INCREASING STUDENTS’ ABILITY TO DISCOVER AND ACCESS ACADEMIC INFORMATION:

INFORMATION LITERACY FOR BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED STUDENTS AT THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF SANTA CATARINA LIBRARY

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Accessibility and the Brazilian Academic Education

- 1996 - The Guidelines and Bases of National Education
- 2005 - Inclusion Program: accessibility centers
- 2008 - United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities incorporated as a constitutional amendment
Students with disabilities: enrollments in higher education

- 2000: 2,173
- 2012: 20,287
Federal University of Santa Catarina (UFSC)

- Southern Brazil
- 5 Campuses
- Over 34,500 students
- 1,610 Professor
- 2,874 faculty members
- 111 Students with disabilities
- 17 Visually impaired
Santa Catarina Federal University (UFSC)
Accessibility at UFSC

Undergraduate and graduate programs
Professors and faculty members
University Library

Educational Accessibility Coordination (CAE)
UFSC Library

- 10 Libraries
- Collection comprises 232,158 titles and 476,685 items
- Electronic media, databases subscriptions
- Accessibility services
Accessibility at UFSC Library

- 2007 – Project Accessibility and inclusion at UFSC
- Information Accessibility Environment (AAI)
  - Library services to students whose disabilities compromise information access
    - Services, physical space and equipment
    - Seminars, meetings, debates
Accessibility at UFSC University Library

- Libraries should be available to the community as a whole, regardless of ethnic origin, gender, religion, language, physical disabilities, economic condition and scholarship level (Koontz & Gubbin, 2013)

- Information literacy
- Pilot class in December 2014
Accessibility at UFSC University Library

Pilot class: planning

STUDENTS
- How many?
- Assistive technology skills
- 3 volunteers: A, B and C

EQUIPMENT / SOFTWARE
- NVDA, Windows magnifier
- Headsets

CONTENT
- In Portuguese
- OPAC, eBooks, ejournals
Accessibility at UFSC University Library

Pilot class
Accessibility at UFSC University Library

Pilot class

Website interface problems

Assistive technology skills
Accessibility at UFSC University Library

Pilot class: students’ feedback

A
- Good idea
- Planning
- Previous tests
- More time

B
- Teacher's performance
- Room
- Browser tests
- Planning
- Send info in advance

C
- Openness for dialog
- Ways to make search accessible
- More time
- Planning
Pilot class: discussion

- Collaborative work
- Database design
- One-on-one approach
- Time
- Previous tests
- Part-time online
- Multi-sensory approach (Applin, 1999)
Final considerations and future plans

- Assistive technology training for instructors
- Online information resources detailed tests
- Instructional material
- e-Collection development policy
Questions?

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