

# Disability and the Public Library Research Study

## Who are you?

My name is William Myhill and I am a part-time doctoral student in cultural foundations of education with a focus on disability studies at Syracuse University. I also have professional roles as a disability resource / service provider and as a part-time instructor in library studies at Syracuse University. I view public libraries as a public good and as an essential service to facilitate information access for all.

## What are you doing and why?

I am conducting a research study and am recruiting persons to participate. I seek to better understand how public librarians understand disability, and about the experiences of library patrons with disabilities, so as to develop tools and/or professional development to help librarians more inclusively serve and work with patrons and staff with disabilities.

## Who can participate? And how can I participate?

To participate in this study as a library patron, you must be 18 years old or older, speak or write or sign in English, and have a disability.

I would like to interview you by asking you a series of questions about your experiences as a library patron or staff member. The interview may take place over the phone, virtually or in-person. You get to choose how, where and when the interview will take place. I will also provide you with a complete transcript of the interview about two weeks afterward in your preferred format. This is called a transcript check and it allows you to make corrections or to remove information you do not wish to be analyzed. You are not required to do the transcript check. This is an option for your convenience.

## How much of my time will this take?

The interview may last between 1 and 1 ½ hours. You may take a break at any time. You're also allowed to have someone with you for support during the interview, but they can't answer the questions. The interview can be broken into 2 shorter sessions if you prefer. The transcript check may take you 30 to 60 minutes to complete.

## How do I contact you to learn more about participating?

My name is William Myhill. To contact me just give me a call or text at 315-374-1998, or send an email to [wmyhill@syr.edu](mailto:wmyhill@syr.edu)

## Patron Recruitment Newsletter Announcement

### Disability and the Public Library Research Study

This study seeks to interview and learn from public library users with disabilities about their experiences, including online or in person experiences with public libraries in Onondaga County. This learning will be used in part to develop training to help librarians more inclusively serve and work with patrons and staff with disabilities. To participate in this study as a library patron, you must be 18 years old or older, speak or write or sign in English, and have a disability. Your participation would include an interview with the researcher of up to 1 ½ hours that can be divided into two shorter interviews. The interview would take place over the phone, virtually, or in-person. To ask questions and learn more about the study and the researcher, please contact William Myhill at [wmyhill@syr.edu](mailto:wmyhill@syr.edu) or 315-374-1998.