Discover the renewed and enlarged guidelines for Library Services to Persons with Dyslexia!

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Abstract:

Guidelines for Library Services to Persons with Dyslexia  
- Revised and enlarged – [not yet approved by IFLA]  
A Joint Project of the IFLA Sections Library Services to People with Special Needs (LSN) and Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities (LPD)  
This revision has been facilitated by IFLA project money.

In 2001, IFLA published the Guidelines for Library Services to Persons with Dyslexia (IFLA Section Library Services to People with Special Needs). A growing body of research has since then changed the connotation of the word dyslexia, making it less medical and more social in meaning, and has therefore changed our attitudes towards persons with dyslexia, supporting them with solutions and alternative ways of reading and writing, instead of training them, in many cases to no avail, to read from print and to spell correctly.  
IFLA Library Services to People with Special Needs (LSN) and Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities (LPD) have worked together to revise and enlarge the former Guidelines which have become:  
- A document that can be consulted by professionals in the library world;  
- A document that can be used by library staff to find ideas, examples and suggestions on how to recognize library users with dyslexia, how to approach them and how to improve library services accordingly.

Chapters are:  
- What is dyslexia?  
- Legal background  
- Welcome to our library! What should your library do to support persons with dyslexia?  
- Library staff
The Purpose

These new guidelines aim to assist libraries to provide services to persons with dyslexia. They can also be applied to other groups of users with reading difficulties.

They are intended as a tool for both trained and less experienced library staff who have the responsibility of serving persons with reading and learning difficulties.

The intention is to provide a thorough and up-to-date compilation of what is known about library services to users with dyslexia and also to create a knowledge base containing background information and examples of best practice, also available through the IFLA website (www.ifla.org/lsn).

The Scope

These dyslexia guidelines are aptly described as a professional report. This document:

- Can be consulted by professionals from the library world
- Can be used by library staff to find ideas, examples and suggestions on how to recognize library users with dyslexia, how to approach them and how to improve library services accordingly
- Provides a checklist of tips and ideas, an overview of best practices and a knowledge base

We do not claim that this is an academic or scientific report. Our aim is to offer information about dyslexia and the challenges that persons with dyslexia may encounter, along with ideas about appropriate library services.

These dyslexia guidelines focus on public libraries; however many of the suggestions and recommendations may be useful and inspiring for other kinds of libraries too.

The guidelines do not include methods or tools for diagnosis of dyslexia, nor do they supply programmes to support strategies employed by persons with dyslexia.

These guidelines are based upon acceptance and respect. We are working from the conviction that persons with dyslexia have specific skills and abilities, and we aim to encourage them to enjoy stories, books and the library.

Checklist

The following is the checklist which is useful for librarians to support persons with dyslexia through their library services based on these new dyslexia guidelines.