Universal Design:
Making Information Literacy Accessible

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south carolina
STATE LIBRARY

Information Literacy in Public Libraries

Formal

- Classes on basic computer skills

- Guest speakers on high-interests topics

- Programs for children or teens

Informal

- Reference questions

- Assisting at public computers

- Social media posts

Diverse Needs of Library Patrons:

- Technology skills & access
- Language
- Literacy
- Community support & access to services
- Childcare and family responsibilities
- Transportation
- Mental health
- Physical disabilities
- Developmental and reading disabilities

Universal Design for Learning

Multiple Means of Engagement → the WHY of learning

- Relevance

Multiple Means of Representation → the WHAT of learning

- Literacy requirements, accessibility, cognitive load

Multiple Means of Action & Expression → the HOW of learning

- Technology, multiple formats

Source: http://udlguidelines.cast.org

Reduce Literacy Barriers

- Offer multiple formats (audio, video, text)
- Provide translations
- Create a social story: carolgraysocialstories.com
- Use visuals
- Check reading levels:
  - webfx.com/tools/read-able
 - Reading level checker in MS Word: File > Options > Proofing

Sometimes adults and kids need to wear masks to protect other people from getting sick. This might be something new for me!

© Autism Little Learners

Reduce the Cognitive Load

New information is held in "working memory" before it becomes long-term

- Write in Plain Language: plainlanguage.gov

- Need to know vs. nice to know

- Organize with headings

- Introduce new concepts with scaffolding

- Minimize distractions
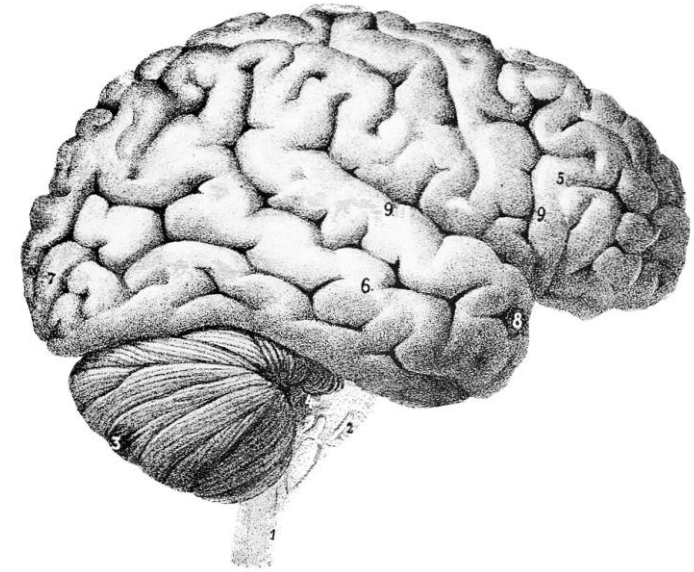
Make it Accessible

- Follow WCAG 2.0 guidelines on websites and social media
  - Alt text, heading structure, clear link text, etc.
  - https://www.w3.org/WAI/

- Visual information should have audio alternatives
  - Accessible documents, audio descriptions, assistive technology

- Auditory information should have visual alternatives
  - Closed captioning, transcripts, CART service, ASL

Technology Skills and Access

- Don't assume

- Provide alternatives

- Build foundational skills while assisting with specific tasks

- Show how to make technology easier to use

Bringing Accessibility to Your Library

- Accessibility Team or ADA Coordinator

- Audit facilities, programs, policies, media, and third-party services

- Connect with people with disabilities

- Make accommodations easy

- Staff training

Resources

- Plain Language: plainlanguage.gov

- Social stories: carolgraysocialstories.com

- Readability scores: webfx.com/tools/read-able

- Web Accessibility Initiative: www.w3.org/WAI/

- Captions and Transcripts:

  webaim.org/techniques/captions/

- Universal Design for Learning: udlguidelines.cast.org

THANK YOU!

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https://guides.statelibrary.sc.gov/inclusion