

Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Communities at the District of Columbia Public Library: An Overview

Library Services to People with Special Needs Section of IFLA
Midwinter Meeting
Gallaudet University
March 9, 2017

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DCPL Services to the Deaf Community

BEGINNINGS: 1974

- First American Sign Language class at DCPL, taught by two Deaf staff members, Ida Mapes and Alice Hagemeyer (who became the DCPL Librarian for the Deaf Community in 1976)
- First Deaf Awareness Week (now Clerc-Gallaudet Week)
- DCPL purchase of a TTY (Teletype) for Deaf patrons



DCPL Services to the Deaf Community

PROGRAMS/SERVICES WE CURRENTLY OFFER

- Clerc-Gallaudet Week yearly celebration, programming
- Other Deaf Culture Programming
- ASL Story Time, with therapy dogs from People Animals Love
- ASL Classes, taught by a team of volunteers
- Book Club in ASL
- Outreach services to community (especially senior centers)
- ASL interpreters for DCPL-sponsored programs
- Captioning of programs when possible upon request
- Public video phone for Deaf and Hard of Hearing ASL users
- Meeting room loop FM system
- PockeTalker personal assistive listening system (for use only in library upon request by patrons who need it)

People Animals Love (PAL) Therapy Dogs and children enjoy interacting after an ASL Story Time Program at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library



Gallaudet University Art Student Show

Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, December 2015
(annual Clerc-Gallaudet Week Celebration)



DCPL Services to the Deaf Community

**ACCESSIBLE MEETINGS
AND PROGRAMS**

DCPL Services to the Deaf Community

Assistive Listening System – Meeting Room with FM Loop



American Sign Language (ASL) Interpretation Services



Tactile ASL Interpreting for Deaf-Blind



CAPTIONING:

All films shown at DC Public Library **MUST** be shown with captions on. All DVDs purchased **MUST** have  (closed captions).



DCPL Services to the Deaf Community

AT THE REFERENCE DESK

At the Reference Desk

Paper and Pen or Pencil



At the Reference Desk



At the Reference Desk:

DCPL purchased PockeTalkers for use by hard of hearing patrons in each library. If a patron at the reference or circulation desk is having trouble hearing, the patron may ask to use one. Also works well for some small meetings. Patrons can borrow for use only in the library.

With head set



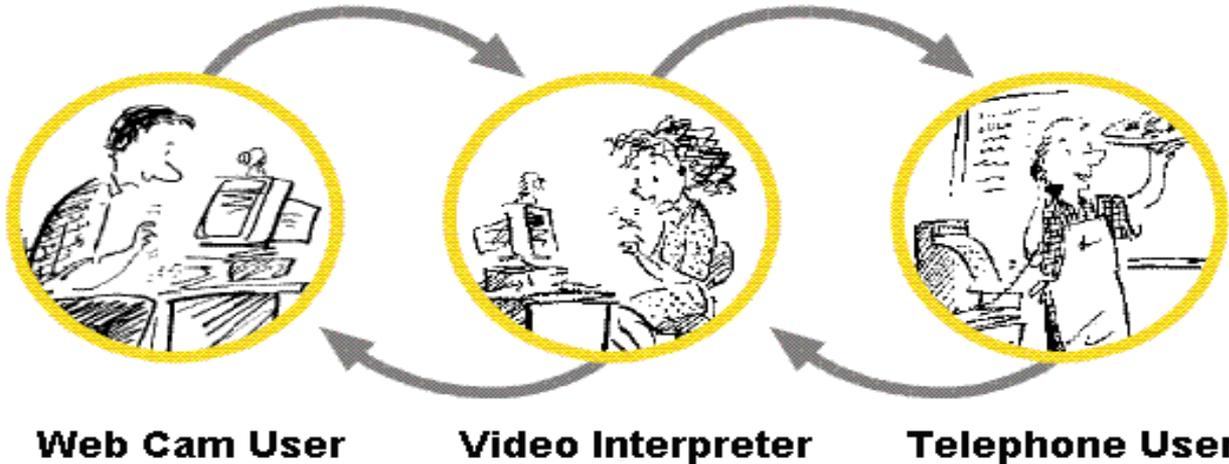
With inductive loop for hearing aid and cochlear implant users



Videophone / Video Relay Service

- Two way direct ASL communication between two Deaf or Hard of Hearing users
- Hearing people and Deaf ASL users can communicate with each other via Video Relay Service. Call goes through a central office with ASL/voice interpreters who sign to the Deaf person what the hearing caller is voicing and voice to the hearing caller what the Deaf caller is signing.
- FREE – funding comes from Federal Communications Commission (FCC), a US government agency that pays the videophone companies every time service is used
- Videophone station is limited to use by Deaf or Hard of Hearing ASL users

Videophone / Video Relay Service



DCPL Services to the Deaf Community

WHAT WE FOUND WORKED/WORKS WELL

- **Community:**

Community involvement, partnerships, networks, people in these networks will volunteer and even donate funds to the library friends groups that support our programs and services. Some of these organizations are listed on the next slide.

- **Funding:**

Library friends groups, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), federal and local grants

DCPL Services to the Deaf Community

FINDING THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE

The following are among the organizations with whom we partnered. In partnerships, they also helped present the programs at our library and promote our programs to their communities.

- ✓ Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- ✓ DC Association of the Deaf
- ✓ Friends of Libraries for Deaf Action (FOLDA)
- ✓ Gallaudet University
- ✓ Hearing Loss Association of America
- ✓ Laurent Clerc National Deaf Education Center (at Gallaudet University)
- ✓ Library of Congress
- ✓ Montgomery County (Maryland) Public Library System
- ✓ National Association of the Deaf
- ✓ People Animals Love
- ✓ Our Volunteers and Library Friends Groups
- AND many others, too

Questions? Contact:

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