Workshop #3: Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in Libraries



Take-Away #2

Library Examples of Universal Design:

- 1. Provide various materials such as audiobooks, articles, books, websites, and videos on a particular topic.
- Libraries that have only one style of seating arrangement are not designed for all. However, if the library incorporates multiple types of seating like benches, regular chairs, bean bags, cushioned seats, they can accommodate more people. Make sure to offer different chair heights, armrests, and surfaces as well.
- 3. Use signage that has wording, quickly recognizable symbols, and braille. One popular example is the directional sign for stairs. Usually, there is the word 'stairs' in English underneath a simple flight of stairs.
- 4. At the entrances to the library, have a space that communicates the library layout along with "you are here" locators. This is also helpful in the stacks, particularly for libraries with multiple floors and multiple sections on each floor.
- 5. Consider the placement of power outlets. Avoid power outlets that stick up in the middle of the floor and power outlets behind the bottom bookshelf. Patrons require more access to power outlets and need easy and quick access.
- 6. Shelving takes up a lot of space, and it is hard to navigate around for patrons in a wheelchair. Providing online content such as eBooks and audiobooks allows for more open space at your library.
- 7. Allow for the patron to create their workspace. Desks, where the patron can change the height at will, are also good accessible furniture.

Library Examples of Universal Design for Learning:

- 1. Providing e-books in multiple formats.
- 2. Providing instructional materials in large, legible fonts.
- 3. Finding alternative materials for students with disabilities before beginning instruction or a library program.
- 4. Using different media to explain a concept, including videos and infographics.
- 5. Downloading apps designed for students with disabilities.