Slide 1: How to Make Your LibGuides More Accessible to Learners with Disabilities
In this presentation, you will be given techniques for making your LibGuides more accessible to learners with disabilities.

Slide 2: Goals of the Lesson
The goal for this lesson is for you to be able to analyze your current LibGuides to determine how to make them more accessible to learners with disabilities and be able to create LibGuides which are ADA accessible.

Slide 3: Laws and Regulations
There are two laws which pertain to making websites accessible to people who have disabilities. The first is the Americans with Disabilities Act. This act prohibits discrimination against people who have disabilities, and requires that people with disabilities be given access to public services and places with reasonable accommodations. The second act, The Rehabilitation act further clarifies ADA regulations as applying to electronic information such as websites. Those organizations and companies which receive federal funds must comply with the act, including universities.

Slide 4: Assistive Technology
Reasonable accommodation includes allowing people to access the information and websites with assistive devices or using different ways to convey information on the site. The assistive devices for the visually impaired include a screen reader which reads the content of the webpage to the user with synthetic speech. It reads from left to right and top to bottom. It also reads text tags for pictures. It is important to have website content well organized. It is also important to make sure that the website can be navigated with a keyboard because people who are blind or have low vision tend not to use a mouse, although they may do so in some cases. A Braille Display provides information on the screen in the form of raised dots. Magnification software is used by people who have low vision. The assistive devices for the deaf and hard of hearing include captioning for videos and transcripts for audio recordings.

Slide 5: Assistive Technology Continued
The assistive devices for people who have mobility impairments include specialized mouse and keyboards for those who have limited mobility, pointing devices for those who cannot use their hands, and making the website navigable by keyboard. Lastly, the assistive devices for cognitive impairment have already been mentioned, but they are used differently by people with cognitive impairments. Magnification software is used to make the content into manageable blocks of information. Viewing less information at a time is easier for cognitive processing. A screen reader reads the content of the page to the user while they are reading, which reinforces learning, especially for auditory learners.
Slide 6: Universal Design Benefits
A design technique that is accommodating to people with disabilities is known as universal design. However, universal design does not just benefit those with disabilities. It allows people to have access regardless of device and also accommodates different learning styles.

Slide 7: Universal Design Principle 1
Principle 1 is equitable use, meaning that it is useful and marketable to everyone. For instance, you can navigate the site with a keyboard, use a screen reader or magnification software to read the contents, and the site provides captions for video and transcripts for audio.

Slide 8: Universal Design Principle 2
Principle 2 is flexibility in use, which means that it allows for individual preferences and abilities. Therefore, you should be able to access the site using a cell phone or tablet. The content should be on the page and not require the user to click a certain button, the website allows the user to view the content at their own pace, and it is important that you do not crowd too much information in one space.

Slide 9: Universal Design Principle 3
Principle 3 is simple and intuitive, which means the design is easy to understand by everyone. The design of the site needs to be consistent, the instructions need to be clearly provided, and for instructional sites, the user needs to be provided with feedback.

Slide 10: Universal Design Principle 4
Principle 4 is perceptible information, which means that information is communicated effectively. Therefore, designers should use multiple ways of conveying information on the site, such as captions for video, audio for text content, and labeling pictures with text tags. Designers should use a simple and large enough font, contrast, and proximity on the page. In addition, there should not be any blinking content because it can induce seizures in some individuals, and the content should be organized in hierarchies. In addition, the URLs to links should be provided.

Slide 11: Universal Design Principle 5
Principle 5 is tolerance for error. This means giving a warning to the user when they make a mistake in filling out a form or having the website make the correction to the form for the user. In addition, privacy should be maintained for the individual by displaying dots instead of sensitive information such as identification numbers or passwords.

Slide 12: Universal Design Principle 6
Principle 6 is low physical effort, which means the design can be used efficiently and comfortably. Examples of low physical effort for the user in the design of websites include using standardized keystrokes such as “Control P” for pausing a video and also organizing the controls on a website in a logical manner.

Slide 13: Universal Design Principle 7
The final principle, principle is the size and space for approach and use. This means that appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, and manipulation. In terms of
websites this means not placing previous and next buttons immediately next to one another on a page, making the content area large enough to read, and not using complicated menus such as those that disappear if you do not have the mouse directly over them.

Slide 14: Review
Thank you for viewing this tutorial. From this lesson I hope that you are able to understand which assistive devices are available, the ADA regulations that apply to websites, the principles of universal design, and the benefits of teaching others about universal design. Thank you.