

report on accessible media

ROAM



Anne Pottier (Chair, Steering + Advisory Comm.)

Associate University Librarian

McMaster University Library

<http://www.ocul.on.ca/node/3132>

about

ROAM Project (May 2014 – March 2014)

EnAbling Change Program in partnership with Council of Ontario Universities (COU)

aims to

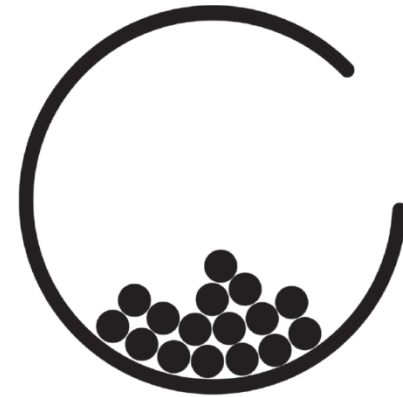
- Provide libraries with information they need to consider their options for making multimedia collections accessible (workflows + Directory of service providers)
- Highlight pertinent sections of the AODA + Canadian Copyright law and share a list of questions to take to your own institution's legal counsel
- assist Ontario Universities in becoming AODA compliant and serving students and faculty most effectively

Interesting fact: The Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services estimates that 1 in 7 people in Ontario have a disability (Policy paper: Students with Disabilities, Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, 2012).

roam

final report will include

- an environmental scan
- market research
- best practices
- technology workflows and methodologies
- options for libraries to provide accessible collections



questions

The following are the questions we have been asking:

- **What does it mean for multimedia material to be made accessible?**
- **How many OCUL libraries provide that service now?**
- **How much of the multimedia content procured is captioned?**
- **How do patrons discover accessible content?**
- **What does the AODA or the Copyright Act say about making multimedia accessible?**
- **What are the current and future trends?**



building a community of practice

technology: **access to information**

expertise: relying on students to tell us what they “need” might not be as effective! We need **better expertise** and knowledge to know how to create **better learning environments**. All staff need to develop **basic accessibility competencies** to know how to support our researchers, faculty and students. Moving **away from the medical model** and towards **social justice** – disability is not something that needs to be fixed.

user needs: Needs get framed as “special” – design needs to accommodate everyone. Accessible resources make **better learning materials** for everyone!

partnerships: **partnering** with cultural centres and programming across the campus so disabled and non-disabled students see disability presented in all programs offered on campus + resources could be **shared** to develop more inclusive learning environments.

next steps

- Awareness phase to help us disseminate the knowledge we gathered
- Assessment phase – how do schools that have not provided accessible media services plan to move forward? What about schools that have been doing this – will they need to standardize approaches with other institutions?
- What can we do collaboratively to reduce costs and ensure consistency?



Time for Q+A

Follow ROAM updates on Twitter
[@scholarsportal](https://twitter.com/scholarsportal)

Library Accessibility for Students with Disabilities

Dr. Mahadeo A. Sukhai

Scholar's Portal Day
December 03, 2014

About NEADS

- Founded in 1986
- Cross-disability
- National charitable foundation
- Student-driven
- Governed by a national Board of Directors (students and recent graduates within 5 years of graduation with disabilities)

- Mandate to support full access to and participation in post-secondary education and the workforce for people with disabilities

Purpose

- **The Purpose** of the Association is to promote post-secondary education for persons with disabilities in accordance with the issues of concern to disabled consumers as expressed by the consumers.

Mission and Vision

Vision:

Post-secondary students with disabilities experience fully accessible and inclusive education and employment.

Mission:

Through leadership, innovation and collaboration NEADS delivers research, education and resources to advance full access and inclusion to education and employment. As the national voice of students with disabilities, NEADS is a resource in the areas of: student finance, student experience in class and on campus, and student employment.

How we Help Students

- Directly:
 - Provide resources, tools, workshops, events targeted at students, which they can benefit from by using/attending
- Indirectly:
 - Provide resources, tools, workshops, events to service providers and other professionals to improve their ability to work with students
- Policy/practice research

NEADS Areas Of Focus

Student Finance:

1. NEADS Scholarship Program
2. www.disabilityawards.ca
3. “Finance Matters” workshops

Recent:

- Finance Matters Toronto, July 18, 2014

Upcoming / Pending:

- Finance Matters Vancouver, March 20, 2015
- Finance Matters Ottawa, *application submitted*

NEADS Areas Of Focus

Student Experience In Class And On Campus:

1. Information and referrals
2. the Campus Disability Services web resource
3. Enhancing Accessibility Guide
4. Graduate Experience project/taskforce
5. Accessible Science Labs and Practical Spaces
6. Skills To Success workshops

Recent:

- Skills to Success Winnipeg, 2013 & 2014
- Accessible Science Labs and Practical Spaces, 2014

Upcoming / Pending:

- National Volunteer Engagement Project, *application pending*
- Mental Health Transitions Initiative, *application pending*

NEADS Areas Of Focus

Student Employment:

1. Strategies To Employment student workshops
2. Career Centre Outreach project / workshops
3. Learn To Think Like An Employer student workshops

Upcoming / Pending:

- Strategies to Employment Edmonton, March 13, 2015
- Workplace Opportunities Fund, *Application Pending*

Improving Accessibility of Libraries and Archives

- NEADS:
 - *Understanding accessibility in practical space environments across disciplines* (COU, accessiblecampus.ca, 2014)
 - *Access to academic materials in alternative format* (2005)
- Larger Context:
 - ACE and AERO projects (Ontario)
 - CELA (National)

Improving Accessibility of Libraries and Archives: Barriers for Students with Disabilities

- Informational barriers
 - Includes alternative formats/accessibility of materials
 - Challenge of locating information
- Physical barriers
- Staff preparedness/professional development

Improving Accessibility of Libraries and Archives: Potential Solutions

- Human resources
 - Assistants to work with students with disabilities
- Technological solutions
- Provision of library space orientations to students in need
- Additional professional development

Improving Accessibility of Libraries and Archives: Thought Frame

- Through a rational deconstruction of the environment, what are the issues likely to arise for the student?
- What are the student's "use requirements" of the library/archive environment?
- What barriers exist to the use of the space/resources for students with disabilities?
- What lessons by analogy can be applied from other environments?
- Will a library assistant be a feasible solution?
- What mainstream technology can be adapted as an accommodation aid?
- What potential solutions can be evolved from experience and analogy that may be workable for the student?

National Graduate Experience Taskforce: Statement of Need

- There is a significant need to better understand the overall experiences of disabled students in graduate studies
- Currently, there is a critical lack of information in this area
 - Need to understand the “student experience tapestry”
 - Need to catalogue institutional leading practices

National Graduate Experience Taskforce: Approach and Mandate

- Establishment of a large, multi-stakeholder group of subject matter experts (National Graduate Experience Taskforce)
- **Mandate:** To review and discuss the academic experience of graduate students with disabilities, in the context of the last fifteen years' advances in technology, attitudes and legislation

National Graduate Experience Taskforce: Participating Organizations

- Provincial/National
 - National Educational Association of Disabled Students (sponsoring aegis)
 - Council of Ontario Universities
 - Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario
 - Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada
 - Canadian Association of Graduate Studies
 - Canadian Association of College and University Student Services
 - Canadian Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
 - Inter-university Disability Issues Association
- Postsecondary Institutions Represented
 - University of Toronto
 - York University
 - Western University
 - Guelph University
 - University of New Brunswick
 - Simon Fraser University
- Additional Perspectives
 - Community legal aid
 - Community-based service providers
 - Graduate Students with Disabilities

National Graduate Experience Taskforce: Project Goals

- To examine the experiences of, and barriers faced by, graduate students with disabilities across Canada
- To develop a discussion paper outlining the current system issues for graduate students with disabilities
- To produce information and develop strategies to facilitate the success of students with disabilities in graduate programs
- To develop recommendations for the continued improvement of graduate experience for students with disabilities, that can be translated into policy at an institutional, provincial, or national level
- Long term: To develop “tool-based” approaches for students, faculty and institutions to use in addressing issues faced by graduate students with disabilities

Status of Project Outputs

Approach and Timeline	Status
Educational and Professional Development Resource – student financial aid administrators (piloted March and June, 2014)	COMPLETED
Educational and Professional Development Resource – graduate registrars (pilot pending, October 2014)	COMPLETED
Interim Discussion Paper – Essential Requirements (published)	COMPLETED
Interim Discussion Paper – Disclosure in the Graduate Environment (current status: final draft completed)	COMPLETED
Educational Resource – Disclosure in the Graduate Environment: A Tipsheet for Students in Transition	COMPLETED
Interim Discussion Paper – Mental Health (current status: research and writing in progress)	IN PROGRESS
Interim Discussion Paper – Financial Aid (current status: first draft completed)	IN PROGRESS
Interim Discussion Paper – Mentorship and the student/supervisor relationship (current status: outline stage; based upon presentations delivered at STLHE and HER Conferences, summer 2014)	IN PROGRESS
Interim Discussion Paper – Academic employment	IN PROGRESS
Drafting of recommendations (completion date summer 2015)	PENDING
Drafting of final report (completion date summer 2015)	PENDING

Contact Information

- Dr. Mahadeo A. Sukhai, NEADS Senior Advisor
 - Email: m.sukhai@utoronto.ca
- NEADS website: www.neads.ca
- Accessible Practical Spaces Paper and Guides: <http://www.accessiblecampus.ca/educators/accessible-science-laboratories/>
- Access to Academic Materials in Alternative Formats Report: <http://www.neads.ca/en/about/projects/atam/>