

DOJ Issues ADA Hotel Checklist

An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) “Checklist for New Lodging Facilities” has been issued by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). While the DOJ checklist is being praised by the hotel industry for defining specific compliance criteria for lodging facilities and delineating responsibilities, it also is being criticized by others for not providing protection against lawsuits that have been rocking hotel businesses.

The DOJ checklist, which covers lodging facilities designed and constructed after Jan. 26, 1993, was released with the announcement of the settlement agreement with Days Inns of America (DIA). The settlement agreement resolved five lawsuits filed by DOJ in February 1996. The suits alleged that DIA, the world’s largest hotel chain, and its parent company violated the ADA by constructing new hotels that denied equal access to people with disabilities.

The 46-page checklist, according to DOJ, is a self-help survey that owners, franchisors and managers of lodging facilities can use to identify ADA vulnerabilities at their facilities. It is noted in the document’s

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Street Smarts: Safer Crossings

by Lukas Franck



The Panich audible, vibro-tactile accessible pedestrian signal has a repeating locator tone that changes to a faster repetition rate during the “Walk” interval. The sound comes from the pedestrian button. The raised arrow points toward the crosswalk and also vibrates during the “Walk” interval.

People who blind or visually impaired sometimes use special pedestrian signals that have a sound or vibration that is meant to be equivalent to the “Walk/Don’t Walk” signals used by sighted people. However, the United States has never had a standard set of sounds or regulations governing the use of accessible pedestrian signals (APS).

With sophisticated new APS technologies emerging, the lack of such standards in the past may actually prove to be beneficial, as various design firms from Japan, Europe and the U.S. compete for market share in this country.

What’s New in Japan?

The Japanese pioneered the use of bird-call-type crossing signals, using a “cuckoo” sound to indicate a north-south crossing and a “chirp” to indicate an east-west crossing. The speakers making these sounds are mounted on or in the “Walk/Don’t Walk” signs. The sounds, which are broadcast across the street, act as a kind of beacon to help blind or visually impaired people cross the street

in the correct direction.

These signals are common in Japan. In the 1960s, the concept was imported to North America. Currently, they frequently are used in California and Canada, and occasionally in other places.

Although bird-call type of signals are relatively inexpensive and extremely reliable, they also present some problems.

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The Winners

On June 16, *Universal Design Newsletter* received the Ronald L. Mace Universal Design Award at the "Designing for the 21st Century II Conference" in Providence, R.I. It was a tremendous honor to receive this award, which was given in recognition of our effort to "market" the concept of universal design through the pages of *Universal Design Newsletter*.

For more than 20 years, many of us have watched the development and evolution of the "barrier-free," "accessible," "transgenerational," "universal" design movement.

It became apparent in the early 1980s that there was a need to move away from the concept of accessibility as a charitable or government-supported effort for the benefit of a small population. That's because design for all people was becoming a valued commodity that businesses can use to gain advantage in an increasingly competitive and sophisticated market.

It was the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990, however, that expanded demand for accessibility, and where there is a demand, there are business opportunities.

The main thrusts of *Universal Design Newsletter* are to help businesses: 1) create designs and products that accommodate *all* people; and 2) be better informed, on a regular basis, about the ADA and other regulations.

In our eight years of publication, *Universal Design Newsletter* has been there, identifying and promoting the numerous products, projects, publications, presentations and people that have demonstrated and advanced the state of the art in universal design. The trickle of activity in the early days has grown into a rushing torrent of activity at the beginning of the new millennium, but we are still only at the beginning.

I see a future where businesses realize the size and growth of the marketplace and the attraction of universal design. In that future, there will be no need for government regulations or charitable support. The growing marketplace of aging, well-informed and wealthy baby-boomer consumers will demand universal design, and those businesses that provide it, will be the winners.

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Number of Talking ATMs Expands

The number of talking automated teller machines (ATMs) in California continues to grow in record numbers.

Twenty new Wells Fargo ATMs are now up and running in San Francisco's Bay Area, Los Angeles and San Diego as part of a pilot program between Wells Fargo and the California Council of the Blind. If the program is successful, Wells Fargo plans to install a talking ATM at each of its more than 1,500 ATM locations in California.

According to Catherine Skivers, president of the California Council of the Blind, "We are excited that Wells Fargo's talking ATMs in the pilot locations are ready for use by blind and visually-impaired people and we applaud the work that Wells Fargo has done over the past months to make these machines a reality."

In addition, 15 Bank of America talking ATMs are now in operation. Bank of America plans to install talking ATMs at each ATM location throughout its national network, including 1,600 in California alone. Over the next three years, more than 2,500 talking ATMs will be installed in California and Florida, the first states to get the machines.

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Accessible Electronic and Information Technology

The U.S. Access Board has published proposed access standards for electronic and information technology—the first of their kind among federal regulations. More than 100 individuals and organizations submitted comments on the standards.

The standards will cover the dissemination of information in the federal sector, including:

- ◆ Controls, keyboards and keypads.
- ◆ Software applications and operating systems.
- ◆ Web-based information and applications.
- ◆ Telecommunication functions.
- ◆ Video and multi-media products.
- ◆ Information kiosks/transaction machines.

The U.S. Access Board has developed these proposed standards under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998, which requires access to the federal government's electronic and information technology. The law applies to all federal agencies when they develop, procure, maintain or use such technology and covers all types of electronic and information technology. It will not be limited to assistive technologies used only by people with disabilities.

The proposed standards define the types of technology covered and the minimum level of access required. They also cover compatibility with the adaptive equipment that people with disabilities commonly use, and access to information, documentation, labeling and technical support provided to end users of covered technologies.

The scope of Section 508 of the act is limited to the federal sector and does not apply to the private sector. To help federal agencies meet the requirements of Section 508, the General Services Administration has launched a Federal Information Technology Accessibility Initiative. This program coordinates the government's efforts to comply with the law through outreach, training and information-sharing.

The proposed standards are based upon recommendations from the Electronic and Information Technology Access Advisory Committee. To view the proposed standards, please visit the Access Board's website at: www.access-board.gov/rules/508nprm.htm. Or call 800.872.2253 (voice) or 800.993.2822 (tty).

ADAAG Public Comments Are In

The U.S. Access Board received more than 2,500 comments on its proposal to update its accessibility guidelines for facilities issued under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA).

The proposal would update the ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG), which cover the new construction and alterations of facilities in the private and public sectors covered by the ADA. It also would revise guidelines under the ABA, which applies to facilities in the federal sector and others designed, built, altered or leased with federal funds.

Most of the comments (74 percent) were submitted by individuals, primarily by persons with disabilities. They addressed reach-range requirements for people of short stature, access for people with multiple chemical sensitivities, movie theater captioning for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing, and access to elements such as ATMs for people with vision impairments.

The comments are available for inspection at the Board offices during regular business hours. Included in the docket are comments received at public hearings on the proposal that the Board held in Los Angeles in January and in the Washington, D.C. area in March. The hearing testimony is posted on the Board's web site at: www.access-board.gov. The Board's final guidelines will be published in the *Federal Register*.

NEA Promotes Universal Design

The National Endowment of the Arts (NEA) recently convened a meeting of experts from design professions, academia, consumer groups and government to assess the state of universal design and to identify future opportunities for encouraging and assisting the practice of universal design.

The starting point of the recent meeting was a similar meeting held a decade ago, when participants outlined a blueprint for action to advance universal design practice, inform design education and expand awareness among decision-makers, government officials and the public.

At the recent meeting, participants discussed the many accomplishments in the universal design field and the challenges that lie ahead. Participants agreed that universal design has gained a significant foothold in professional organizations and among cultural institutions. At several universities, centers and curricula that incorporate universal design have made substantial contributions to the field.

In addition, major publications, international conferences and exhibitions have raised the public's and professionals' awareness of universal design principles.



Design professionals and members of academia, consumer groups and the government gathered at NEA headquarters to discuss future opportunities to promote universal design.

The U.S. Access Board has published proposed access standards for electronic and information technology.

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introduction, however, that using this survey will not identify all possible ADA problems; rather, "it will simply identify some of the most common ones."

DOJ suggests that it is the responsibility of lodging facility owners, franchisors, managers or operators to have an architect and/or building contractor sign off on the survey, confirming that a lodging facility complies with the ADA requirements.

Lodging Industry Reaction

"DOJ is putting out more forms that you can't rely on," said Charles Bruen, attorney for Bass Hotels & Resorts in Atlanta, Ga. "It's just another guideline. We already have the [DOJ] technical manuals and documents that provide guidance, yet you can't rely on them."

"If it's for informational purposes only, it doesn't provide protection against lawsuits," he added. "I look at the checklist and settlement agreement as a piece of paper. I don't see it as being that helpful."

Bruen said that the American Automobile Association's (AAA) "Accessibility Requirements for Lodgings and Restaurants" is more useful. By completing the one-page AAA checklist, a hotel property can obtain an accessible symbol on its listing in the *AAA Travel Guide*. "I believe it makes the hotel more accessible and you get some marketing value out of it," he said.

Bruen admitted that it is difficult to criticize DOJ when at least it has developed an industry-specific document.

Marriott welcomes the new checklist, according to Argyle Read, engineering program manager for the Marriott Corporation. But she has some doubts about its thoroughness.

In 1996, Marriott produced an ADA book and checklist to try and help meet the company's needs. "I wonder about [the effectiveness of] a document that is one-half to one-third the size of ours," Read said. "It's too complicated a subject for such a small document."

ADA consultant John Salmen, of Universal Designers & Consultants Inc., Takoma Park, Md., agreed, "It's a good start," he said and acknowledged that the document has educational value. "The most important aspect is that it increases the understanding of the intent of the law. Hopefully, it will help designers and builders become more aware of what it takes for a hotel to be in compliance with the ADA." But he, too, voiced concern about its completeness. "It's not comprehensive, so it can't provide protection against lawsuits. You can follow the checklist religiously and still get sued."

California Hotel & Motel Association Executive Vice President Jim Abrams noted that while the checklist may not be lawsuit-repellent, it has other

uses. For example, owners can incorporate it into contract documents when building new properties.

"Using it that way can help make sure the designers don't miss things," he said. Contracting is an industry built on "tolerances," i.e., variations from the plan. "Owners can use it to hold architects' and contractors' feet to the fire. When it comes to ADA compliance, an inch makes a difference."

Abrams is hopeful that the document will push owners and developers to do more to enhance accessibility than they would otherwise have done. He suggested that an owner might make the checklist the basis for a "readily achievable plan." Abrams cautioned that while the document could help start the process, it leaves out information, such as the number of required TDDs.

DOJ Responds

John Wodatch, chief of DOJ's Disabilities Rights Section, admits that the survey was designed for "basic" hotels and does not "track everything [in the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines]." But, he also noted, "Owners and operators who can accurately answer 'yes' should have some sense that 'my facility is in compliance with the ADA.' Clearly, if you do this, it establishes a level of good faith, higher than 'accommodating.'"

According to Wodatch, DOJ tried to make the survey user-friendly, but said that the person completing the survey needed to be "skilled," though not necessarily an architect.

Drive-by Lawsuits

The lodging industry is crying for relief from so-called "drive-by" lawsuits—i.e., bad faith complaints against establishments for non-compliance with the ADA.

Frivolous lawsuits are a major concern for all hotels. "Even with all your programs in place for barrier removal, you can still get sued. The question becomes whether to settle or go to court and explain all that you've done to make your facility more accessible," said Bruen.

Notes Wodatch, "If you're confident in what you've done, go to court. It's not cheaper to settle. Settling encourages that kind of behavior."

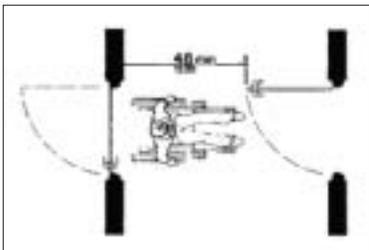
He encourages businesses to work together and to make the disabilities rights community aware of what's going on in the lodging industry. "Get everything out in the open, in public. If it's frivolous, the legal system will take care of it," Wodatch said.

For a copy of the checklist, contact DOJ at 800.514.0301 (voice); 800.514.0383 (tty) or at www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/hsurvey.htm. 



The new ADA checklist covers the placement of emergency phones in hotel elevators.

Using the DOJ hotel checklist won't identify all possible ADA problems; rather, it will simply identify some of the most common ones.



The DOJ hotel checklist advises how to configure the doors in a vestibule for accessibility when the vestibule does not have fully automatic doors.

PORTUGAL: Parliament Approves Web Accessibility

Portugal became the fourth country in the world to officially promote web accessibility for people with disabilities. The other countries are the United States, Australia and Canada.



The resolution requires accessibility features in websites that are developed by government agencies, state universities and any public corporation. The agencies must assure that:

- √ Websites can be read without needing sight, precise hand movements, simultaneous actions or the use of pointing devices, such as a mouse.
- √ Information retrieval and searching can be done in multiple ways, such as through aural, visual or tactile interfaces.

The accessibility measures were part of a plan submitted by the Portuguese Accessibility Special Interest Group (PASIG) via e-mail to the Portuguese parliament. Also submitted with the plan were some 9,000 electronic signatures that were collected by PASIG at: <http://www.acessibilidade.net>. This innovative electronic petition is reportedly the first of its kind to be submitted to a parliament in Europe.

For more information, please see the Parliament Report at: http://www.acessibilidade.net/petition/parliament_report.html or contact Francisco Godinho at: f.godinho@mail.telepac.pt.

JAPAN: Human-Centered Design

Human-Centered Design is a new Japanese project that is investigating universal approaches to society, production and design.

According to Sachiko Uozumi, the New York-based curator and international coordinator, the project calls for a total redesign of our lives, communities and environment. It builds upon the principles of respect for individual diversity and ability, and aspires to accessibility for all.



Shinichi Takemura, speaker at the "Design Paradigm of 21st Century," a human-centered design symposium.

The project focus—i.e., 21st century design inclined toward social de-industrialization and consumer-oriented economies as opposed to the industrial and supply economy propensity of the past—was introduced at the "Design Paradigm of the 21st Century" symposium.

The project has an international advisory committee and an ambitious agenda, including an exhibit that will open in the fall of 2000. Monthly study groups and workshops, a traveling exhibit, educational kits and a web page are in development.

Human-Centered Design is sponsored by the Life Design Center of the Setagaya Community Foundation in Tokyo. The Life Design Center is a community-based effort that encourages relationships between the performing arts and the community. For more information, contact Uozumi at: uozumi@ix.netcom.com.

EUROPE: Buses for All

The Buses for All organization is trying to persuade the European Commission to develop a new law that would impact the design of buses in all member countries. Currently, there are different rules and standards for bus design in each country, making it difficult to sell buses and coaches from one European Union country to another.

Buses for All is a volunteer organization composed of activists from more than a dozen European countries. Looking to make all buses accessible, the group is not just focusing on low-floor buses, because these types of vehicles can be problematic in some of the more hilly areas in Europe. They are looking at accessible buses that use lifts, as well.

In hilly and rural areas, accessible buses with lifts often are used. In flatter and urban areas, low-floor buses have many advantages: people can get on and off quickly; and they can be used by passengers with children, shopping carts and heavy luggage, as well as people in wheelchairs.

Most of the commercial objections to low-floor buses currently are based on their higher cost.

According to Buses for All website, "Once rules are agreed, market forces and economies of scale will mean that some very affordable low-floor buses will start to become available within a few years, and already it is possible to see lower prices in the market. Disability organizations know very well that as long as access remains a 'special' feature, companies will charge extra for access."

For more information, visit the Buses for All website at: <http://www.disabilitynet.co.uk/groups/busesforall/index.html>. 



Lorraine Gradwell, of Buses for All, getting off a bus in Barcelona.

Portugal is now the fourth country in the world to officially promote web accessibility for people with disabilities.

"World Update" is written by Elaine Ostroff, founding director of Adaptive Environments Center. If you have information about international universal design efforts that you would like to see published in *Universal Design Newsletter*, send it to: 6 Grant Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912; or via e-mail at: UDandC@erols.com.

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1. Conveying information through symbolic sounds is itself problematic. Sound has very different properties than light. Because people don't always know what direction they are traveling, and because streets are not always oriented according to the primary compass directions, a bird-call signal for "north" may be very ambiguous, whereas a green light for a sighted driver is not.

Traffic signals only show one signal at a time, either a green light or a red one. Pedestrians looking across a street can see the "Walk" or the "Don't Walk" signs, but a blind pedestrian can hear both bird calls, and must decide for himself or herself without benefit of sight. Unfortunately, mistakes are made, as documented in recent surveys of blind pedestrians and by orientation and mobility specialists who teach blind people to travel independently.

2. The concept of beaconing people across the street means that the signals must be quite loud to be effective. This has frequently resulted in noise complaints from local residents, shop owners and blind people who have found it difficult to hear the sounds of increasingly quiet cars over the sound of bird-call signals.

3. People who are blind or visually impaired also occasionally cross streets when they mistake the sound of a real bird, such as a loud mockingbird, for the bird-call crossing signal.

Devices in Europe and Australia

In Europe and Australia, another approach is used. Rather than putting the sound source on the "Walk/Don't Walk" signs, they put sound in the pedestrian push buttons, and include a quietly ticking "locating tone" (that's similar to a grandfather clock) to inform blind or visually impaired pedestrians that there is a button that needs to be pushed, and to provide information about the location of the push button.

Research in the U.S. and Japan has indicated that knowing whether there is a push button and then finding the push button are problems often encountered by blind or visually impaired pedestrians.

To solve the "which crosswalk" problem, Australian and European signals are usually placed on poles separated by at least 10 feet. These signals typically use a faster ticking sound or tone during the walk interval. They use the same tone for crossing all crosswalks at an intersection. They are not intended to act as beacons for blind pedestrians; rather, the locating tone helps people to become oriented to the corner as they approach it.

Although widely used in Europe and Australia, these signals are relatively unknown to U.S. engineers. In Europe, there have been noise complaints, but recent technological advances now enable the devices to be very quiet when there is no traffic and louder when cars are present.

Devices of this type recently have become available in the United States. Some have additional features, such as:

- Speech output that tells the pedestrian the name of the street.

- A light and/or a tone indicating that a pedestrian call has been received by the controller.

- A vibrotactile arrow that shows people who are sighted, blind or deaf-blind which crosswalk is affected by that push button.

- A tactile map of the crosswalk.



The Talking Signs transmitter, mounted on top of the pedhead. The hand-held receiver, carried by the blind pedestrian, is in front. When the receiver is aimed at the transmitter and the button is pressed, the transmitter provides information about the status of the "Walk/Don't Walk" signal. The speech message comes from the receiver, which the blind person has in his or her hand.

There also are two systems on the market that use infrared or LED transmission of street crossing information to blind travelers who use hand-held personal receivers (see photo above).

Although they are superficially similar, the systems are markedly different in design. Using light, which travels in a straight line, has allowed these systems to be extremely effective because of their beaconing ability.

Looking at the Future

With loosely written regulations in the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" expected for the first time, the landscape (or soundscape) in APSs is about to change. Being behind the East and the West may actually prove to be a distinct advantage for the United States. Why? Because as mature technologies compete, one may win out or perhaps we will see a combination of the best of each.

For more information about the various types of APSs on the market, check out the free publication, "Accessible Pedestrian Signals," by B.L. Bentzen and L. Tabor (#A-37). It is available from the Access Board at 800.USA.ABLE (800.872.2253). 

Lukas Franck is a certified orientation and mobility specialist, and supervisor of community instruction for The Seeing Eye in Morristown, N.J. He also is chair of the Environmental Access Committee of the Orientation and Mobility Division of the Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

As mature APS technologies compete, one may win out or perhaps we will see a combination of the best of each.

The Challenges of Defining Universal Design

Access to society through the built environment, as a legal right, has been an important goal of disability rights legislation. Over the last 30 years, legislation in the United States has gradually increased the legal mandate to the point where almost every new structure in American communities, except single family homes, must conform to accessibility regulations.

While there still are lapses in interpretation and compliance, in general, access is now an institutionalized part of environmental design. Why, then, is there a need for “universal design?” Isn’t existing legislation sufficient to create a fully accessible and usable world for people with disabilities? In a nutshell, “No, it’s not.”

Over the last 10 years, the work of the IDEA Center, home of the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) on Universal Design at the State University of New York in Buffalo, has focused on the concept of universal design. Many other organizations and individuals are engaged in this exploration, as well.

What is Universal Design?

Judging from a decade of universal design practices and observation, there are many differences between accessible design and universal design. Four propositions capture the differences between the two concepts:

1. Universal design embraces a wide market of consumers. Universal design is design that does not discriminate. It improves function and participation in society for the broadest population possible, including persons with disabilities, older people, children, people of small stature and other groups whose needs have not traditionally been considered a part of the general public.

2. Universal design benefits people—with or without disabilities. Is an environment designed to accessibility codes considered “universal design?” Not necessarily. In the systematic comparison of two bathrooms—one that met the access codes and one that was less than accessible—it quickly becomes apparent that the first bathroom design benefits people with disabilities and walking aids. It does not benefit those who don’t have a disability. A bathroom that is truly universally designed should provide benefits to everyone.

3. Universal design is attractive and functional. Universal design engages the aesthetic and pragmatic. Accessible products/places, often evolved from assistive technology, have designs inspired by regula-

tions requiring only utilitarian access to buildings.

To be successful in a marketplace that serves a much larger group than just people with disabilities, products and places need to be attractive, as well as functional. Another benefit of aesthetically pleasing access is that any stigma associated with the standardized, clinical appearance of accessibility features will be eliminated.

4. Universal design is a creative challenge. For many designers, producers and developers, accessible design is seen as a burden, not as an intellectual opportunity or challenge. In fact, envisioning accessibility as a problem to be solved reinforces the negative image of disability and “otherness.” Thus, it is hard to educate design professionals to think creatively about issues of access and usability.

By re-conceptualizing the parameters of the design process, universal designers integrate accessibility as part of their imaginative thinking. This intellectual leap leads to a greater degree of social integration and changes attitudes more significantly than accessible design. It also leads to greater creativity. The following example illustrates this point.

In a conventional lift-equipped bus, the driver must operate the lift for an individual with a disability, but not for other passengers. The lift takes longer to use than stairs. The result is a delay whenever a person with a disability needs to board, and an even longer delay if equipment breaks down. Worse, the stress caused by these delays often is mistakenly directed toward the person with disabilities as the one who “caused” the delay.

To solve these problems, Nova Bus Corp. has developed a “stairless” bus. This bus is truly a universal design. A short ramp extends to the pavement to allow wheelchair boarding. Although there is only one step up when the ramp is not used, there are no steps for people to negotiate when the ramp is extended.

Since the bus “kneels” and has a low floor, the ramp is not too steep for someone using a wheelchair. This design also makes entering the bus easier for people who have disabilities not requiring a wheelchair, and improves the transit experience for seniors, those with groceries, people with luggage and children.

In fact, the ramp makes it easier for everyone to board the bus. The ramp mechanism is easier to use than the lift. There are fewer pieces of equipment that

To be successful in a marketplace that serves a much larger group than just people with disabilities, products and places need to be attractive, as well as functional.



The universal ramp design of the “stairless” bus, by Nova Bus Corp., makes boarding easier for everyone.

News from the Center

In January 2000, Edward Steinfeld, director of the RERC on Universal Design at Buffalo, spoke about information technology and universal design at the "New Paradigm Conference" in Washington, D.C.

At the conference, Steinfeld described how information technology is changing the way information is used in design. He identified methods that can be used to integrate knowledge into the new digitally based design process to reduce the gap between research and the practice of universal design.

Sponsored by the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), the conference brought together experts in disability studies and rehabilitation to review the latest theories of disablement. For more information, contact William Peterson of NIDRR at 202.205.9192 or via e-mail at: william_peterson@ed.gov.

In April, Steinfeld gave a presentation on visitability at a fair housing conference in Rochester, N.Y., sponsored by Rochester Institute of Technology's Political Science Department.

In early May, Steinfeld was again in Rochester, making a presentation on "Housing for Aging Baby Boomers" as part of a one-day conference organized by the New York State Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons. Conference speakers

discussed the changing demographics of the local populace, as well as the changes in basic housing and the housing modifications they seek.

Anthropometrics Update

Preparing for the start of the prototype Anthropometric Database project, G. Scott Danford, Ph.D., director of the RERC's Buildings in Use project, has been analyzing data from several bathroom designs to identify problematic functional performance issues. Among other things, he is exploring four factors related to users' abilities to perform activities of daily living:

1. Functional independence.
2. Level of ease or difficulty in performance.
3. Level of expended effort in performance.
4. Caregiver's level of assistance provided in performance.

The prototype Anthropometric Database project will compile functional data from 500 wheelchair users in the Western New York region. The results of this study will then be used to develop research and design tools. For more information about the study, please contact Scott at 716.829.3485, ext. 329 or via e-mail at: www.ap.buffalo.edu/~rercud.

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**The RERC's
prototype
Anthropometric
Database project
will compile
functional data
from 500
wheelchair users.**

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Interior view of the Nova Bus Corp.'s universally designed "stairless" bus.

Photo: Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority.

can malfunction and it greatly reduces delays and stress, even for the bus driver. Finally, access to the stairless bus helps eliminate the feelings of dependency that people with disabilities have because they need to have the driver do something special to get on the bus. Clearly, this bus is an example of how universal design can accomplish more than simply improving function.

Accessible Design: A Different Attitude

Accessible design seeks to create specialized products that adapt an existing product or environment to a finite group of users.

Universal design approaches the problem of social segregation from the opposite perspective—by mass-producing products, environments and systems that reduce and seek to eliminate the need for specialized assistive products or accommodations for people with disabilities. Adopting an inclusive attitude toward the access that it creates and the people that it serves, universal design provides the maximum amount of independent usability to the most diverse population possible.

Hardly just for people with disabilities, universal design serves, and is an asset to, the entire community. It is, therefore, only first cousin to accessible design, not a new buzzword for the same thing.

Accessible design is part of universal design, but is not its equivalent. Returning to the example mentioned previously, the conventional bus with a lift reinforces the differences between those with and without disabilities, and yet only improves service for people with some disabilities. To be successful, universal design must:

1. Improve function as a physical manifestation of and means to social participation.
2. Reduce the stigma caused by forms associated with disability.
3. Change the attitudes of the population toward function. This helps guarantee that universal design—whether in something as simple as a bus or as complex as an urban plan—is self-perpetuating.
4. Practice universal designing. That is, do not think about universal design as an end state, but rather as an ideal to be sought. Although technology, economics, organizational and attitudinal constraints may prevent the fullest realization of universal design, progress in the first step lays a foundation for further progress over time.



Concrete Change: An Advocate for Visitability

Passing by a Habitat for Humanity housing development in 1986, Eleanor Smith wondered whether the houses being built there were being made accessible, as well.

She had no idea at the time that she—and the yet-to-be-formed organization Concrete Change—would become the driving force behind major legislative changes with regard to accessible housing in both Georgia and Texas. The only thing she did realize was that of the houses being constructed, few were being built to be accessible.

Later that same day, Smith learned that a few of the Habitat houses were going to be specially designed for residents with disabilities. Smith forged a relationship with local community disability advocates, as well as ADAPT, with which she already was working. The groups approached Habitat for Humanity and several other not-for-profits involved in building low-income homes and suggested the development of standard accessibility features in every home produced.

Originally, none of the groups responded well to the idea, but through Smith's persistence and the Habitat board's willingness to listen, the first "visit-able" Habitat home in Atlanta was built in 1990.

Asked about the difference between a universally designed or fully accessible home and a visitable one, Smith takes a pragmatic perspective. "What I'm after here is radically changing the way houses are built...and if you're going to do that, you can't have a long list of demands." In fact, the group's list of demands is extremely short, as Concrete Change's first credo stated: *"Basic Wheelchair Access to Every New Home! 32 In. Doors Including Bathrooms, 1 Zero Step Entrance: Because You Gotta Visit Friends and Lovers!"*

Visitability became a priority for Concrete Change mainly because housing is usually built in multiple-unit developments, where the design of each unit differs little from the other units. By changing the basic design, Concrete Change could have a major impact on the basic access that would be available to Atlanta residents with disabilities.

And while the departure from advocating full access to advocating visitability may not be enough for some people, Smith notes:

"What I'm passionate about is getting those basic changes made as quickly as possible, and in doing that, I'm looking at the reality of what housing is going up, not what theoretically should be."

Although it is still primarily a grassroots effort, Concrete Change has been responsible for legislation mandating that new housing that is even partially funded by the municipal or state government be constructed adhering to visitable standards. In fact, Atlanta's local ordinance inspired a statewide law in Georgia, which was then later copied by the Texas legislature.

The RERC on Universal Design at Buffalo kicked off its own Visitability Initiative on June 17 at the international *"Designing for the 21st Century II Conference,"* which was held in Providence, R.I. As part of the initiative, the RERC at Buffalo is working with Habitat for Humanity and Concrete Change to construct visitable housing—in Chicago, Topeka, Austin, Philadelphia and Buffalo—five cities that already have established successful track records with visitability programs.

In addition to constructing visitable housing, the programs in the five cities will be evaluated. Successful and unsuccessful strategies will be identified and reviewed, and the Concrete Change website will be used to gather and disseminate information. Also, a training course—designed to take the visitability novice and turn him or her into an expert—will be developed for distribution to other cities in need of creating or refining their own visitability programs.

"It's important that I not take too much of the credit," said Smith. "There are a lot of grassroots efforts that have done really well, and we're looking to build a bridge between those grassroots efforts and the limited number of professionals we've found who are excited about the concept of visitability, and about the prospect of seeing it move very quickly from being an idea to being applied visitability—bricks and mortar."

While the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) does not specifically give grants to develop visitable housing, the construction of a house according to visitable standards has been noted by HUD to be a positive factor in the awarding of grants.

For more information, contact Steve Truesdale at the RERC at 716.829.3485, ext. 335, or Smith at: concrete_change@mindspring.com. Also be sure to visit the Concrete Change website at: www.concretechange.home.mindspring.com. 

The RERC kicked off its Visitability Initiative in June at the "Designing for the 21st Century II Conference" in Providence.



The accessible entrance of a visitable house.

Promoting Visitability

Danise Levine, M.Arch., director of the Publications and Videos project and Technical Assistance program at the RERC on Universal Design in Buffalo, has helped to coordinate the design of four visitable houses, which will be built in Buffalo this summer. Ceremonial groundbreaking for the first of these homes occurred on May 6.

Among other things, the houses will feature basic "visitable" components, such as 32-inch doors (including bathrooms) and a zero-step entrance. One unit will have doors widened beyond 32 inches and a fully accessible bathroom; several others will have modified access—not via ramps, but by re-grading the surrounding lots to allow unimpeded ground-level access.

The RERC also plans to help the Flower City Habitat for Humanity organization, located in Rochester, implement visitability as part of its building program. Six visitable houses will be built there this fall.

Unlimited By Design

Over the next few months, RERC Assistant Director Steve Truesdale will finalize a travel schedule for the "Unlimited By Design" exhibit. While no solid schedule yet exists, the exhibit already has been invited to be shown at a prominent Midwest university.

Meanwhile, in preparation of this, the RERC's Conferences and Exhibits team is developing the format for the touring version of "Unlimited By Design."

Originally, the exhibit took the form of a house tour, showcasing universally designed products through five areas: kitchen, bath, home office, play space and garden.

First displayed at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum in 1999, the exhibit will undergo a minor metamorphosis, with new products and displays added to the exhibit.

In addition to bringing the renovated "Unlimited By Design" exhibit to various communities and organizing related events around its stay, one of the long-term goals of the project is to assist communities in developing their own universal design demonstration centers.

If you are interested in exploring these possibilities, please contact Steve Truesdale at 716.829.3485, ext. 335.

Prototype Evaluation and Testing

The Prototype Evaluation and Testing project is underway, with its first evaluation of a prototype universal design developed by the IDEA Center.

The RERC on Tech Transfer evaluated an adjustable toilet seat design developed by Abir Mullick during the Universal Bathroom Project—a three-year Field Initiated Study project sponsored by NIDRR.

The prototype was favorably reviewed by a consumer focus group. A commercialization report was prepared to help introduce the product to the marketplace. One company has been contacted and has expressed great interest in licensing the product design.

For more information about the program or to have your product evaluated, please contact Steve Truesdale at 716.829.3485, ext. 335.

RERC Website Update

Be sure to check out the updated RERC website at: www.ap.buffalo.edu/~rercud. Once there, you will see that the RERC also is developing a one-stop shopping site, "The World of Universal Design," where users can find links to all the centers on universal design research, advocacy and education.

Starting with five centers in North America, we will add centers until we have covered the world. Please visit the site through the RERC website for now. Soon it will have its own direct URL. You can contact Steve Truesdale to find out more about how your center can be included. Please note that currently, this site will not include business firms or individual consultants; however, we are considering adding such sites over time.

For more information, please contact us at 716.829.3485, ext. 335 or 329; or via e-mail at: www.ap.buffalo.edu/~rercud.

Contacting the RERC at Buffalo

If you have any comments or questions about the RERC on Universal Design at Buffalo, please call the RERC's Universal Design Hotline at 800.628.2281 or contact us via e-mail through our website at: www.ap.buffalo.edu/~rercud. To speak to specific project staff, contact RERC Assistant Director Steven Truesdale at 716.829.3485, ext. 335. 

Funding for this continuing insert is provided by the RERC on Universal Design at Buffalo. The RERC is funded by the U.S. Department of Education's (DOE) NIDRR. The contents of the insert, however, do not necessarily represent DOE policy. Readers should not assume any endorsement by the federal government.

Be sure to check
out the updated

RERC website at:

www.ap.buffalo.edu/

[~rercud](http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/~rercud).



Photo: Bruce Hannah, Hannah Designs

A view of the "Unlimited By Design" exhibit's universal kitchen. Designed by a team of students and graduates of the Rhode Island School of Design.



Website Spotlight: Universal Home Plans

The United Design Associates, Inc. (UDA) website—www.uniteddesign.com/accessible_plans.html—provides numerous single-family and duplex home plans with modifications to accommodate people with disabilities.

Visitors to the site can preview the UDA Plan Index to find one- and two-story homes in a wide range of sizes and room configurations that are specifically designed for easy accessibility. Pricing is included, as well as photo journals of the homes and UDA's Home Planning Guide.

In addition, UDA offers a free e-newsletter with articles and plan updates, and construction office software to aid builders and contractors with estimating, planning, project management and more.

Residential Remodeling for Accessibility

"Residential Remodeling and Universal Design: Making Homes More Comfortable and Accessible," a new resource from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), provides technical guidance on selecting and installing universal features during home remodeling/renovation.

With an emphasis on eliminating unintentional barriers—including narrow doorways, out-of-reach fixtures and entryway steps, as well as inadequate lighting and handrails—the guide uses detailed descriptions and helpful illustrations to increase the accessibility, flexibility and marketability of homes.

Organized into design areas, the guidebook offers remedies for common accessibility barriers and information on alternate solutions and installation. In addition, detailed appendices provide helpful references on accessibility standards and other resources.

The cost of the guidebook is \$5. To order, contact HUD 800.245.2691 or 800.483.2209 (tdd) and refer to publication number ACCN-HUD-7197.

Guides Cover Religion and Disabilities

The National Organization on Disability's (NOD) Religion and Disability Program was formed to help local congregations, national denominational groups and seminaries remove obstacles to worship for people with disabilities. As part of that program, NOD has published interfaith architectural guidelines to help break down barriers.

"That All May Worship" is a 56-page, how-to guide for welcoming people with disabilities. This award-winning publication uses photos, inspirational language and a common-sense approach to examine the attitudes, barriers and special needs surrounding people with disabilities. It also offers insightful suggestions for initiating hospitality programs and incorporating universal design to create accessible sanctuaries.

"Loving Justice" is a 32-page question-and-answer guide that clarifies the relationship between the Americans with Disabilities Act, other relevant disability laws and the religious community. Supported by denominational leaders and reviewed by lawyers,

the guide covers both the legal and moral mandates of disability laws in a clear, concise, easy-to-understand format.

Single copies of each guidebook are \$10, including shipping and handling. Volume discounts apply for 10 or more copies. To order, contact NOD at 202.293.5960 or 202.293.5968 (tdd).

ADA Design Assistant Software

Together with SK Software, Evan Terry Associates has created ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] Design Assistant—a software program that brings accessibility compliance to AutoCAD and IntelliCAD computerized drafting software systems.

The program uses standard Windows menus, toolbars and entry screens to help assure ADA compliance throughout the CADD (computer-assisted design development) process. The software reportedly allows designers to save time and eliminates costly on-site rework.

To order, contact Evan Terry Associates at: 205.972.9101 or 205.972.9112 (tty) or visit its website at: www.evanterry.com.

Multimedia Captioning Software

The National Center for Accessible Media (NCAM) has developed an authoring tool for web and CD-ROM designers to make their materials accessible to people with disabilities.

The Media Access Generator (MAGpie) helps multimedia specialists, publishing companies and service providers add captions and subtitles to make web pages and CD-ROMs more accessible to people with disabilities.

The captions and subtitles can be added in three formats: Apple's QuickTime, the web's Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language (SMIL) and Microsoft's Synchronized Accessible Media Interchange (SAMI).

Check out NCAM's website at www.wbgh.org/wbgh/pages/ncam/webaccess/index.html for a free download of the MAGpie software.

Home modification website by United Design Associates offers helpful technical assistance for people with disabilities.

Universal Design Exemplars Now Available on CD-ROM

Visual documentation of universal design is critically important. It's important not only for its timeliness, but to educate intended audiences, such as designers and consumers, of the spaces, buildings, information and products that we will be using as we begin the 21st century.

To that end, the Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University—with support from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the NEC Foundation of America and the Trace Research and Development Center—has developed a CD-ROM collection of "*Universal Design Exemplars*."

This is the second such NEA project. The first, NEA's Search for Excellence in Universal Design, yielded a CD-ROM/slide show, "*Images of Universal Design*." Many of these projects have been featured over the years in *Universal Design Newsletter*.

How Did It Come About?

A call for exemplary universal design projects was announced in the winter of 1998. Eighty-five entries from across the design disciplines were received from around the world. Projects submitted included the following:

- ◆ Homes and interiors.
- ◆ Public facilities, such as an artist's colony, playgrounds and gardens.
- ◆ Consumer products, including cookware, lamps and chairs.
- ◆ Information systems, such as a zoo map and museum displays.

A panel of nine expert jurors reviewed all of the entries and helped to recommend the final 32 projects selected for the CD-ROM.

The "*Universal Design Exemplars*" CD-ROM offers some innovative approaches to universal information design, including a web-accessible format. Its customizable, interactive nature enables the user to explore the selected projects in-depth through accompanying images and text, and to cross-reference projects by design discipline and the project's relationship to one or more of the "*Principles of Universal Design*." The CD-ROM can be used independently at the desktop or in a classroom setting for group presentations.

Following are a few of the projects featured on the CD-ROM.

Allegro Cookware by Mirro

One of the exemplary universally designed products on the CD-ROM is the Allegro Cookware by Mirro (Metaphase Design Group).

The cookware is a radical departure from traditional cooking utensils. The square shape, unique lids and lightweight materials offer many ergonomic

advantages.

All of the pots, pans and skillets are circular on the bot-

tom, gradually becoming square toward the top. Thus, the cookware makes the most efficient use of standard round heat sources, while at the same time offering greater cubic volume than a circular pan of the same height.

Two of the corners create natural pouring spouts—a design consideration that responds to complaints common of more traditional round cookware. Handles located on the alternate two corners of the pot align and interlock with the lid handles, providing safe and balanced handling.



Allegro Cookware by Mirro.

Diabetes Assistance Device

Another product that's featured on the new CD-ROM is the Bayer Microlet finger-lancing device.

This device can be used by people with diabetes to assist in the finger-pricking step of monitoring their blood glucose level. This small, portable, needle-delivery system was specifically developed for a population who sometimes experiences vision impairment and tactile desensitivity.

The finger-lancing device was designed to fit into the palm of one hand. It accommodates right- and left-handed users. Though the device is small, visual/tactile cues guide users to the correct position for needle delivery.



The new Bayer Microlet finger-lancing device.

How to Obtain the CD-ROM

"*Universal Design Exemplars*" can be purchased for \$35, plus shipping/handling. To order, contact the Center for Universal Design at 800.647.6777 or visit its website at: www.design.ncsu.edu/cud. To order "*Images of Universal Design*," call 301.270.2470 or visit: www.UniversalDesign.com. 

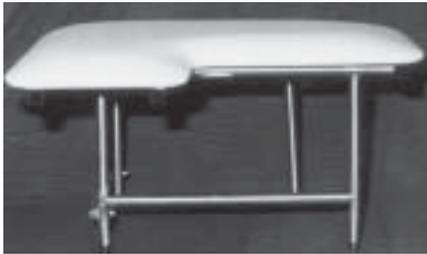
Center Seeks New Director

The Center for Universal Design at North Carolina State University (NCSSU) is initiating a search for a director of the center. The individual will lead the center's academic and research programs. Call Marvin J. Malecha, FAIA dean of the School of Design at NCSU at 919.515.8310 or via e-mail at: marvin_malecha@ncsu.edu.

The "Universal Design Exemplars" CD-ROM offers some innovative approaches to universal information design.

PRODUCTS

Accessible Transfer Benches



Access-Able Designs, Inc. has created a line of transfer benches that are simple to use, main-

tain and fold away when not in use. Each includes a stainless-steel frame that supports more than 400 pounds.

The transfer bench allows for a safe and easy transfer to ADA-height toilets, while the raised toilet bench mounts to any standard toilet for convenient wheelchair height transfers. Both mount underneath the toilet lid and fold up when not in use.

The rectangular and L-shaped folding tub bench mounts to the rear wall of built-in bathtubs, adding four inches to the overall height of standard tubs and making wheelchair transfers easier. The shower transfer bench mounts to any roll-in shower area without the need for wall reinforcement.

Universal Chairs and Tables

LifeSpan Furnishings has developed a new line of affordable furniture to benefit people of all ages and abilities. With input from physical therapists, gerontologists, people with disabilities, children and seniors, the firm's designers created strong, sturdy, light, comfortable chairs with extended arms, wider legs and non-skid feet, as well as versatile, accessible hardwood tables.



Each chair features reinforced aluminum extrusion framing, comfortable lumbar support and two-inch-wide, oval-shaped arms that displace body weight over a broad surface area and offer maximum comfort and grip.

The rolling, wheelchair-accessible Solo Table has recessed storage, a tiltable writing surface, adjustable frame and an optional side pouch. All furniture is available in a range of fabrics, metal colors and wood finishes.

Inclined and Vertical Lifts



Garaventa is offering two new products: the Xpress II inclined, folding platform lift and the Genesis vertical platform lift.

The Xpress II, designed for straight stairways, features call stations and large platform controls.

Suitable for both indoor and outdoor applications, it can be installed with little or no structural modifications. The Genesis lift is available as a self-contained, fully enclosed unit or as a shaftway model that can be installed in a pre-constructed shaft. 

Access-Able Designs, Inc.
(transfer benches)
2851 Elderwood Rd.
Salem, VA 24153
Phone: 540.389.7530
xsable@ix.netcom.com

LifeSpan Furnishings, LLC
(chairs/tables)
5901 Christie Ave.
Suite 101
Emeryville, CA 94608
Phone: 510.601.6275
or 800.741.9912
www.lifespanfurnishings.com

Bedco Mobility, Inc.
(inclined/vertical lifts)
6300 Falls Road
Baltimore, MD 21209
Phone: 410.825.1440
or 800.825.1440
www.garaventa.ca

New Media, from page 11

Software Assesses Functional Ability

Ease 3.0 for Windows by Lifease assists occupational therapists in the assessment of clients with functional limitations. This user-friendly software assesses the person, evaluates the safety of his or her home, and makes recommendations for products and techniques to improve the quality of their lives.

The software enables users to identify the special needs of the client; score his or her physical, sensory and cognitive abilities; generate a home environment checklist; and search a database of more than 4,000 adaptive solutions. To order, call Lifease at 800.961.3273 or visit its website at <http://www.lifease.com>. 

Talking ATMs, from page 2

As reported in the April 2000 issue of *Universal Design Newsletter* (see article that appears on page 4), talking ATMs provide audible instructions to persons who cannot view information on an ATM screen.

These machines make it easier for blind and low-vision users to withdraw cash, deposit money and perform other transactions. The ATMs have audio jacks that deliver spoken instructions privately to protect the security of blind and low-vision users.

For more information, contact Lainey Feingold, with the California Council of the Blind, at 510.848.8125, or via e-mail at: Lfeingold@california.net. 

FedWatch, *from page 3*

In spite of these accomplishments, however, universal design must overcome public and professional misperceptions about its true intent. Many don't realize, for example, that universal design extends to every aspect of society and that it seeks to imbue all design with values of full inclusion, regardless of a person's age or abilities.

The group agreed that strategies need to be developed to broaden the appeal of universal design—to take it out of the disability community into the broad mainstream of society.

To help, NEA is promoting its Endowment's Leadership Initiatives, a potential source of funding for universal design projects, and its Presidential Design Awards program, which recognizes good design in buildings and products using federal funds. For more information, contact Paula Terry at NEA at 202.682.5530.

Recreation Facility Guidelines

By late July, the U.S. Access Board plans to publish a summary of draft final guidelines for recreation facilities that will be available for public review and comment. Eventually, these guidelines will supplement the Board's ADA Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) by adding a new section covering amusement rides, boating facilities, fishing piers and platforms, golf courses, miniature golf, sports facilities, swimming pools and spas.

The guidelines will include both scoping requirements, which specify what has to be accessible, and technical requirements, which spell out how access is to be achieved.

Due to key issues raised in this rulemaking, the Board is taking this extra step, i.e., making a summary of the final version publicly available. The summary will be posted on the Board's website at: www.access-board.gov.

In addition, the Board will hold public meetings on the summary in Washington, D.C. (tentatively on Aug. 21 and 22) and in San Francisco (tentatively on Sept. 6 and 7). Further details on the meetings' time/location will be posted on the Board's website.

The guidelines, first published in proposed form last July, were available for comment until Dec. 8, 1999. More than 300 comments were received. Since then, a Board committee has reviewed the comments and recommended some changes. The full Board is scheduled to vote on the final guidelines early next year.

Fair Housing Act Violations

Residential developers in Oak Creek, Wis. and North Aurora, Ill. are being sued by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for allegedly failing to provide accessible housing for people with disabilities, in violation of the Fair Housing Act.

The Oak Creek suit, filed in the U.S. District Court in Milwaukee, alleges that the developer/owner and architect of the Springbrook Cercle Apartments violated the Fair Housing Act by failing to include certain features that would make the common areas and the individual apartments accessible.

For example, portions of Springbrook Cercle's clubhouse are claimed to be inaccessible to persons with disabilities. Apartments purportedly have steps at the front doors and some doors that are too narrow for passage of a wheelchair. Electrical outlets are claimed to be too low and light switches too high to be reached by a person using a wheelchair. Kitchens and bathrooms purportedly are too small for a person in a wheelchair.

The North Aurora lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court in Chicago, alleges that the developer of a 286-unit residential complex, the Summer Wind Condominiums, violated the Fair Housing Act.

Specifically, ramps are claimed to have excessive slopes in the public areas, as well as steps leading to some of the condo units. Also, some doors are purportedly too narrow for the passage of wheelchairs, and the kitchens and bathrooms are claimed not to be readily usable by persons who use wheelchairs.

During the investigation, DOJ sent out disabled and non-disabled people to pose as potential buyers or renters to inspect properties and see if they met the federal accessibility requirements.

The tests were performed in partnership with the John Marshall Law School Fair Housing Clinic and Access Living—a Chicago-based disability rights organization.

Detectable Warnings Report

In May, the U.S. Access Board completed a study on detectable warnings that surveyed the state-of-the-art in the United States and abroad, and summarized the installation and effectiveness of various detectable warning designs.

These warnings provide tactile cues at intersections, drop-offs and other places of potential hazard to people with vision impairments. The study was conducted by Accessible Design for the Blind.

The results are provided in a 150-page report, *"Detectable Warnings: Synthesis of U.S. and International Practice."*

The report includes information on the need for warning surfaces in public rights-of-ways, a review of research, guidelines and standards on detectable warnings, the use of detectable warnings in the United States and abroad (with illustrative case studies), a listing of product manufacturers and recommendations.

Copies of the report are available from the Board by calling 202.272.5434 (voice) or 202.272.5449 (tty) and requesting publication A-39. 

By late July, the U.S. Access Board plans to publish a summary of draft final guidelines for recreation facilities.



Printed on recycled paper with vegetable inks.

Events to be placed in the UDN Calendar must be submitted to the editor two months before the publication date.

Universal Design Newsletter
6 Grant Avenue
Takoma Park, MD
20912

July 12-15, 2000: The Association on Higher Education And Disability's (AHEAD) 23rd Annual Conference, "Y2KC: *Universal Designs in Higher Education*," Kansas City, Kan. Conference will focus on universal design principles within the information, employment, instructional and physical environments. Contact Program Chair Gladys Loewen at 604.269.2200 or via e-mail at: gloewen@aspbc.org.

July 27, 2000: "The Access Board and the ADA: *The Next 10 Years*," Renaissance Hotel, Washington, D.C. Forum will allow the public to weigh in directly on the Access Board's agenda to further fulfill its ADA mission over the next decade. Call Dave Yanchulis at 202.272.5434, ext. 127 (voice) or 202.272.5449 (tty); or via e-mail: news@access-board.gov.

Aug. 24, 2000: "International Commission on Technology and Accessibility (ITCA) Latin America," Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Held in conjunction with the 19th Rehabilitation International World Congress (see item below). Contact Michael Fox, director of Access Australia, at: 61.02.9960.4222; or via e-mail at: access@ozemail.com.au.

Aug. 25-29, 2000: "19th Rehabilitation International World Congress," Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Contact the Congress Secretariat at 55.21.286.5924; e-mail: cm@cxpostal.com.br; website: www.ri.org.br.

Sept. 19, 2000: "Accessibility & Technology: Section 508 & Telecommunications." Offered from 1-2 p.m. (CST) via telephone conference call and/or real-time captioned on the Internet. Sponsored by the National Center for the Dissemination of Disability Research. Program will introduce the

new federal requirements for electronic equipment covered by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and clarify pre-existing requirements for telecommunications. Call 312.413.1407 or via e-mail at: gldbtac@uic.edu.

Oct. 1, 2000: Application deadline for the International Furnishings and Design Association's (IFDA) Universal Design Grant. The grant is awarded to an individual involved with universal design in either product development, design, education or marketing. Contact IFDA's Educational Foundation at 1200 19th Street N.W., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20036-2422.

Early October 2000: "Designing for Usability, Flexibility & Compliance." Offered by the Trace Center. Contact Jerilyn Johnson at 608.262.6966 or via email: johnsonj@trace.wisc.edu.

Oct. 6-7, 2000: The Western Conference on Universal Design 2000: Perspectives and Solutions in Universal Design, San Diego. Offered by Access San Diego. Please call 619.814.1274 or e-mail: sdudc@accessandiego.org.

Nov. 8-13, 2000: "World Conference on Universal Design for the New Millennium," Seoul, Korea. See: <http://www.millenniumED.org/>.

Dec. 4-8, 2000: "Historic Sites and Interpretation," Maison Dupuy Hotel, New Orleans. Contact Jennifer Blankenship at 765.349.9240; e-mail: nca@indiana.edu.

June 1-5, 2001: "Inclusion by Design: Planning the Barrier-Free World," Montréal, Québec, Canada. This event is sponsored by the Canadian Council on Rehabilitation and Work. For more information, see: www.ccrw.org.

Address Correction Requested

