



Establishing an Accessible Library for Visually Impaired Patrons



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“If you fail to see the person but only
sees the impairment, then who is blind?”

Our attitude towards persons with disabilities could be what
makes them disabled. Let's break these attitudinal barriers
now!

- TONY WONG

What is Visually Impaired People (VIP)?

It is a general term used to describe people who are partially sighted or completely blind.

There are about 314 million visually impaired people globally with 45 million totally blind.

The Philippines is the home of half a million blinds.

What are the Information Needs of Visually Impaired Person (VIP)?

VIP have the same information needs as sighted people. They read newspapers, do research, surf in the internet, listen to radio and television, download electronics information and participate in the social media.

What the library can do?

- Libraries are the forefront in removing barriers hindering access to information.
- Libraries are gateway to knowledge and information and must be designed to be universally accessible.
- Libraries should have equipment in place that facilitates both easy mobility and easier intellectual access for those who are challenged by visual impairments.

Role of Libraries (Dennis Jones 2007)

Legal Basis:

RA 10754 – An act expanding the benefits and privileges of persons with disability (PWD) passed last March 2017.

RA 7277 - An act providing for the rehabilitation, self-development and self-reliance of disabled person and their integration into the mainstream of society and for other purposes.

IFLA and UNESCO – in Public Library Manifesto (1994) emphasize that every library must provide proper services for those who do not have easy access to them.

Principle of Library Service to Braille Users:

- Provide access to braille collection.
- Encourage the inclusion of all braille holdings in National and regional catalogues.
- Promote the inclusion of braille in ongoing literacy programs.
- Educate Library board and staff regarding braille.
- Use braille as a medium for communicating with blind and visually impaired braille readers.
- Promote the availability services in braille in the community served.

CCPL Services Available to the Visually Impaired:

Basic Braille Workshop



Braille - is a system of reading and writing whereby raised dots are used to represent letters which needs to be touched.

Large Print Materials



These are documents printed in large fonts for use by partially blind users.

Digital Literacy for the Blind



Assistive Device or Adaptive Device:

Screen Reader – a software that reads out the content of a document to a reader.

Electronic Braille Display



is an electro mechanical device for displaying braille characters by means of sound-tipped pins raised through holes in that surface.

HOW WE DO IT?

- Open links to specialized agencies like schools, rehabilitation centers and NGOs who are serving print disabled people.
- Partner with blindness agencies that conduct or assemble information on consumer demographics, needs, trends and behavior.

- **Collaboration and Partnership**



