Use of Physical Spaces by Persons with Disabilities

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In this webinar...

We’ll be discussing library physical space accessibility based on a presentation given by Jay Dolmage at the 2019 Big Ten Academic Alliance library conference: Academic Ableism, Accommodation, Access, and Advocacy (https://youtu.be/WLqKAXcjkPY).

We’ll show clips from Jay’s presentation, ask some questions, and provide examples from our libraries.

We will be monitoring chat, raised hands, etc. - we want to have an interactive discussion:)
Clip #1 - Steep Steps
Steep Steps

Jay begins his lecture with focusing on the metaphor of steep steps. What do the steps represent for people with disabilities?
Steep Steps

Think of a “steep step” that physically exists in your library/library space or where you went to library school. What has been done to address/improve or what could be done?

Example: MSU Libraries Digital Scholarship Lab

- Digital Scholarship Lab Virtual Tour

http://digitalscholarshiplab.msu.edu/using-the-lab/accessibility/
Clip #2 - Navigating / Retrofits

https://youtu.be/WLqKAXcjkPY?t=1076
Navigating / Retrofits

Jay challenges us to navigate our physical and digital spaces with the retrofits like ramps and accessible code.

What do you think would happen if you did that with your library’s physical spaces?
Navigating / Retrofits

Main Library: Michigan State University
Clip #3 - Accessibility Improvements as Investments

https://youtu.be/WLqKAXcjkPY?t=2409
Accessibility Improvements as Investments

Are there accessibility investments from your library to share? What are some strategies to frame improvements as investments?

Example: “Refreshed” Assistive Technology Center, Michigan State University Libraries
Accessibility Improvements as Investments

- Accessible study space
- Remodeled main reference desk
Thank you!!

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