DYSLEXIA? WELCOME TO OUR LIBRARY! 

COLLECTION & DEVICES

- Audio Books
- Daisy talking books
- Easy-to-read
- Fiction and non-fiction titles
- Materials of varying difficulty
- Focus on fun: films, music, games
- Digital resources
- eBooks and eReaders
- Magnifying rulers

SPACE & PRESENTATION

- Presentation of materials and IT-tools in a central location close to the information desk
- Install programs for reading and writing on all library computers
- Place computers near the audio books and other materials for easy reading
- Easy-to-read signs, pictograms and labels on the materials and on the shelves
- An inspiring easy-to-read area
- Combine books and their audio or Daisy versions
- Show the front of books, dvd’s etc.

LIBRARY STAFF & PARTNERSHIPS

- Awareness is important for everyone who works in the library, from the porter (may be the first contact) to the senior librarian (strategy, decision maker)
- Train staff who can specialise in serving users with dyslexia. Although they may be the user’s primary contact, make sure that all library staff can offer basic guidance
- Create the possibility to book ‘your personal librarian’. A personal librarian makes it easier to come to the library and helps to create a feeling of security
- Share knowledge and work together! Inside and outside the library
- Involve users with dyslexia in the library service
- An integrated approach covering the whole library service and extending over several years is a necessity

MARKETING

- Accessible website and catalogue
- Welcome-leaflet: easy-to-read and informative, available in both printed and digital versions, and distributed in and outside the library
- Organize a frequent drop-in café with technology support and the opportunity to meet library staff with specialized knowledge of dyslexia. This kind of event will enable users to talk to persons with similar challenges.
- Write articles about the library service in local newspapers
- Use social media as Facebook, podcasts, youtube, ...
- Join events outside the library: meet persons with dyslexia where they are

INSPIRATION FOR LIBRARY SERVICES TO PERSONS WITH DYSLEXIA

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DYSLEXIA? WELCOME TO OUR LIBRARY!
Dyslexia is a neurologically-based disorder.

There is no relationship between a person’s level of intelligence, individual effort or socio-economic position and the presence of dyslexia. (EDA)

Dyslexia is not only about literacy, although weaknesses in literacy is the most visible sign. Dyslexia affects the way information is processed, stored and retrieved, with problems of memory, speed of processing, time perception, organization and sequencing. (British Dyslexia Association – BDA)

Although these readers cannot be considered a homogeneous group, there are some common characteristics:
- Reading at slow speed
- Having to read certain words or passages two or three times
- A tendency to get ‘lost’ somewhere on a page and then having to search for the sentence they were reading
- Putting a lot of effort into reading at word level and therefore no full access to a text.

Examples of difficulties other than reading difficulties which persons with dyslexia may experience:
- Difficulties when putting thoughts into words / formulating questions clearly (writing and speaking)
- Difficulties finding words
- Difficulties when performing two tasks at a time (like listening and taking notes at the same time)
- Difficulties when working under pressure of time
- Poor handwriting
- Problems when consulting information which is alphabetically organized
- Problems to find one’s way inside of a building.

Since language and orthography play an important role in reading, the level of dyslexia may differ across countries. Some alphabetical languages have a shallow orthography while other languages have a deep orthography. A shallow orthography means that the correspondences between letters and sounds in the writing system are close to one-to-one. A deep orthography will be more difficult for persons with dyslexia. (e.g. English: he met her there: 5 x ‘e’ pronounced in a different way).

The group of European Citizens with dyslexia and specific learning differences encompasses between 5 and 12 percent of the population, navigating through life in a largely non-dys’ friendly world. (European Dyslexia Organization – EDA)

Early recognition and appropriate intervention and support can help the person with dyslexia to overcome problems, finding a good way to cope and develop alternate reading and learning strategies.

In 2001, IFLA published the Guidelines for Library Services to Persons with Dyslexia (Professional reports No 70). Since then, the attitude towards persons with dyslexia has changed, supporting them with solutions and alternative ways of reading and writing, instead of training them, in many cases to no avail, to read from print and to spell correctly.

This revision of the “Dyslexia Guidelines” has been facilitated by IFLA. It has become a joint venture of the two neighbouring sections ‘Library Services to People with Special Needs’ (LSN) and ‘Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities’ (LPD).

FAMOUS PERSONS WITH DYSLEXIA

Jamie Oliver  Richard Branson  Agatha Christie  John Irving  Steve Jobs  Keira Knightley  John Lennon  Albert Einstein  Pablo Picasso  Ingvar Kamprad

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The National Center of Learning Disabilities (NCLD – New York) declares that dyslexia impacts an estimated 15 % of people.

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