

LIBRARIES & ACCESSIBILITY

Resources on accessibility, the ADA, and services to persons with disabilities.

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Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) & Libraries

Some resources about the ADA's effect on library buildings and services:

- The Association of Specialized, Government and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASGCLA) promotes a policy on [Library Services for People with Disabilities](#).
- ASGCLA also has a toolkit for [Library Accessibility – What You Need to Know](#). Each *tipsheet* was developed to help librarians in all types of libraries understand and manage access issues.
- The [Connecticut Library Association ADA Committee](#) lists resources and websites related to disabilities.
- Wisconsin Department of Instruction's Resources:
 - ◇ [Trustee Essential 21](#): The Library Board and Accessible Services
 - ◇ [Administrative Essential 9](#): Accessible Library Services
 - ◇ The [Inclusive Services Assessment and Guide](#) for WI Public Libraries

The ADA was signed into law in 1990 and prohibits discrimination based on disability.

The civil rights law also imposes accessibility requirements on public accommodations, including libraries.

Universal Design

By integrating concepts of Universal Design into your library, you can ensure that buildings and services can be used by the broadest number of people.

Check out these resources:

- [Equal Access: Universal Design of Libraries](#) - Checklist for making libraries welcoming, accessible, and usable.
- The [Institute for Human Centered Design](#) is dedicated to enhancing the experiences of all people through design excellence.
- If you are altering your library building or constructing a new library, refer to the [2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design](#).
- [ADA Accessibility Checklist for Buildings & Facilities](#) - Excellent checklist to find out what your library is lacking.
- The ADA National Network also has a more substantial [Disability Law Handbook](#) with further information. Summarized [Fact Sheets](#) focus on subjects of Effective Communication, Service Animals, Wheelchairs, and Accessible Parking.
- Books:
 - ◇ [Checklist of Library Building Design Considerations](#) by William W. Sannwald (2016)
 - ◇ [How Libraries Must Comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) by Donald D. Foos (Editor); Nancy C. Pack (Editor) (1992)
 - ◇ [Making the Library Accessible for All](#) by Jane Vincent (2014)
 - ◇ [Library Buildings, Equipment, and the ADA: Compliance Issues and Solutions](#) (Proceedings of the Library Administration and Management Association Buildings and Equipment Section) by Susan E. Cirillo (Editor); Robert E. Danford (Editor) (1996)
 - ◇ [The ADA Library Kit: Sample ADA-related Documents to Help You Implement the Law](#) by Kathleen Mayo (Editor); Ruth O'Donnell (Editor) (1994)

Further Assistance

- www.ADA.gov
- [ADA Regulations and Technical Assistance Materials](#)
- [ADA Title II Action Guide for State and Local Governments](#) from the New England ADA Center
- [ADA Update: A Primer for State and Local Governments](#) from the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice

