

ACCESS AUDIT REVIEW	
Venue	Stroud Library
Date	23/04/2019
Assessor	Christian Drewitt and Tasha Overall

1.	<p>Parking</p> <p>There are 3 disabled parking bays outside the Library. They are clearly signposted and marked on the ground. I had slight difficulty entering and exiting as the only bay left did not give me much space to exit my vehicle from the rear. There is only one dropped kerb immediately in front of the library entrance, however there is no clear pathway to this, meaning a wheelchair user would have to travel on the road to reach it.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be useful to have another dropped kerb. There is one to the left of the building however it is on uneven terrain and would not be suitable for a lot of wheelchair users. • A disabled bay should be at least 3.3m wide, however the bays outside the library are 2.7 wide. It is noted however, that space is limited down this road and there has been substantial effort to make the bays accessible.
2.	<p>Entrance and lift</p> <p>There is a push button entrance into the building, which is clear and easy to use, and the sliding door is wide, giving plenty of space for wheelchair users. The Library is located upstairs, and there is a lift to the right when you enter. There is significant space at the bottom of the stairs and near the lift which means it is easy for people in wheelchairs or with pushchairs to navigate around each other.</p> <p>The lift is very small and difficult to fit a wheelchair user and an assistant in at the same time. The lift doors are 790mm wide which is below minimum requirements. The controls in the lift are clear and at a suitable height. There is also braille on the buttons which aids the visually impaired.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that lift doors have 830mm of clear opening width (minimum 800mm).

3.	<p>Reception</p> <p>When entering the reception there are automatic doors with a very reactive sensor. This means that there is no worry that the doors will close before somebody has gone through them. There are alarm sensors on either side of the door that are quite close together and make the entrance thinner than it is. They are also clear which could make them difficult for someone with a visual impairment to see.</p> <p>Half of the reception desk is at a lowered height meaning a wheelchair user or person of smaller stature can communicate easily with the receptionist. The greeting from the reception on my arrival was warm and friendly and I felt comfortable asking anything I needed to.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The alarm sensors on either side of the door should be wider apart. They make the doorway thinner and this may cause people with larger wheelchairs to struggle to get through. • The alarm sensors should also be a contrasting colour so that they are visible to the visually impaired.
4.	<p>Main area</p> <p>The library itself is quite open plan and spacious and the floors, bookcases and signage are all contrasting colours which makes it easy to navigate. The shelves are all reachable from a wheelchair which takes away any intimidation of having to ask for help to reach a book. It is very quiet and peaceful throughout. There is a children's area which is separated by a wall keeping the main area quiet.</p> <p>There is an interactive screen near the reception. The screen is very large making it easy to navigate. On my visit it was too high for me to use, however I was advised it can be moved.</p> <p>There are books placed facing outwards, this makes the most popular books easy to identify and is less overwhelming. There is also a selection of audio books to choose from however there is no signage and I had to ask how to find them. There are some tables towards the back of the library which are a good height and width for a wheelchair user.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The interactive screen is a really good size, however having to change its height isn't ideal. To combat this, it is recommended that large interactive screens be at a lowered height but tilted upwards. The lowered height enables wheelchair users and people of a smaller stature to navigate the screen and the tilt upwards means it is still clear and easy to use for people of an average height.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that there is a sign for the audiobooks. • The signage identifying the genre of books are too close to the top of the book shelf. This means that wheelchair users or people of a smaller stature can have difficulty in seeing them. Therefore, it is recommended that the signs be higher above the bookcases or protruding from the shelves at a lower level.
5.	<p>Computer suite</p> <p>There is a computer room located to the left when entering the library. It is also spacious and easy to navigate, with desks that will easily fit a wheelchair underneath. Additionally, the computers have accessible options to change settings such as font size for the visually impaired. There are also headphones available.</p>
7.	<p>Accessible toilet</p> <p>There is an accessible toilet located to the left of the lift that requires RADAR key for entry. There is quite a narrow hallway and entrance to this toilet which can be difficult to navigate for a wheelchair user. The toilet doorway is 880mm which is below minimum requirements (950mm). The WC is spacious and has plenty of room for a wheelchair user, an assistant and turning space. It was impressively clean upon my visit with no off-putting noises or smells.</p> <p>There is an emergency pull cord located on right of the toilet. The lowest pull cord ring is slightly too high at 15cm from the ground, as is the highest pull cord at 110cm from the ground.</p> <p>This WC has a left-hand transfer; however, the flush is on the right of the toilet which could make it difficult for someone to use.</p> <p>There is paper towel dispenser as well as toilet roll. This is positive as paper towels can be pulled off with one hand, unlike toilet roll.</p>

There is a grab rail on the door and next to the toilet, plus one drop-down rail. These are all contrasting colour to the walls which makes them easy to identify for people with visual impairments.

There is also a baby changing facility separate from the accessible toilet.

Recommendations

- The lowest emergency pull ring should be 10cm from the ground and the highest should be 80cm – 100cm. These are specific measurements so that they can be easily reached from the floor or the toilet for someone with limited mobility.
- The emergency pull cord was tied up on my visit. It is important that it remains loose so that it can always be reached if needed. It is noted that cleaners often tie the cords up to make cleaning easier, therefore it is recommended that there is a sign explaining that they must be put back when finished.
- The flush pedal on the toilet should be on the same side as the transfer space so that it is easy to reach.