But they don't look like they have a disability...

Library Services to people in the US with dyslexia
What do these people have in common?
Today we will discuss

- Issues
- National programs in the United States
- Examples of local libraries that intentionally serve people with dyslexia
Four issues in serving people with dyslexia

- Identifying people with dyslexia
  - Hidden disability
  - 15 to 20% of population
  - Only 5% receive services

- Passive vs active library services
  - Passive - you can use what we have already
  - Active - we choose to develop services to meet your needs
Issues

- **Access to resources**
  - Diagnosis/copyright
  - Must be medical doctor
  - Materials are segregated
  - Limits materials available

- **Publicity**
  - Where are they?
  - Overcoming a stigma
  - Design
National Organizations in the US

- National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped
- Learning Ally
- Bookshare
National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

- **Mission**
  - Through a national network of cooperating libraries, NLS administers a free library program of braille and audio materials circulated to eligible borrowers in the United States by postage-free mail.

- US Government/the Library of Congress
- Records/braille books and magazines
- Digital players with navigation options
- Qualified by “competent authority”
- Searchable database
NLS

- Cooperates with 50 states
  - Staff and faculties
  - Design own service

- Total dyslexia uses nationally?
  - Does not track
  - 6% registered with “reading disability”
Learning Ally

- Since 1947 as Recording for the Blind
- Membership organization
- Works with students in 10,000 institutions
- Mainly curriculum material (65%)
- Gets referrals from NLS
- Uses the DAISY format
• Services and advice to caregivers

• Must be diagnosed by medical doctor

• Do not usually work with libraries directly

We hear anecdotes (from librarians) but don’t typically reach out to librarians because, while they are extremely supportive, cannot make the diagnosis or share the necessary paperwork that authorizes a user to access the catalog. We often end up with librarians but our conversations begin with a reading specialist, assistive technology expert, instructor of the vision impaired or special educator.
BOOKSHARE

• “the world’s largest online library of accessible reading materials for people with print disabilities.”

• Organization/ individual members

• Offers multitude of resources

• Broader authorizing officials

• Students served free; public libraries pay fee

• One of few services available to public libraries

• Free software allows navigation options
Library Examples

- Brooklyn Public Library *The Child’s Place for Children (and Teens) with Special Needs*

- Woodlynde School, Strafford, Pennsylvania

- New Jersey State Library Talking Book and Braille Center
Brooklyn Public Library
A Child's Place For Children (And Teens)

- Designed to “meet the needs of children with disabilities”

- Mission
  - Access to resources to develop reading skills
  - Build self-esteem and confidence.
Universal Design

- Uses “Universal Design”
  - Equitable and flexible use
  - Simple and intuitive use
  - Perceptible information
  - Tolerance for error
  - Low physical effort
  - Size and space for approachable use
A Child’s Place - Services

- All facilities barrier free
- Staff have backgrounds in special education
- Fully accessible sensory gardens
More BPL Services

- Multisensory programs
- Twin vision, braille, and audio books are available
- Adaptive toys are available
- Puppets, toys, and other items are used to illustrate stories

- Craft projects/ visual and textural appeal

- Adaptive tools
• Interpreters are available at libraries upon request

• Weekday after-school programs
Woodlynde School, Strafford, Pennsylvania

- Focus on what kids need and want
- Arranged books by genre – with link to Learning Ally
- Learning Ally books are compatible and more visible. Students select Learning Ally books for their outside reading thus are more comfortable using the technology when they need it.
New Jersey State Library Talking Book And Braille Center

- Grant from Comcast for software for 40 computers in public libraries
- People view FREE services available from TBBC
- Upgrades have AI Squared Zoom Text accessible software
• Zoom Text magnifies and reads aloud

• TBBC helps publicize to clients about services in public libraries
  o Mailing list
  o Presentations
  o Training for librarians and users
Welcome