

Accessibility

Our insights from the study trip and the “Librarian in Residence” stay in the Czech Republic in 2023 - and key lessons for our work in the Frankfurt Public Library.

Miriam Akan, Niklas Haberkorn, Carolin Helfmann



Agenda

- Insights from the Czech Republic - Basics
- Insights from the Czech Republic - Specific services
- Insights from the Czech Republic - Projects
- Recommendations for our further work
- Experience report from first attempts



Insights from the Czech Republic - Basics I

- Reduced annual fees (up to 50%) for people with disabilities
- Barrier-free access and equipment in libraries
- Accessible websites
- Wide range of aids in the libraries
- Special training courses
- Library tours with a focus on special offers and services for people with disabilities



Insights from the Czech Republic - Basics II

- Some service staff are able to communicate in sign language
- Some libraries awarded “Disabled-friendly” certificate
- Media delivery service
- Accessible event program
- Close cooperation with organizations and institutions for people with disabilities



Insights from the Czech Republic - Basics III

On the library websites, easy to find:

- Information on barrier-free access options (buildings, toilets, parking)
- Information on special services for people with specific needs
- Explanations of important information and questions in sign language
- Online registration and online ordering
- Link collections with offers of help, direct links to useful documents in the catalogs, aids databases





Pro nevidomé
a zrakově
postižené

Nabízíme namluvené knihy a zvukové
přepisy filmů, audiokatalog, zásilkovou
a donáškovou službu v rámci Ústí nad
Labem, kamerovou zvětšovací lupu,
časopisy ZORA a EMA.

ZDARMA

Severočeská vědecká knihovna
W. Churchilla 3, Ústí nad Labem
1. patro - Hudební oddělení
Tel: 734 326 712
E-mail: zvukovka@svkul.cz

O T E V Ř E N O
po / út / čtv / pá 9:00 - 18:00

← Knihovna bez bariér

Senioři

Tělesně handicapovaní

Zrakově handicapovaní

Sluchově handicapovaní

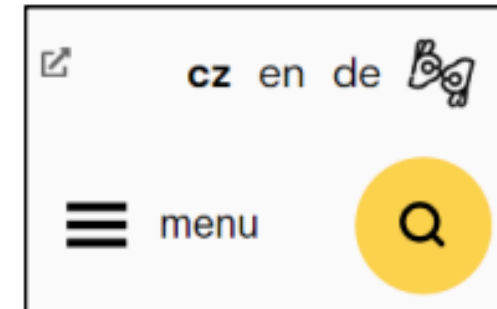
Mentálně handicapovaní

Obsah stránky

- Video průvodce knihovnou ve
znakovém jazyce
- Aktuálně
- Služby, které nabízíme
- Organizace, se kterými

Sluchově handicapovaní

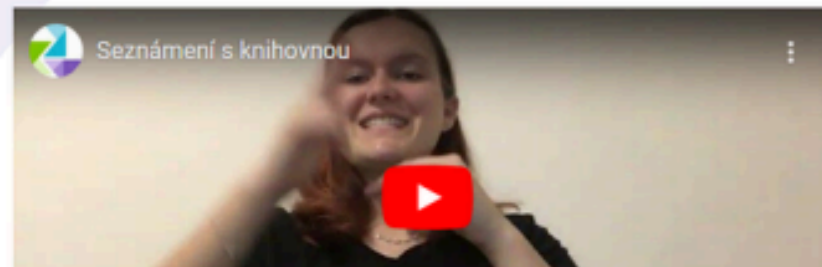
Video průvodce knihovnou ve znakovém jazyce



Nabízíme:

- Komiksy a zkrácené texty pro neslyšící
- Tichá linka
- Indukční smyčka
- Pro komunikaci lze využít i tablet s převodníkem řeči na text
- Individuální přístup

Seznámení s knihovnou



Čtenářský průkaz



DATABÁZE POMŮCEK

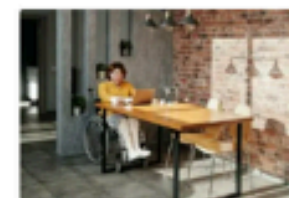
učení může
být i zábava



Knihovna bez bariér



Senioři



Tělesně handicapovaní



Zrakově handicapovaní



Sluchově handicapovaní



Mentálně handicapovaní

Znakokniha

22. listopadu 2017 byla dokončena a na liberecké radnici slavnostně pokřtěna prvotina svého druhu, webová aplikace
pojmenovaná "znakokniha".
K dnešnímu dni se podařilo vytvořit už čtvrtou znakoknihu. Knihovna se snaží přispět k rozvoji čtenářství i prostřednictvím
českého znakového jazyka, a proto vznikla tato webová stránka. Určena je nejen neslyšícím uživatelům a jejich rodinám, ale
všem zájemcům o český znakový jazyk.



Insights from the Czech Republic - Specific services

- Sound libraries, “FriendlyVox” sound portal
- Extended lending periods for audio media
- Camera loupes, reading loupes, diopter glasses
- Book readers and iPads to borrow
- Tablets with speech-to-text converters for communication in the library
- Sign books, Braille books, children's tactile books, embossed graphics
- Films with audio description
- Specially equipped computer workplaces
- Induction loops and “Silent Line” (Tichá linka)





Insights from the Czech Republic - Projects

- Children read to blind children and produce audio books together in the library, which are made available online (funded by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, 2021)
- Participation in the implementation of the regional action plan for the development of education in the Liberec region (e.g. “Reading against dyslexia”)



Recommendations for our further work - I

Facilities & Accessibility

- Review existing locations for accessibility and consider new locations if necessary
- Review accessibility within library spaces
- Guidance and support systems for people with hearing or visual impairments
- Lighting and acoustics, listening stations in the libraries, media delivery service
- Reduced fees for affected user groups



Recommendations for our further work - II

Digital Accessibility

- Accessible website and online catalogue
- Accessible eMedia services
- Multilingual offerings
- Usage of sign language on the website
- Audiovisual materials with subtitles and transcripts
- Staff training on digital accessibility tools
- Accessible library app



Recommendations for our further work - III

Communication & Awareness

- Awareness campaigns, trainings and workshops
- Information on- and offline about accessible services and offerings, including the information about where to find it

Inclusive Working Environment

- See also facilities and accessibility
- Sign language interpreters and voice output systems
- Diversity and equal opportunity (House code of conduct)
- Further training on inclusion and accessibility



Recommendations for our further work - IV

Diverse Media & Formats

- Selection of media to meet different needs (Braille books, large print, easy language books etc.)
- Materials on inclusion, diversity and accessibility
- Extended loan period for audio material

Funding

- Apply for special funding for inclusion and accessibility to expand offerings and services accordingly



Recommendations for our further work - V

Cooperation with Local Organisations

- Collaboration, e.g. Frankfurt Foundation for the Deaf, Frankfurt Foundation for the Blind and Visually Impaired
- Joint events and projects

Accessible Events

- Accessible event spaces (seating, guidance systems)
- Sign language interpreters, hearing assistance systems, audio description



Experience report from first attempts

Reading: Hadija Haruna-Oelker: Zusammensein ("Being together")
on January 20 2025 in Frankfurt Central Library

- temporary guiding system in the library
- offer to fetch visually impaired people at nearest subway station
- interpreters for Easy Language and Sign Language
- flyer in braille
- relaxed performance with "cozy corner"
- speaker introduction with visual description



Contact us

Miriam Akan, Head of the Bockenheim District Library

miriam.akan@stadt-frankfurt.de; +49 69 212 70917

Niklas Haberkorn, Staff of the Central Library

niklas.haberkorn@stadt-frankfurt.de; +49 69 212 49633

Carolin Helfmann, Deputy Head of Digital Services

carolin.helfmann@stadt-frankfurt.de; +49 69 212 38346

