

University of South Carolina  
College of Information and Communications

## Equitable Access for the Blind, Visually Impaired, and Print-Disabled (BVIPD) Students: A Pilot Study of BVIPD Services at the University of South Carolina

### Introduction:

You are invited to take part in a research study being carried out by Dr. Dick Kawooya (Principal Investigator-PI/Associate Professor); Dr. Eric P. Robinson (co-PI/Associate Professor); and Dr. Clayton A. Copeland (co-PI/Instructor). We are in the College of Information and Communications (CIC) at the University of South Carolina (USC). USC's Office of Vice President for Research and The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are sponsoring this research study. The purpose of this study is to develop a Campus Accessibility Partnership Model for providing accessible content to Blind, Visually Impaired, and Print-Disabled (BVIPD) students enrolled in online and face-to-face courses. BVIPD students often experience inequitable access to information that manifests as delays or failure to receive course learning materials that are otherwise more readily available to non-BVIPD students. The Partnership Model will enable the collaboration between the Student Disability Resource Center (USC's Disability Service Office - DSO), Thomas Cooper Libraries, and instructors to better serve BVIPD students. This study is being carried out at the University of South Carolina Columbia campus and other Southeastern Conference (SEC) institutions.

You are being asked to take part in this study because you are a librarian responsible for serving the disability community on campus. You will participate by answering the short interview questions below on your own (provide answers in a Word document) or with a member of the research team. The interview will last about an hour. Your information will be secured by the research team. No personally identifying information will be included in any publicly shared information. No significant risks are anticipated in participating in this study.

Concerns about your rights as a research subject are to be directed to: Lisa Johnson, Director, Office of Research Compliance, University of South Carolina, 1600 Hampton Street, Suite 414D, Columbia, SC 29208, Phone: (803) 777-6670 or Email: [LisaJ@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:LisaJ@mailbox.sc.edu).

## Interview questions:

*Thank you for accepting to be part of this study. We appreciate you making the time to answer our questions. Answer all questions as candidly as possible. If the question is not applicable to you or you would prefer not to answer a particular question, please indicate not applicable.*

- 1) Tell us about your work as a librarian, specifically any of your work that involves serving students, faculty, and researchers with disabilities in the campus community.
- 2) What services does the library provide to students, faculty, and researchers with disabilities in the campus community?
- 3) What do you find to be the most exciting or fulfilling part of your work, and why?
- 4) What do you find to be the least exciting or fulfilling part of your work, and why?
- 5) How often do you personally serve blind, visually impaired, and/or print-disabled (BVIPD) students and what kinds of services do you provide to them?
- 6) What is your overall assessment of the quality of accessible services provided by your university library to BVIPD students?
- 7) What policies and procedures does your library currently follow for providing BVIPD students with accessible materials?
- 8) What are the current strengths and weaknesses of these policies and procedures?
- 9) Does your library work with your institution's Disability Service Office, for USC, SDRC, to provide accessible content to BVIPD students? If yes, elaborate on your work with the DSO and what roles does each entity have?
- 10) If yes to the previous question, what is the division of labor between the library and the DSO?

11)How does or how might the DSO and academic library work together to improve access for BVIPD students?

12)If your library does not work with your institution's DSO, what ways do you think the two entities could collaborate to provide accessible content to BVIPD students?

*We are going to ask some questions on your understanding of the legal issues involved in providing accessible content to BVIPD students. Please answer them to the best of your ability. If you don't know an answer, indicate it is not applicable.*

13)How familiar are you with the laws, regulations, and policies regarding the creation and access to accessible materials for BVIPD students? Elaborate.

14)Can you convert legally acquired content into an accessible format,to make it available to an individual BVIPD student? Elaborate.

15)Can you create repositories of legally acquired accessible content to make available to both current and future BVIPD students on an on-going basis? Elaborate.

16)How might the process of providing BVIPD students with accessible materials be more effective and/or efficiently carried out at your library?

17)If your library creates such repositories, what are your library's procedures for delivering accessible copies to BVIPD students in appropriate formats?

a) How are the accessible copies delivered?

b) From the date of initial request, how long does it usually take for students to receive accessible materials?

18)What are the current procedures and anticipated timeline for registering students with your DSO?

19)What criteria must a student meet to be registered as a student with a visual impairment or print disability?

20)What accommodations are available to BVIPD students?

21) How can DSOs work with academic libraries to serve BVIPD students and to meet the requirements of the RRDRS service framework (Request, Remediation, Delivery, Retention and Sharing of accessible content)?

*Closing question*

22)Do you have any questions for us, or anything you'd like to add?

Thank you for your time.