

LITERARY ARTS RESOURCES

Web site links updated March 2011

Tips for Creating a Literary Arts Access Checklist

Literary arts programs support the creation, publication, promotion, distribution, and presentation of literature. In addition, they may involve graphic arts production, printing, readings, workshops, exhibits, and book fairs, as well as writing, translation, and editing. These activities may take place in a variety of locations ranging from printing shops to classrooms to shopping malls.

All programs should be accessible to speakers, participants, audience members, and staff. While many organizations may claim accessibility, each facility and activity should be carefully evaluated in conjunction with a checklist and knowledgeable individuals **prior** to being opened to the public.

A Literary Arts Access Checklist may combine the following sections of the *Arts and Humanities Accessibility Checklist* (Step 6):

- **Print Materials** includes ways to make print available in alternate formats for individuals who cannot use traditional print.
- **Assembly Areas** includes how to set up integrated and dispersed seating for poetry readings and other programs so wheelchair users may sit within the regular seating area and have a choice of seating.
- **Presentations and Programs** includes communication techniques such as sign language to make readings and other programs accessible.

If you have a gallery or exhibition space, see the “**Exhibition and Labeling**” sections of the checklist.

In addition, all organizations are strongly encouraged to complete the following sections:

- **Policies and Practices;**
- **Employment;**
- **Checklist for Existing Facilities;**
- **Interior Signage;**
- **Emergency Evacuation; and**
- **Marketing and Publicity.**

Literary Arts Resource Directory

[Advocado Press](#)

Louisville, KY

Phone: (888) 739-1920

Email: office@advocadopress.org

Description: The Advocado Press produces [Ragged Edge magazine](#). *Ragged Edge* is the successor to the award-winning periodical, *The Disability Rag*. *Ragged Edge* features current writing about society's "ragged edge" issues: medical rationing, genetic discrimination, assisted suicide, long-term care, attendant services. The on-line magazine covers the disability experience in America -- what it means to be a person with a disability at the start of the 21st century.

[Poets and Writers, Inc.](#)

New York, NY

Phone: (212) 226-3586

Email: ryan@pw.org

Description: Poets & Writers, Inc., (P&W) is the primary source of information, support, and guidance for creative writers. Founded in 1970, it is the nation's largest nonprofit literary organization serving poets, fiction writers, and creative nonfiction writers. The organization's mission is to foster the professional development of poets and writers, to promote communication throughout the literary community, and to help create an environment in which literature can be appreciated by the widest possible public. P&W accomplishes this by publishing *Poets & Writers Magazine*. *Poets & Writers Magazine* is the leading publication of its kind. From its earliest days as a quarterly newsletter with a distribution of a few hundred copies, [Poets & Writers Magazine](#) has addressed issues of importance to creative writers, from finding an agent to promoting one's book. The bimonthly magazine publishes essays on the literary life, profiles of contemporary authors, and the most comprehensive listing of literary grants and awards, deadlines, and prize winners available in print. Each issue reaches more than 80,000 writers.

[Society of Professional Journalists](#)

Indianapolis, IN

Phone: (317) 927-8000

Email: sleadingham@spj.org

Description: The Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) is dedicated to the perpetuation of a free press as the cornerstone of our nation and our liberty. It is the role of journalists to provide this information in an accurate, comprehensive, timely and understandable manner. SPJ mission is to promote the flow of information. SPJ offers a Diversity Leadership Fellows Program with the goal to increase the diversity participation of SPJ members within national committees and on the national board of directors. Due to their underrepresentation in the profession and subsequently in SPJ leadership positions, journalists of color have been the program's primary focus. SPJ has expanded to include other historically underrepresented groups such as LGBT journalists and journalists with disabilities.

Survivors Art Foundation

Westhampton, NY

Email: safe@survivorsartfoundation.org

Description: Survivors Art Foundation (SAF) is a non-profit organization committed to empowering visual, literary and performing artists with effective expressive outlets, via an online gallery, national exhibitions, outreach programs and [publications](#). SAF's mission is to enable trauma survivors with physical and mental disabilities to display and market their works to give them recognition, hope and direction.

VSA Playwright Discovery Award

Washington, DC

Phone: (202) 628-2800

Email: Playwright@vsarts.org

Description: The VSA Playwright Discovery Program invites middle and high school students to take a closer look at the world around them, examine how disability affects their lives and the lives of others, and express their views through the art of playwriting. Playwrights may write from their own experience or about an experience in the life of another person or fictional character. Scripts can be comedies, dramas, or even musicals—be creative! Young playwrights with and without disabilities are encouraged to submit a script. Entries may be the work of an individual student or collaboration by a group or class of students. [Official submission](#) information is available.

Writers Guild of America East

New York, NY

Phone: (212) 767-7800

Email: info@wgaeast.org

Description: The Writers Guild East (WGAE) is a labor union of thousands of professionals who are the primary creators of what is seen or heard on television and film in the U.S., as well as the writers of a growing portion of original digital media content. Members write everything from big budget movies to independent films, late night comedy/variety shows to daytime serials, broadcast and radio news, web series, documentaries, and animation. The WGAE works on their behalf to promote and protect the professional and artistic interests of this diverse community. They offer an array of resources such as [writing tools](#), [publications](#), and other resources.

Writers Guild of America, West

Employment Access Department

Los Angeles, CA

Phone: (800) 548-4532

Description: The Writers Guild of America, West (WGAW) Writer Access Project is a program designed to identify excellent, diverse writers with television staffing experience go to [guidelines](#) for more information. The Writers with Disabilities Committee seeks to enhance the visibility and employment of writers with all types of disabilities, and encourage, celebrate, and endorse accurate portrayals of the disabled in all areas of the media. They also serve as an expert resource for all issues related to the disabled community. The Writers Access Project seeks to identify excellent diverse writers in

order to provide a hiring resource for television writer-producers. WGAW members who meet the criteria for participation are invited to submit one piece of literary material: one spec script for a television series in first run on either network or cable T.V.

PUBLICATIONS

Ability Magazine

Ability Magazine aims for a general readership by educating and informing readers about disability. It was recently ranked 13th of the top 50 magazines in the world accessed online.

Able Magazine

Able Magazine, out of the UK, features articles on employment, travel, and current disability issues. The magazine also offers in-depth buying guides as well as general advice and tips for purchasing a whole range of disability products and services through their Products & Services Showcase.

The Braille Monitor

The Braille Monitor is a publication of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), covers the events and activities of the NFB and serves as a vehicle for advocacy and protection of civil rights, addresses social concerns affecting the blind and discusses issues related to employment, education, legislation, and rehabilitation.

Breath and Shadow

Breath and Shadow is an online quarterly journal of disability culture and literature. A project of AbilityMaine, *Breath & Shadow* is the only online literary journal with a focus on disability. It is also unique in being the sole cross-disability literature and culture magazine written and edited entirely by people with disabilities. They feature writing by children and adults; people with physical, mental, emotional, and sensory disabilities; and new/emergent and established writers.

Deaf Nation

Founded in 2003, DeafNation, Inc. is the international leader in video content, news coverage, social networking and special events for the greater deaf and hard-of-hearing community. The company's brand portfolio includes DeafNation Expo, an annual tour of 10-15 expos all over the United States and DeafNation.com, an exclusive social network offering resources for the deaf and hard-of-hearing such as blogs and online videos that provide in-depth coverage on current news.

Disability Arts Online Magazine

Disability Arts Online (DAO) is an online magazine supported by the Arts Council England which seeks to promote disabled and deaf artists and to discuss issues around Disability Arts. DAO pays particular attention to accessibility and is working to promote issues around web access for disabled people.

Kaleidoscope

This magazine examines the experiences of disability through literature and the fine arts. This publication expresses the experiences of disability from the perspective of individuals, families, healthcare professionals, and society.

Mainstream

Mainstream is an online news, advocacy and lifestyle magazine for people with disabilities.

New Mobility Magazine

New Mobility magazine focuses on the integration of people with disabilities in society while reflecting on disability-related arts, media, advocacy, legal rights and philosophy. It is published in hard copy and online.

Opening Stages

Opening Stages is a free quarterly newsletter for people with disabilities who are pursuing careers in the performing arts. Writers examine the daily issues surrounding disabilities and the arts, and speak with those persons actively in pursuit of their dreams.

Raw Visions Magazine

Raw Visions magazine is a magazine about outsider art, the art of the untrained visionary.

Reach Out Magazine

Reach Out Magazine is a meeting place for disabled persons all over the world. In addition to a complete online version of *Reach Out Magazine*, the subscribers area also contains live chat, personals, message boards, and a members only mailing list.

Spectrum Magazine

Spectrum Magazine is a new grassroots alternative magazine displaying a wide spectrum of topics, opinions and abilities of people with disabilities. They emphasize art, entertainment and the local news.

See also:

The [**National Arts and Disability Center**](#) to search for additional resources and information related to the Literary Arts.