

Travelling the Path to Accessible Reading:

AN INTERACTIVE SESSION FEATURING LIBRARY
USERS WITH PRINT DISABILITIES



CELA Strategic Plan 2017-2021

- Leverage advances in technology to improve accessible services
- Build a Robust Alternative Format Collection
- Champion Excellence in Library Accessibility
- Broaden Reach to Canadians with Print Disabilities

What is an accessible format?

Standard reading materials produced in a format that can be read by persons with visual, physical or learning disabilities.

- Large Print and Spoken Word Audio
- DAISY audio and text
- Braille
- Described Video
- Dyslexic Font

Format is only one part of the path



The path provided is fraught with obstacles

Web discovery and access tools supplied by vendors are not easily navigated by those with print disabilities

Navigating them with screen reading software, Text to Speech software and screen magnification software can be difficult for users who lack technical proficiency.

Getting to the book is more than half the battle

If this were not the case, CELA would need not exist for digital users

Today's session

Debbie Gillespie:

Currently the Lead for Accessibility (Infrastructure and Transit) at CNIB in Toronto. She will be expanding on some of the issues I touched on

Martin Courcelles:

Currently the Senior Accessibility Technology Specialist at OLG. He will be...

Dana Sahian:

Speech Language Pathologist will share her experiences with her students and her own children in the obstacles faced by those with learning disabilities

Accessible Reading

- Reading should be a relaxing, enjoyable experience
- Content should be effortless to obtain, in a timely, efficient manner

Acquiring Content, Process and Pitfalls

- This is much simpler than in the past
- Shopping sites such as Amazon, Audible and iBook's
- Specialized sites like Book Share, and CELA
- All provide recommended reads and new releases

Acquiring Content, Process and Pitfalls Contd.

- steps are the same for everyone at this point
- Determine what you want
- Acquire it (either by download or hard copy)
- Read it

A bit about storage and typical profile

- It is not uncommon for people to have hundreds of books on an SD card, thumb drive or portable digital reader such as Victor Reader Stream, Braille device or mobile phone
- One reason for this is getting it, and reading it are two distinct processes
- downloading material can be a frustrating process, so best to download lots now and get it over with

Let's go get it! barriers to accessibility

- This is where the system breaks down, creating barriers to finding, and downloading content
- sites tend to cram as much information as possible on a given page, making it difficult to navigate and sort content if using a screen reader or other assistive technology
- Sites appear cluttered and it can be tedious to read all that stuff!
- Though skimming is an option, you need to know the page well in order to decide what to skim over and what to read.
- Very much a mental mapping process for those with vision loss

Let's go get it! barriers to accessibility contd

- knowledge gap, staff may not be familiar with access technology, and
- user not familiar with library site
- lay-out and content change frequently making it necessary to read and learn often.
- User learning new access technology

My wish list

- Consistent sites and technology for downloading and storing
- Means less mental mapping and more reading
- Easier to find forms and buttons to accomplish task at hand
- Now too much time spent acquiring stuff

My current tool kit

- most of my reading is done on the iPhone except when travelling
- iBook's and ePub format provide ability to skim pages and only read relevant content in the moment
- If reading novels etc. I use a portable hand held device such as Victor Reader Stream
- Means no fuss, no worries as all content is readily at my fingertips
- Over to Martin for Demos