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The Library is for Everyone: Cultivating Campus Partnerships to Enhance Library Accessibility

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The Library is for Everyone: Cultivating Campus Partnerships to Enhance Library Accessibility

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Background

Accessibility Team Goals

- Improve the accessibility of our physical and digital spaces and resources
- Enhance the user experience
- Increase the visibility of accessible services

What We Did

- Researched best practices and policies
- Collaborated with campus partners to gather feedback and expertise
- Assessed library spaces to create a list of strengths and weaknesses
- Made recommendations for high-impact, low-cost changes to our library spaces

Partners

UNH Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

- Advised about physical accessibility concerns

UNH Access 4 All Student Organization

- Provided student-centered feedback

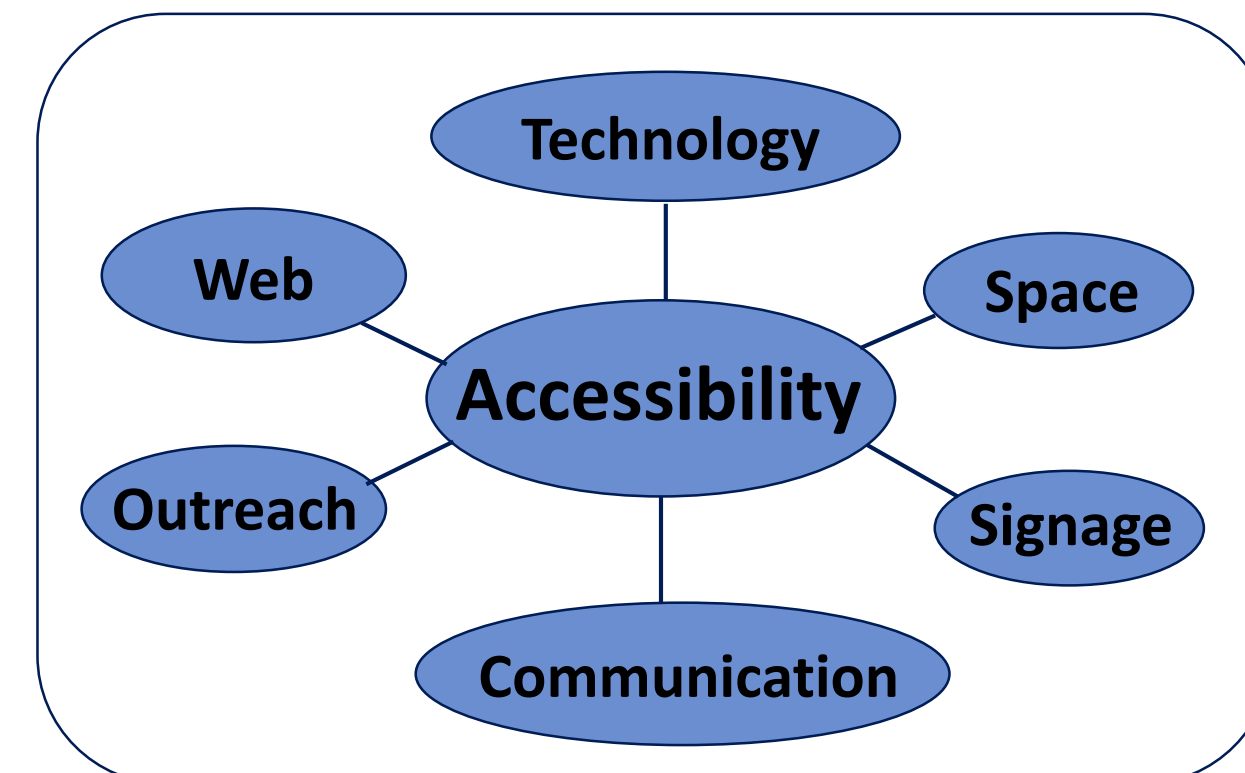
UNH Survey Center

- Provided feedback for creating accessible, mobile-friendly, and valid surveys

Internal Library Partners

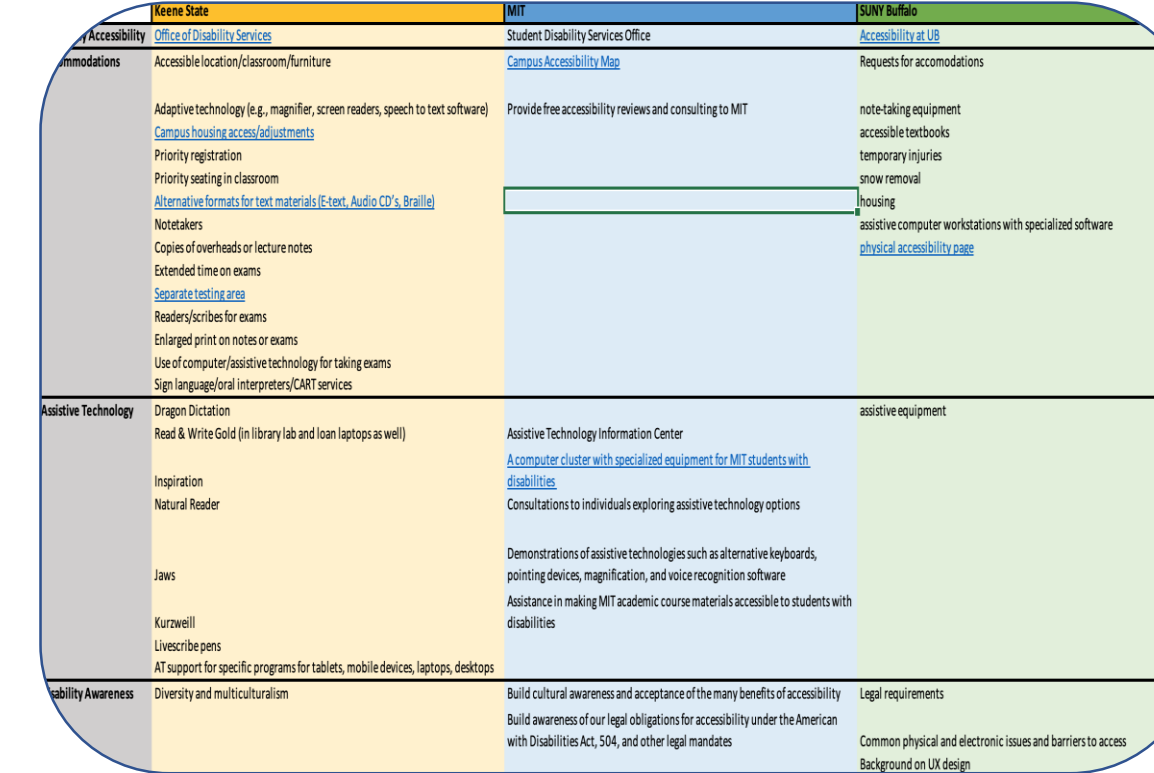
- Library Information Technology
- Addressed web accessibility concerns
- Collection Management
- Assisted with physical barriers to materials
- Circulation staff & Library leadership
- Facilitated recommended space changes

Methods & Processes



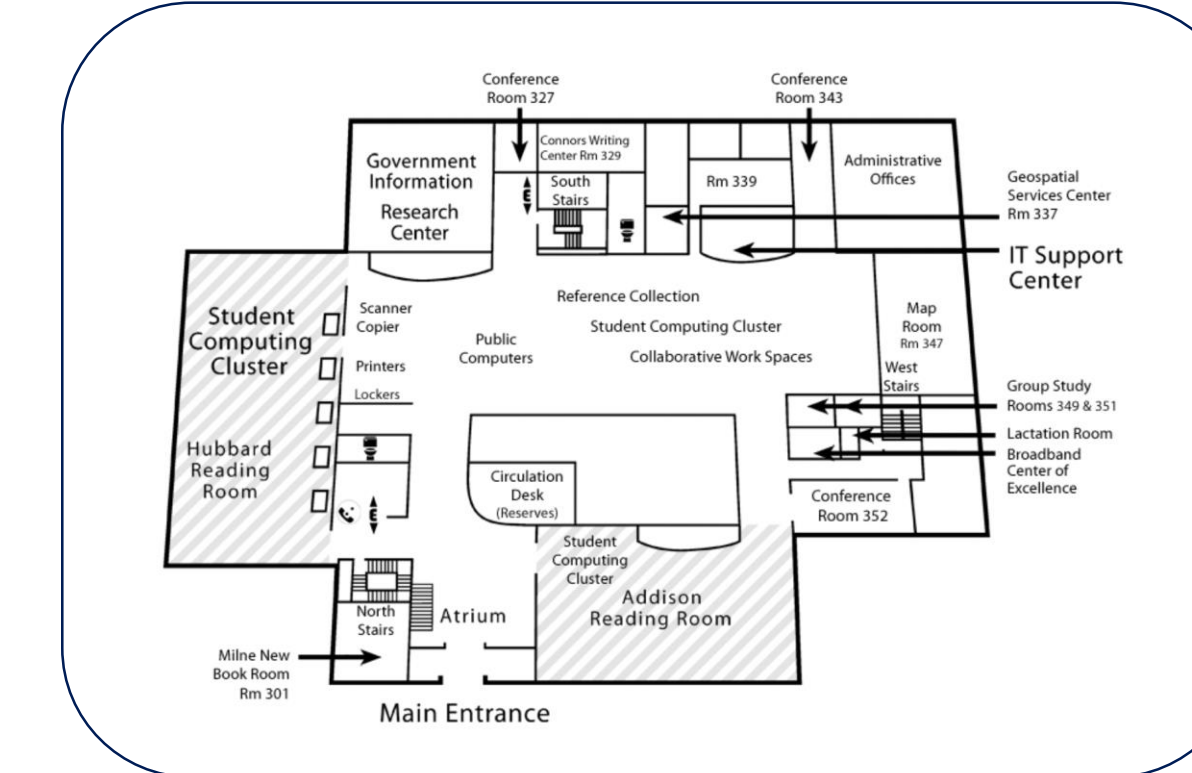
Identify all possible areas of accessibility that affect our spaces, resources, and services

Identify ways to market a library wide campaign for accessibility



Review peer institutions to build knowledge and identify services to add or improve

Update and improve the library's accessibility webpage



Meet with SAS Director for recommendations and accessibility tours

Provide accessibility quick-tips for library's annual spruce up



Meet with UNH Access4All President to hear about students' experiences

Draft accessibility survey and get Survey Center feedback

Quick & Attainable Goals



Add Signage

Promote accessible resources with clear signs



Keep Paths Clear

Remove barriers such as book trucks, recycling bins, wires, etc.



Measure

Use a yardstick to test accessible space for wheelchairs

Key Takeaway: physical accessibility can be easily accomplished through a commitment to awareness and enforcement of simple space changes

Moving Forward

Next Steps

- Disseminate surveys among students with accessibility needs
- Research accessibility trends across campus
- Conduct usability testing for spaces and web
- Develop an impact-effort-cost matrix with recommendations to library administration

Future Growth

- Create and foster channels for future conversations around accessibility
- Push for universal design in renovations
- Support a broader range of disabilities
- Assess the impact of our space changes on library users

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