard of Hearing

Technology & Smartphone Apps

Apps for Kids & Adults with Hearing Loss

Inventory of Apologies
Interesting Look at Archiving the experience of disability discrimination.

Neurodiverse / Intellectual disability / Developmental Disability

Example accommodations

Direct Language
_____

Low Stim Space
_____

Sensory Friendly/Relaxed Programs
_____

Positive Aging Program
_____

Sound/Quiet Space
_____

Sensory Kits
_____

Balance/Movement Activities

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Beyond ADA: Human Centered Design & Cultural Belonging

Inclusive/ Human Centered Design

- Signage
- Accessible Icons
- Wayfinding
- PCA Policy

Belonging / Safe Space

- Eliminating Segregated Spaces
- Eliminating Forced Intimacy
- Security Training
- Language Access
- Air Quality
- Accessibility Info
- Restroom Inclusion
- Economic Justice
- Harm Reduction Training

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Part III: Adaptation & Inclusive Design

Social Model of Disability

The social model of disability proposes that what makes someone disabled is not their medical condition, but the structures or barriers of society:

- Physical
- Communication
- Organizational
- Technology
- Attitudinal
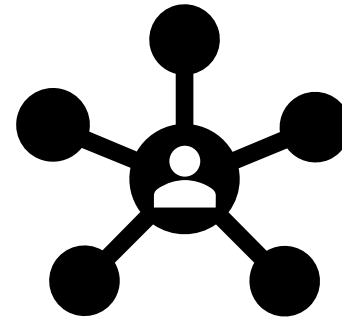
Comparing Accommodation & Inclusive Design

| Accommodation	Inclusive Design
Access issues are the disabled person's problem to solve.	Access issues are the designer's task to discover creative solutions.
Access is achieved through accommodations and retrofitting.	Environments/programs are designed to the greatest extent possible for the critical and augmented user.
Requests for public accommodation/ access services should be guaranteed under Title III of the ADA.	Proactive & Multifunctional

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[When we design for disability, we all benefit](). Elise Roy. *Ted Talk* (2016)
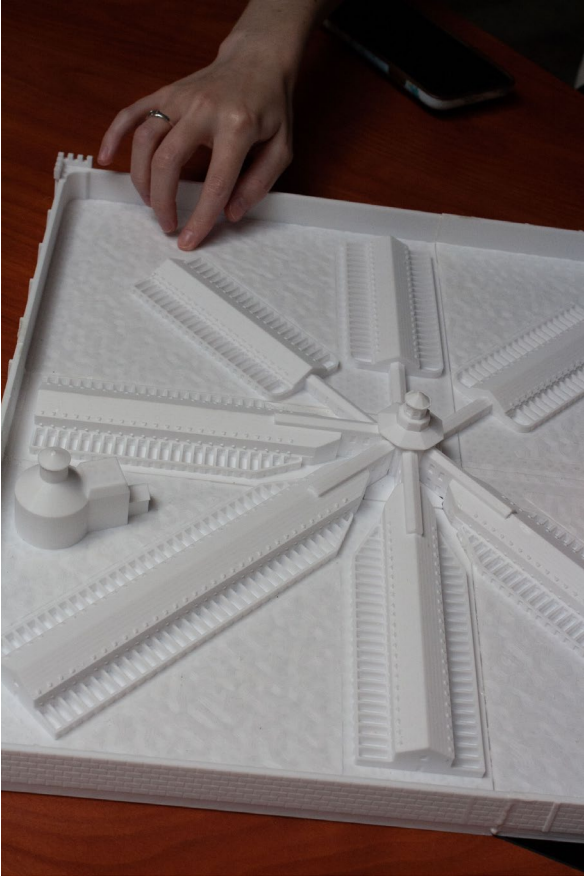
Part III: Case Studies

Eastern State Penitentiary
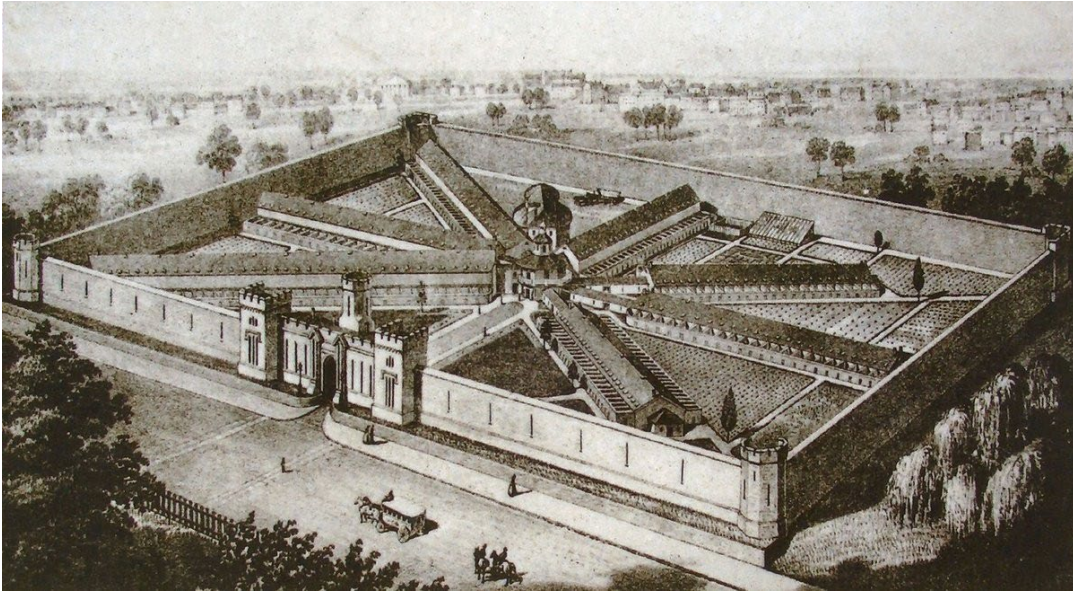
You have been asked to advise on making the orientation to Eastern State more accessible and details of Al Capone's cell (1929).

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Eastern State Penitentiary
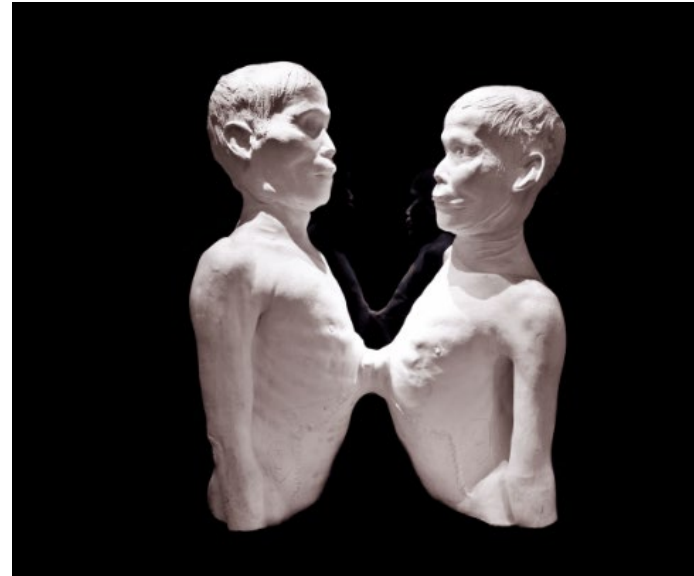
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Mütter Museum- Historical Medical Library

Archivist & Interpretation Team Up to Explore Sensory Engagement with the collection- Chevalier Jackson's collection....Where would you start?

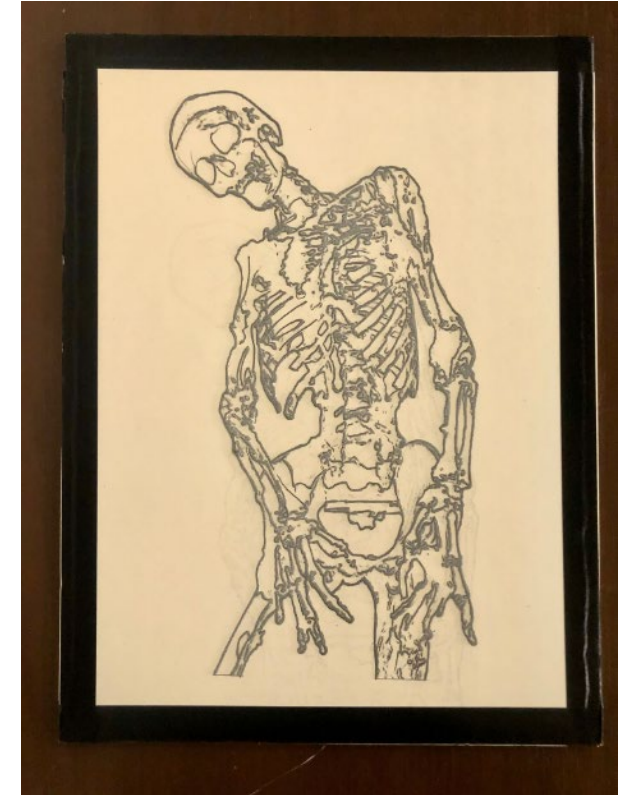Art-Reach

Mutter Museum   Tactile Engagement

A facsimile of the Chevalier Jackson collection of swallowed objects

Understanding the Casts of Chang and Eng Bunker
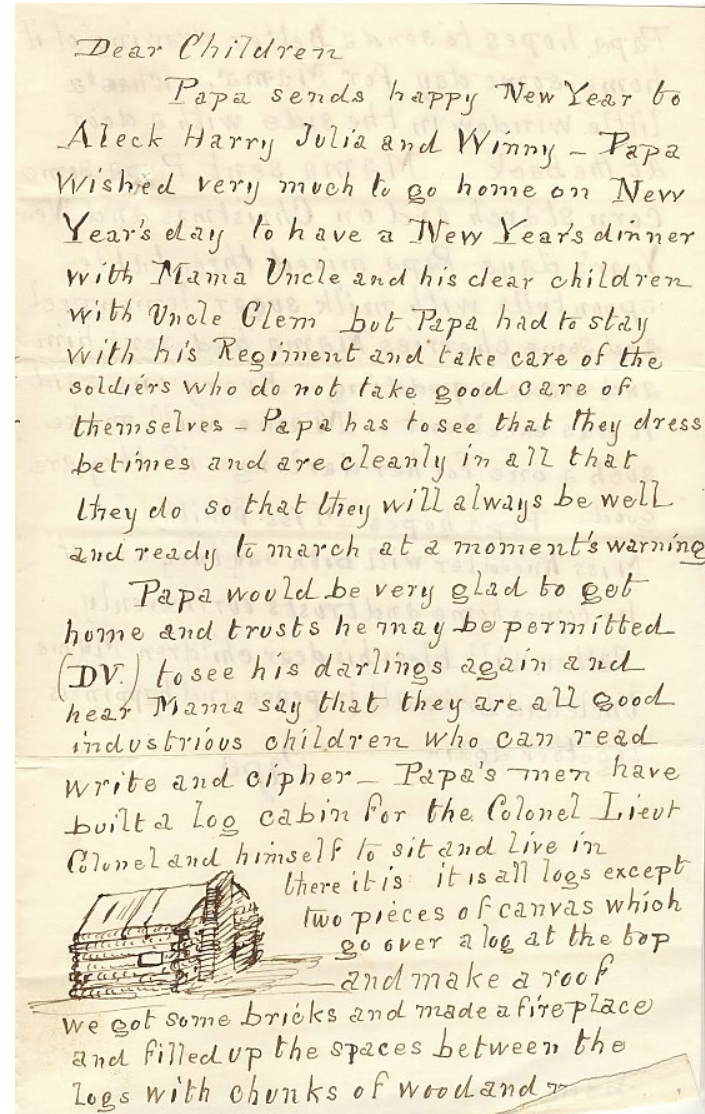

A raised print photo of Harry Eastlack.

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Rosenbach Museum & Library

You come across a letter in the archives of a Civil War Soldier written to his children, what next?

Archived Blog Post

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Accessibility Resources

- [Downloadable Accessible Symbols](#)
- [Accessibility Excellence-](#) Self Audit
- [Digital Accessibility for Archives](#)
- [Eight Senses Art-Reach Handout](#)

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