

# Berne Public Library Policy

## Library Services for People with Disabilities

Libraries should use strategies based upon the principles of universal design to ensure that library resources and services meet the needs of all people.

### 1. The Disability Law

Providing equitable access for persons with disabilities to the library facility and services is required by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, applicable state and local statutes and the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).

### 2. Library Services

Libraries must not discriminate against individuals with disabilities and shall ensure these individuals have equal access to library resources. To ensure such access, the Berne Public Library provides an individual with services such as: library cards for proxies, remote access to the Upper Hudson Library System catalog, remote electronic access to library resources, reference service by phone or e-mail, and individual assistance in the library.

### 3. Facilities

The ADA requires that architectural barriers in existing facilities be removed as long as such removal is “readily achievable”. The Berne Public Library follows the ADA’s specified structural modifications by providing the following: accessible parking, clear paths of travel to and throughout the facility, entrances with adequate clear openings, accessible tables and public service desk, public conveniences such as restrooms, bottled water, and access to a landline.

### 4. Collections

The Berne Public Library makes print available in alternate formats such as large font, audio recordings, Braille and electronic formats. There is access to a collection that includes materials with accurate and up to date information on the spectrum of disabilities, disability issues and services for people with disabilities, their families, and other concerned persons.

### 5. Library Training

The library provides training opportunities for library employees and volunteers in order to sensitize them to issues affecting people with disabilities, and to teach effective techniques for providing services for users with disabilities and for working with colleagues with disabilities.

### 6. Service Animals

The Berne Public Library welcomes service animals that are needed to assist patrons with a disability.