

## Workshop #4: Community Voices: Partnering for Accessibility and Inclusion in Library Planning



### Activity Worksheet #1

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#### Directions:

1. Select (5-7) role players from the larger participant group. Members will have the following roles:
    - a. A Community Services Librarian
    - b. A Library Director
    - c. A Library Aide
    - d. 1-2 representatives from relevant community disabilities organizations (e.g., group serving the blind, autism support group, wounded veterans group)
  2. 1-2 patrons with disabilities. Each player should try to put themselves into the mind of their role and communicate accordingly. Choose a recorder to record and present the outcomes of the roleplay
  3. Each player receives a brief description of his/her role but is instructed not to share anything about that role with anyone until the role play begins.
  4. As you watch the role-play, non-roleplayers will complete activity worksheet #1. It contains a description of the situation and the information needed by the librarian (who is leading the meeting) and space to record your observations and comments as the role-play unfolds
  5. Regroup after 20 minutes. The non-role players should be ready to share their observations and comments with the larger group.
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#### Scenario:

A librarian is conducting a meeting to determine some initial issues to include in a needs assessment with members of the local community of disability-focused organizations and individuals with disabilities. The purpose of the needs assessment is to identify programs and services that the library might offer that would particularly attract new library users with disabilities (adults and children).

In this activity, the librarian will ask a series of questions to determine what her target population needs to become more active library users. The responses will help guide her

development of a community survey of the library and information needs of people with disabilities in her community. Think about what you in your role might want to see in the library that would make people with disabilities feel more engaged and included.

Roles:

1. Library Director
2. Community Service Librarian
3. Library Aide
4. 1st Representative
5. 2nd Representative

Some questions to ask:

1. What can libraries do to attract more people with disabilities to come to our library?
2. How do we keep patrons with disabilities engaged and involved in library activities?
3. If you were creating a survey on library use (or non-use) of their community's library, what are your three most important topics to include?
4. What would be the best way to get broad participation for the needs assessment from the people with disabilities in your community and the organizations that serve them?