

Universal Design for School Libraries

Principle of Universal Design	Application to School Library
Equitable use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Include the <i>entire school population</i> in library program services. ○ Provide the same lessons and activities to all students; do not exclude groups due to assumed interest or ability.
Flexibility in use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Collaborate with teachers to tailor activities to individual class needs. ○ Utilize flexible scheduling to accommodate a range of activities and instruction.
Simple and intuitive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provide clear, abundant signage geared towards patron needs and interests. ○ Organize materials logically and systematically. ○ Avoid unnecessary challenges or added difficulty.
Perceptible information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain and develop a collection including fiction and non-fiction materials in a range of difficulty levels. ○ Utilize good lesson design strategies when delivering instruction. ○ Provide “point of access” opportunities in various formats (on-line catalog, portable call number references, clear signage).
Tolerance or error	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Be patient and helpful when dealing with patrons. ○ Systematically teach important concepts about using your library to students on a regular basis. ○ Post important information (instructions, policies) within easy sight of patrons.
Low physical effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep shelves and materials within student’s reach. ○ Make supplemental materials (applications, book marks, brochures) easily accessible.
Size and space for approach and use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep shelving wide enough accommodate users with varied physical ability, or multiple users at one time. ○ Create wide paths through tables and chairs.
Community of learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan extracurricular activities to be inclusive and accessible to all students. ○ Utilize student aides to assist users in finding materials or recommending selection.
Instructional climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plan decor, displays and furniture targeted at the appropriate age group. ○ Utilize good class management techniques to maintain a calm, efficient, and pleasant environment.