Services for Users with Disabilities

Welcome to the University of Bath Library. We are committed to providing equality of opportunity for all users of our services and facilities. We do this by providing appropriate IT facilities, including assistive software and equipment, as well as assistance with using the Library and accessing its resources. This guide provides an overview of the services the Library offers in support of students and staff with disabilities. We can provide a Library guide on coloured paper, on request. Alternative formats are available from: http://www.bath.ac.uk/library/help/serviceguides/disability-guide.html

Access

There is one central Library building on campus which is open 24 hours a day, all year round, including all national holidays. During semester, the Library is staffed from 9am to 7pm weekdays and 10am to 5pm on weekends. There are wide automatic sliding doors at the Library entrance and the barriers in the foyer swing open if your University card is placed near the sensor on top. Reception staff will open the adjacent, wider glass gate, on request. Inside the Library, there are stairs and lifts to all five floors.

Fire and emergency

If you feel that you would be likely to have difficulty using the stairs in a fire or other emergency, please make yourself known to the Security Officer at the entrance to the Library. A record of your presence in the building will be kept but remember to let them know when you leave. The fire alarm is a loud, continuous siren accompanied by wall mounted flashing red lights.

If you have difficulty using stairs then go to the north staircase (at the back of the building), where there is a designated "refuge area" on each of the stairwell landings. You will be protected by fire doors until Fire or Security Officers reach you.

An introduction to the Library

Your Subject Librarian will be happy to introduce you to the Library and to show you how to use the Library Catalogue and other subject-specific databases. You can find contact details for your Librarian at: http://www.bath.ac.uk/library/services/contact/enquiry.html
Finding and borrowing books

If you are a University of Bath student with a support worker we can arrange for
them to borrow books and collect holds on your behalf. They will need to have your
Library card and their own identification e.g. a driving licence. If your support worker
does not have their own University card, staff at the Library Desk will provide them
with an access-only card for entry to the building. If you have difficulty reaching
books or journals on the shelves, Library staff will be happy to fetch these and put
them aside for you to collect later.

Assistive technology

There are public access computers (PACs) on all floors of the Library and the entire
building is wireless-enabled. Students who have registered with the Disability
Service may also be able to borrow equipment such as a laptop, audio recorder or
visualiser, for short or longer term loan. All PACs and laptops have a range of
assistive software installed, including speech- to- text, mind mapping and screen-
reading utilities.

In addition, there is a dedicated study room on Level 3 containing 4 computers with
additional specialist software and hardware to provide speech- to- text, screen
magnification, scanning, and dedicated print and braille output. Students can
request access to this room from the Disability Service.

All students can also request advice and support with any of the above from Tim
Winship, Assistive Technologist, via the Computing Services Help Desk on Level 2,
or the pink Help button on the Computing Services home page:
http://www.bath.ac.uk/bucs/  Further information is available at:
http://www.bath.ac.uk/bucs/services/assistivetechnologies/

Alternative formats

All of the scan/copy/print machines are on Level 2, at the rear of the Library. Copy
& Print staff will issue you with a receipt if you have a Disabled Student’s Allowance
and want to recover the cost of printing or photocopying (scanning is free). If you
find it difficult to access the Library’s print or electronic resources, please talk to
your Subject Librarian about alternative formats which can be provided.

The Disability Service
For information and advice about disability services available to you contact:
01225 385538 or email disabilityadvice@bath.ac.uk

Any suggestions for improving Library services will be most welcome. Email Kate
Robinson, University Librarian: K.M.Robinson@bath.ac.uk

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