

Accessible Technologies at Arapahoe Libraries

STRATEGY

Permanent, temporary, and situational disabilities can affect any of us at any time. Accessible technologies allow people with disabilities to more fully participate in our libraries, workforces, and communities. When selecting software, hardware or other technologies, we prioritize those with vetted accessibility options, and we proactively look to how we can use technology and innovation to create more accessible systems and services with and for people with disabilities.

WHO

1.3 billion people (1 in 6) have a permanent disability, and many more experience temporary or situational disabilities. Many of these individuals can benefit from assistive technology. Following a “nothing about us without us” philosophy, we aim to collaborate with staff, patrons, and outside parties to continuously learn and improve upon our accessibility options across a wide spectrum of abilities, including:

**VISION****HEARING****NEURODIVERSITY****MENTAL HEALTH****MOBILITY****SPEECH**

ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY FACETS

**WEB****SOFTWARE****HARDWARE****FEEDBACK**

Web: In alignment with our Accessible Technologies Policy, we ensure that all staff-generated content for our public-facing website follows the principles of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 AA Standards and use tools to review and check for compliance. We also work with our website host to ensure the system architecture continues to follow and improve upon the same guidelines. While we do not have direct control over the architecture of external online resources, we require (during the contract agreement process) any new external resource to abide by the same guidelines (as of 2018).

Software: Software is vetted through our software selection process, and providers are evaluated based on their accessibility options, among other criteria. Software must support screen readers and voice-to-text. Internal and external software is audited yearly to ensure continued compliance.

Hardware: Hardware is vetted through our standard purchasing processes and providers are evaluated based on their accessibility options, among other criteria. Any hardware that includes an interactive user interface must support screen reading and be accessible to those with mobility disabilities under the principles of universal design.

Feedback: We welcome feedback from our patrons to improve access to our services. This includes providing patrons the option to report an accessibility concern or question, or to request a reasonable accommodation.