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Problem Statement: Access to Information and Library Patrons with Intellectual Disabilities

A trend toward home- and community-based services has led to increasing community integration for people with intellectual disabilities. While library services for people with physical and sensory disabilities are well-established, library service to people with intellectual disabilities bears further examination. This research project explores the information-seeking behavior of people with intellectual disabilities. The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities states that “intellectual disability” is the currently preferred term for the disability historically referred to as mental retardation; it originates before the age of 18 and is characterized by limitations in intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior. Individuals with disabilities are asked about their information needs and how they address them. How do patrons with intellectual disabilities use library resources? What practices can libraries implement to improve access to information for people with intellectual disabilities?

Bibliography

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. *The AAIDD Definition*. http://www.aamr.org/Policies/faq_intellectual_disability.shtml (accessed August 24, 2008).