

Celebrate Deaf Legacy @ your library[®]

National Deaf History Month Kit

Developed by
National Association of the Deaf
Ad Hoc Committee on
National Deaf History Month 2004-2006

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CONTENTS

Greetings by Amy Bopp, President
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Introduction by Alice L. Hagemeyer, Chair
National Association of the Deaf Ad Hoc Committee on
National Deaf History Month

National Deaf History Month Resolution

National Association of the Deaf and Advocacy

American Library Association and Advocacy

Program Planning Suggestions

Resources

Library References

Glossary of Terms Related to the Deaf Identity

Acknowledgements

About the National Association of the Deaf Ad Hoc Committee

Addenda

National Deaf History Month Theme Statement
Laurent Clerc Profile

GREETINGS

By Amy Bopp, President
Library Friends Section of the National Association of the Deaf

On behalf of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) and library friends in all parts of America, I want to congratulate you for using this KIT to help the local community celebrate deaf legacy at your library. By observing Deaf History Month, as well as any other appropriate annual events during the year, you will be reaching out to your diverse community increasing their awareness of the rich deaf history and of your various library resources that will benefit the public—hearing and deaf.

The NAD Ad Hoc Committee on National Deaf History Month is to be applauded for a job well done in preparing this KIT. This kit will help prepare the nation to support the U.S. President when he proclaims March 13 through April 15 as Deaf History Month, an occasion to celebrate the legacy and many contributions made by people who share the personal, familial or societal deaf experience.

This KIT will lead you to the many quality resources available that have shaped our legacy.

As a deaf person, I grew up spending much time at the library where books were friends and like many other people with hearing losses I was also isolated from my own legacy. Were it not for the efforts of the public library, THE RED NOTEBOOK and FOLDA, I would not have discovered my own roots in deaf history. I only wish such a resource would have been available to me and others many years ago. We are fortunate to have this KIT available for this and future generations.

I am a teacher of American Sign Language, so I know how valuable this KIT will be not only for libraries, but for a wide range of members of the public who will readily be able to access our Deaf Legacy in libraries.

Ms. Hagemeyer and her FOLDA associates have always had a positive attitude about the ability of library resources to bring people together, deaf and hearing alike, to acknowledge the contributions previous generations have and continue to make. This has increased our ability to communicate our legacy to the next generation. Having the KIT available in libraries everywhere will start the wave for all parts of the US to celebrate Deaf History Month from 2006 onwards.

Within the KIT you will find everything you need to celebrate Deaf Legacy. Beginning with introductions from major organizations, leading to the proclamation for Deaf History month to be established, making suggestions for program planning, providing many resources and moving on to a glossary of terms, a list of references, and a description of the work of the NAD Ad Hoc Committee, this KIT together will help us celebrate a legacy whose time has arrived.

INTRODUCTION

By Alice L. Hagemeyer, Chair
National Association of the Deaf Ad Hoc Committee on
National Deaf History Month

For a long time, the Friends of Libraries of Deaf Action (FOLDA) have been lobbying the American Library Association (ALA) and the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) to have the president of the United States proclaim National Deaf History Month.

Many interest groups, such as African-Americans and women, already have had the U.S. president proclaim a particular day, week or month to recognize their rich history and contributions to America. The deaf community should have the same honor as those interest groups; we also have our rich history and also have made many valuable contributions to society for over 200 years.

Towards this end, at the 2004 ALA annual conference in Orlando, Florida, board members of the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA), a division of the ALA, voted to back the delegation at the 2004 NAD biennial conference in Kansas City, Missouri to have the U.S. president proclaim Deaf History Month, to be annually observed from March 13 to April 15. Further efforts followed and a resolution on this was sent to the White House.

At this writing, we are still awaiting a reply by the president of the United States. In the meantime, we are going ahead with the KIT so that the nation's libraries will be prepared for the president to proclaim the month. Each state's governor, county executive or mayor is also encouraged to join with the nation to proclaim the month in 2006 if possible.

Now, the NAD Ad Hoc Committee is very pleased to present the NATIONAL DEAF HISTORY MONTH KIT to the nation's libraries. Although the KIT may not have all the answers, we hope that library personnel and their friends will benefit from the resources listed in the KIT as they work on a plan to fit in with their local needs.

The purpose of the National Deaf History Month theme statement included in this KIT is to encourage the nation's libraries to use the following theme for observing National Deaf History Month and/or any other appropriate annual events

Celebrate Deaf Literacy
[@your library](#)

The official National Deaf History Month poster will be sponsored by the National Literary Society of the Deaf and will be unveiled on March 13, 2006.

Ultimately, the National Deaf History Month KIT is a great start.

Should you have further questions or comments about the KIT, please email them to FOLDA86@aol.com. Thank you!

NATIONAL DEAF HISTORY MONTH RESOLUTION

The ALA Council voted this resolution unanimously on June 26, 2005 during its 2005 ALA Conference in Chicago

WHEREAS, Approximately one in ten Americans is either born deaf or has acquired some forms of hearing loss due to accident, illness, noise, heredity, or aging; and

WHEREAS, although the term “deaf community” implies uniformity, it actually consists of diverse individuals with varying communication modes and backgrounds, both deaf and hearing, who share common characteristics of hearing loss and/or deaf culture; and

WHEREAS, the deaf community has been long unrecognized and misunderstood by most Americans; and

WHEREAS, numerous pioneers should be honored for their roles in transforming American culture, history, and politics as educators, artists, writers, inventors, informed citizens, and many other roles, as for example:

- Thomas Brown, deaf orator and grassroots community leader who planted the seed for the National Association of the Deaf in the 1870s;
- Thomas Alva Edison, inventor and scientist who received 1,093 patents and who said his deafness helped him concentrate on his experiments and research;
- Andrew J. Foster, deaf American educator who founded thirty-one schools and many other programs for deaf people in thirteen African countries;
- Sophia Fowler Gallaudet, an influential deaf advocate to the US Congress and who was known as "Queen of the Deaf Community;"
- Helen Keller, deaf-blind author and lecturer, who received many honors for her global advocacy on human rights; and

WHEREAS, for thirty years since the 1970s, the general public has been becoming more aware of the deaf community and sign language through television and theatre, ranging from:

- Children of a Lesser God, a Tony-Award winning play about the deaf culture which starred a deaf actress; and
- Sesame Street, a children’s educational television program with an award-winning deaf actress as “Linda the Librarian” to the recent smash hit,
- Big River, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, multi-award winning musical play, produced by deaf-run Deaf West Theatre; and

WHEREAS, the heritage of the deaf community in America has been recognized in Deaf Heritage, the first history of the deaf community in America, published in 1981 by the National Association of the Deaf, and written by Jack R. Gannon, and American Sign Language has been acknowledged as a true language, and is taught throughout the United States, and

WHEREAS, libraries have been instrumental in promoting public awareness of American Sign Language, deaf culture, and the history of the deaf community, as for example:

- Since 1974, the District of Columbia Public Library in Washington, D.C. has celebrated deaf awareness in the first full week of December, now known as Clerc-Gallaudet Week. This Week commemorates the anniversaries of the births of Laurent Clerc and Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, two pioneers of deaf education in America, both born in December and who made a great impact on the deaf community when they founded the first permanent American school for deaf students in Hartford, Connecticut on April 15, 1817;
- Public, school and academic libraries are acquiring literature and media concerning the deaf community in varied formats such as books, captioned media, American Sign Language video titles, large print, and Braille;
- The unit that is now known as the Library Services to People who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing Forum of the Libraries Serving Special Populations Section within the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies a division of the American Library Association was formed in 1978 and continues to this day; and

WHEREAS, the month of March 13 – April 15 contains these important dates in American History:

- March 13: The victory of the Deaf President Now movement at Gallaudet University located in Washington, D.C. when the first deaf person was selected to become president of this 124-year-old institution in 1988;
- April 8: Charter signed in 1864 by the President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, authorizing the Board of Directors of the Columbia Institution (now Gallaudet University) to grant college degrees to deaf students;
- April 15: Establishment in 1817 of the first permanent school for deaf students in the Western Hemisphere, now known as the American School for the Deaf, located in Hartford, Connecticut.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Council of the American Library Association urges the President of the United States to declare National Deaf History Month, to be held annually March 13 – April 15 and to call upon public officials, educators, and librarians to celebrate with programs and activities to highlight and honor the many contributions of the deaf community to American society.

Moved by Cynthia Roach, ASCLA Councilor.
 Seconded by Ruth Nussbaum, Councilor At Large
 Voted unanimously
 ALA Council #52
 June 26, 2005
 2005 ALA Conference in Chicago

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DEAF AND ADVOCACY

Web Site: <http://www.nad.org>

The mission of the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) is to “promote, protect, and preserve the rights and quality of life of deaf and hard of hearing individuals in the United States of America.”

Founded in 1880, NAD safeguards the civil rights of deaf and hard of hearing Americans. As a national federation of state association, organizational and corporate affiliates, the advocacy work of the NAD encompasses a broad spectrum of areas including, but not limited to, accessibility, education, employment, healthcare, mental health, rehabilitation, technology, telecommunications, and transportation. The NAD has a wealth of advocacy information and resources.

As a membership organization, the NAD welcomes individual and organization affiliation. The NAD has three special interest sections: Interpreters, Library Friends and Senior Citizens. The NAD Library Friends Section goal is to promote library accessibility and quality resources for the deaf community in all aspects of their lives.

The NAD also administers the federally funded Captioned Media Program (CMP, www.cfv.org). The mission of CMP is “to provide all persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, awareness of and equal access to communication and learning through the use of captioned educational media and supportive collateral materials.”

The NAD conducts workshops and training sessions across the nation on a variety of issues including public policy, community empowerment, and activism. The NAD also collaborates with the Gallaudet Leadership Institute (GLI) annually to offer "Consumer, Family, and Community Advocacy," a one-week training session for deaf and hard of hearing consumers and parents of deaf and hard of hearing children and works with many cross disability groups on common issues.

Through its Youth Programs, the NAD develops scholarship, citizenship, and leadership qualities in its participants in programs designed to foster leadership and teamwork skills. Individuals have the opportunity to acquire and develop their knowledge, social interaction, and leadership skills through hands-on activities.

Submitted by Kelby Brick, NAD Director of Law and Advocacy (brick@nad.org)

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AND ADVOCACY

Web Site: <http://www.ala.org>

The mission of the American Library Association (ALA) is “to provide leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.” Its membership is open to “any person, library, or other organization interested in library service and librarianship ... upon payment of the dues provided for in the Bylaws.”

The ALA is home to eleven membership divisions, each focused on a type of library or type of library function. The ALA has a policy on Library Services to People with Disabilities to facilitate communication among ALA units, affiliated groups and members on Accessibility. The Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, one of the 11 membership divisions, is home to Library Service to People Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Forum.

A network of affiliates, chapters and other organizations enables the ALA to reach a broad audience. Headquartered in Chicago, ALA was founded in 1876 in Philadelphia and subsequently chartered in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. ALA's Washington Office, established in 1945, has two new offices: (1) Government Relations, which acts as a link between ALA members and the federal government, representing library interests and issues including funding for federal library and related programs, copyright, access to government information, and other issues which affect the quality of library and information services available to the American public; and (2) Information Technology Policy, which promotes the development and use of electronic access to information as a means to ensure the public's right to a free and open information society.

The main office at ALA that focuses on advocacy is the Public Information Office (PIO) based in ALA's Chicago headquarters. PIO assists libraries with advocacy strategies, provides advocacy related resources and materials, and maintains an advocacy network. Several ALA offices, units and divisions work in conjunction with PIO to facilitate advocacy and outreach at the local, state, and federal levels. For example, ALA's Washington Office of Government Relations, maintains the Federal Library Legislative and Advocacy Network “FLLAN.” FLLAN is a network of librarians in the 50 states who communicate with Congress about federal legislation that impacts libraries. For more information about advocacy and outreach visit the ALA website at:

<http://www.ala.org/ala/issues/issuesadvocacy.htm>

Submitted by Erin Haggerty, Government Relations Specialist, ALA- Washington Office
(ehaggerty@alawash.org)

PROGRAM PLANNING SUGGESTIONS

1) Who should take the charge of the program in your area?

We suggest finding an internal advocate within your own library system. This person has to have some passion about the subject or it will die right then and there. Next step would be to form a committee--whatever size--with the goal of promoting Deaf Awareness. A further step would be to contact any organization in that library's region that would be a natural partner in promoting Deaf Services: Head Start, Mental Health Organization, Academic Institutions with Deaf Studies/ASL Programs and others. Public schools may not be a good idea since they do not have time to allow staff to work in outside committees. We recommend keeping the committee SMALL. Five is plenty; otherwise, they may not be able to keep the group on task.

2) Budget Needs

- a) For committee support: Photocopies, auxiliary aids and services at meetings if needed, postage, and others
- b) For programs: Room rental, refreshments, technology, communication assistance, auxiliary aids, honorarium fees, posters and others
- c) For publishing: Desktop publishing, graphic art work, Braille transcription, and others

3) Funding

We suggest; designating part of the program budget that already exists. Advocates for the library system may attend the program committee meeting and bring suggestions for Deaf Awareness topics. And if the library does not have a program committee, we suggest they write up a proposal to whoever makes that decision. Funding can come from donations and other resources besides grants and fund-raising.

4) Program theme

National: Celebrate Deaf Legacy

State & Local: The committee may want to add slogan to go with the national theme or fold the celebration into an ongoing theme the library is currently promoting.

5) Target date

March 13-April 15 annually

6) Target audience

Deaf Community

7) Program site and accessibility

Whenever possible, the building should be in a location people can reach by public transportation and have a ramp, directional signs and the staff already trained in serving people with disabilities or those who have language barriers. It would be best if in the meeting room there would be a raised platform and not have a window or

light source behind the speaker. If the speakers use sign language and some people in the audience do not know sign language, it would be advisable to know what communication technologies are available in the community that is served by the library. Two examples of communication technologies are Sign Language / Voice Interpreters and CART in which services may be provided by a local agency.

CART or Communication Access Real time Translation is one type of interpretation. CART provides visual text with nearly instantaneous translation of the spoken word. The CART provider types the speaker's words on a stenographic machine which is connected to a computer with software to translate the stenographic code into English. The translation can then be read on the computer screen; for larger group events the CART text can be displayed on a large video screen or projected onto the wall.

Source: *Planning for Library Services to People With Disabilities*, by Rhea Joyce Rubin Chicago: ALA/ASCLA, 2001

8) Presenters

Presenters may be guest speakers, lecturers, storytellers, and/or performing artists, either in person or on video.

Checklist: Biography and photo; Presentation Topic, Technical assistance needed for presentation and honorarium fees If videos are used, please make sure they are of high quality. For video reviews, please visit www.aslaccess.org

9) Exhibitions

a) Libraries to display a collection of books, videos, and other library materials that are related to the language, culture and history of the deaf community in a prominent place, encouraging customers to check out those that are circulating.

b) Libraries may set up a schedule to demonstrate ASL videos as part of the exhibit, encouraging customers to check out those that are circulating. Examples of videos and their reviews can be found on the ASL Access Web Site

www.aslaccess.org

10) Program promotional resources

a) Public media (e.g., TV, newspapers, library networks)

b) Eye-catching Deaf History Month posters you may design on your own

c) Handouts, such as a list of fiction books having deaf characters for children and young adults, Deaf American History Trivia, Notable Deaf Quotes and others

11) Proclamation for Governors, County Executives, and Mayors

Statements from the National Deaf History Month Resolution may be adapted to fit in the interest of local populations. Notable pioneers from the deaf community and historical deaf events on state or local level may be highlighted in the proclamation

12) Follow Up

We would love to hear the results of your program, of whatever size, so please email them to FOLDA86@aol.com before July 2006. Thank you!

RESOURCES

1. Deaf Professional Services

Services listed below have bibliographies, products, programs, and/or services that may be helpful to the nation's libraries in their programming and/or exhibiting plans for observing the month.

ASL Access Contact Chris Eixtrom, founder and CEO

Web Site <http://www.aslaccess.org>

Captioned Media Program of the National Association of the Deaf

Contact Bill Stark, Project Director

Web Site: <http://www.cfv.org>

Gallaudet University Library Contact Tom Harrington, Librarian

Web Site: <http://library.gallaudet.edu>

Rochester Institute of Technology / Wallace Memorial Library / National Institute of the Deaf / Deaf Studies Contact Joan Naturale, Librarian

Web Site: <http://wally.rit.edu/internet/subject/deafness.html>

2. Library Membership Organizations

American Library Association (ALA) Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) / Libraries Serving Special Populations Section (LSSPS) / Library Service to People Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing Forum (LSDHFF)

Web Site

<http://www.ala.org/ala/ascla/asclaourassoc/asclasections/lssps/lspdhhf/lspdhhf.htm>

The LSDHFF offers outline bibliographies. Members have compiled the following bibliographies and others for librarians who are seeking information on services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing: (1) Communication Issues; (2) Publishers and Vendors of Books; (3) Videos and CD-ROMs; (4) Collection Recommendations; (5) Books with Deaf Characters or by Deaf Authors; and (6) Gallaudet University Library Deaf Related Resources.

The LSDHFF mission is to promote library and information service to deaf persons by: fostering deaf awareness in the library community and in the deaf and hearing populations at large; monitoring and publicizing legislation and funding developments related to library and information services for deaf persons; encouraging employment and career opportunities for deaf persons in libraries, and encouraging their participation in the American Library Association; stimulating the production, distribution, and collection of materials in formats that are readily accessible to deaf persons and that accurately portray deaf persons; and developing and operating a clearinghouse of information on services for deaf persons to assist libraries in collection development and programming. These functions shall be carried out in cooperation with other ALA units and national organizations, as appropriate.

3. 2006 Annual Deaf-related events

The library community may also use this KIT for observing other deaf annual events beside the National Deaf History Month during the year. Use the name of the annual event as the keyword when surfing the Internet

Inventor's Day: February 11

To observe the birth anniversary of Thomas Alva Edison, an inventor with 1,093 patents His deafness was actually an asset as he once said it allowed him to work with less distraction and to sleep deeply, undisturbed by outside sounds

National Deaf History Month: March 13-April 15

To commemorate the three most important deaf cultural dates in American history
 March 13, 1988: The victory of the Deaf President Now movement at Gallaudet University located in Washington, D.C. when the first deaf person was selected to become president of this 124-year-old institution

April 8, 1864: Charter signed by the President Abraham Lincoln, authorizing the Board of Directors of the Columbia Institution (now Gallaudet University) to grant college degree to deaf students

April 15, 1817: First permanent school founded for deaf students in the Western Hemisphere, now known as the American School for the Deaf

Mother, Father Deaf Day: April 30, 2006

To give members of Children of Deaf Adults, known as CODA, the opportunity to honor their deaf parents and to recognize the gifts of culture and language they received

Better Hearing and Speech Month: May

To raise public understanding about hearing, voice, speech, and language disorders, and recognize speech and hearing professionals for the important work they do

National Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week: June 25-July 1, 2006

To observe the birth anniversary of Helen Keller who was born on June 27 in 1880 and to enhance public awareness about deaf-blind people's needs for full participation in society

Deaf Awareness Week: September 24-30, 2006

To celebrate the culture, heritage, and language unique to deaf Americans

International Week of the Deaf: September 24-30, 2006

To promote public awareness in local communities to strengthen solidarity among deaf people and to call attention to concerns important to deaf people

Clerc-Gallaudet Week: December 3-9, 2006

To celebrate birth anniversaries of the two pioneers in deaf education who were born in the month of December – Laurent Clerc on December 26, 1785 and Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet on December 10, 1787 – and to recognize their impact on American society since the 19th century

4. Notable Deaf Pioneers: A Selection

Their profiles may be located on the Internet or in books or other resources at your library. The American School for the Deaf Museum, <http://www.asd-1817.org/history/>, the Gallaudet University Archives, <http://archives.gallaudet.edu>, and the Gallaudet University Library Guide to Deaf Biographies, <http://liblists.wrlc.org/deafbiog/>, are also good sources.

- Edmund Booth Born August 24, 1810 Died March 29, 1903
Author, newspaper publisher, pioneer settler, teacher and one of three co-founders of the National Association of the Deaf
- Thomas Brown Born February 25, 1804 Died March 23, 1886
First deaf American grassroots leader and who planted the seed for the National Association of the Deaf.
- John Carlin Born June 15, 1813 Died April 23, 1891
Artist, writer and advocate who contributed greatly to the cultural life of the deaf community in the 19th century
- Laurent Clerc Born December 26, 1785 Died July 18, 1869 *
First deaf teacher, school administrator and one of the three co-founders of the first school for deaf students in the Western Hemisphere
- Thomas Alva Edison Born February 11, 1847 Died October 18, 1931
Inventor and scientist who received 1,093 patents and who said his deafness helped him concentrate on his experiments and research
- Andrew Jackson Foster Born June 27, 1925 Died December 3, 1987
American educator who founded thirty-one schools and many other programs for deaf people in thirteen African countries
- Sophia Fowler Gallaudet Born March 20, 1798 Died May 13, 1877
Influential advocate to the US Congress on behalf of education of deaf people in the 1860s and who was known as “Queen of the Deaf Community”
- William Ellsworth Hoy Born May 23, 1862 Died December 15, 1961
First deaf major-leaguer who taught his teammates signs which some have become useful for umpires throughout the world
- Helen Adams Keller Born June 27, 1880 Died June 1, 1968
First deaf-blind author and lecturer who received many honors for her global advocacy on human rights
- Juliette Gordon Low Born October 31, 1860 Died January 18, 1927
Founder of the Girl Scouts of the USA and who once said she used her deafness to benefit the cause
- David Peikoff Born March 21, 1900 Died January 28, 1995
Dynamic leader who was known to hold the office of many deaf organizations and for his remarkable career in fundraising
- Laura Redden Searing Born February 9, 1840 Died August 10, 1923 (*)
Newspaper correspondent who once interviewed President Lincoln, Civil War generals and soldiers using pad and pencil

* Birth year for Clerc & day of death for Searing corrected March 20, 2006

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Gay, Kathlyn. *Cultural Diversity: Conflicts and Challenges*. Lanham, Maryland: The Scarecrow Press, Inc., 2003 (The Ultimate Teen Guide)

Guidelines for Library and Information Services for the American Deaf Community. Edited by Marti Goddard, Chicago: Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, 1996.

Kuharets, Olgar, Editor. *Ventures Into Cultures: a Resource Book of Multicultural Materials and Programs*. Second edition. Chicago: American Library Association, 2001

Lang, Harry G. and Bonnie Meath-Lang. *Deaf Persons in the Arts and Sciences: A Biographical Dictionary*. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1995.

Macmillan, Kathy. *Try Your Hand At This: Easy Ways to Incorporate Sign Language into Your Programs*. Lanham, Maryland: The Scarecrow Press, Inc. 2006

From how to set up sign language programming for all ages to dealing with interpreters, publicizing programming to the public and the deaf community, and evaluating and improving the library's sign language collection

Matthew, Kathryn I. and Joy L. Lowe. *Guide to Celebrations and Holidays Around the World: The Best Books, Media, and Multicultural Learning Activities*. New York: Neal-Schuman Publishers, Inc. , 2004

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS RELATED TO THE DEAF IDENTITY

For purposes of this KIT, we use the following definitions:

American Sign Language or ASL

A visual- gestural language having its own rules of grammar and is mostly used by deaf people in the United States and Canada.

ASL Community

This term consists of signing individuals of all ages, regardless of their hearing status, who share one common characteristic of deaf culture.

Deaf

Partially or completely lacking in the sense of hearing

Deaf-Blind

Partially or completely lacking in the sense of either or both hearing and seeing

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

This term is often used by government agencies and advocacy groups to imply their commitment to serving both groups of deaf and hard of hearing consumers and/or members

Deaf Community

This term consists of individuals with varying communication modes and backgrounds, both deaf and hearing, who share common characteristics of hearing losses and/or deaf culture

Deaf Culture

The shared arts, customs, folklore, history, traditions, and values that are connected to some members of the deaf community

Deaf Cultural Programming

Programs or series of programs presented by libraries that seek to entertain, enlighten, educate, and involve adult and family audiences, primarily in the disciplines of the deaf arts and deaf community issues

Deaf Diversity

Differences in age, ethnicity, nationality, language, religion, and/or lifestyle of people who share common characteristics of hearing losses and/or deaf culture

Also refers to Deaf Interest Groups

Deaf Heritage

A deaf cultural tradition that passes from one generation to the next in a social group

Deaf History

A narrative of events and life of a people, an institution, or a place concerning the deaf community of the past to the present

Deaf Interest Groups

The following groups are associated with the deaf community, including hearing individuals; each group may include those who are blind and/or have cerebral palsy, physical, learning or life-functioning challenges or others.

Children; Young adults; Post-secondary students; Older adults; Members of diverse ethnic groups; Members of various religious traditions; Rural populations; Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals; Homeless and transient people; Prisoners; People at work; People at leisure; People in need of health care; People recovering from various kinds of abuse and others.

Deaf-Related Organizations

Nonprofit, for profit, government-supported programs, public services and social groups, all having at least one specialization for meeting the needs of one or more deaf interest groups, regardless of their communication modes

Disability

This term is often used by government agencies and advocacy groups to imply their commitment to serving cross-disability populations, including deaf and hard of hearing, ensuring their rights to be treated as people first for full participation in the democratic process as contributing members of the society

Accepted terminology about disabilities changes regularly over years but the primary rule is to put people first. (E.g. people with disabilities not disabled people)

Finger spelling or the manual alphabet:

A method of representing the letters of the alphabet with the hand
There are different manual alphabets used to code different languages. The one-handed American Manual alphabet is a code for English orthography. A two-handed manual alphabet is used mostly in Britain and former British colonies.

Grassroots community

This term consists of people--deaf and hearing--at a local level instead of the political center regardless of their economical and educational backgrounds

Hard of Hearing

This term applies to a culture of people with hearing losses, ranging from mild to profound, but not total. Some have a connection with the deaf culture.

Hearing

Deaf people use this term to identify a culture of people who can hear whether or not they are associated with the deaf community

Hearing Loss

This term applies to people of all ages who live through it, ranging from mild to profound.

Late-Deafened adult

An adult who acquires hearing loss after acquiring speech and experiences a significant life change as a result

Library community

This term consists of librarians, library workers, trustees, friends, supporters and customers, deaf and hearing, who have a connection with academic, public, school and/or special libraries. Some organizations, such as government offices, museums, businesses, and nonprofit organizations, own a special collection related to the deaf community or have a library with trained personnel.

Signer

A person who uses sign language and manual alphabet to communicate with other signing people

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Lastly, but not the least, all users of the KIT for taking an interest in our effort to work with the nation's libraries for reaching out to all Americans in 2006 and beyond

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Reference and Instruction Librarian (specialist in deaf research), Gallaudet University Library, Washington, DC, since 1993; formerly Media Librarian, 1973-1993

Academic reference services in all fields but especially deafness and deaf people; bibliographic instruction; produce information guides, FAQs, and finding aids for deaf information; collection development in deafness, deaf people, deaf studies, audiology, linguistics, and related fields; writer of several professional articles and presentations and a regular column in the areas of materials on deafness and library services to the deaf; creator of two large online databases of deaf-related information.

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Director of the Preble County District Library, Eaton, Ohio (appointed November 1, 2005)

Former Branch Manager, Coventry Village Library in Cleveland Heights, Ohio,
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Diversity Committee, Miami Valley Library Association, Ohio School for the
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Gary E. Wait, A.B. and S.T.B.

Archivist and Curator of the Museum at the American School for the Deaf (ASD) since
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Earned 50 additional graduate level hours in American history and culture at Boston
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The Mother School of Deaf Education" Hog River Journal: Hartford and the
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Addenda

Theme statement for the poster

Laurent Clerc profile