

Global Universal Design Educator's Online News

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EDITOR'S NOTE

We extend our continued thanks to the IDEA Center of the University at Buffalo for their underwriting of the Global Universal Design Educator's Online Newsletter. This issue begins our

collaboration with the Universal Design Magazine in Japan. Excerpts of the Online News will be translated and included in their quarterly publication as part of the "Universal Design Consortium's Network", at <http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/idea/e-Newsletter/index.htm>

More and more publications continue to be created on the topics of accessibility and universal design and include: Build for All – Public Procurement for an Accessible Europe, Guides for People with Disabilities (Japan), Housing Board Launches Universal Design Guide (Singapore) and The Principles of Inclusive Design, They Include You (UK).

Additionally, there is great diversity now in how Universal Design and Accessibility concepts are communicated – Disability Nation (audio programs on the web), Universal Design “Blogs” and the Winter Issue of DisabilityWorld Now (an online news magazine).

Three good examples of excellent government technical assistance and guidance about accessible design are discussed – the EU Building Accessible Services “Orange Book,” the Ontario Government Supports Inclusion and the US Justice for All: Designing Accessible Courthouses. These provide a baseline for universal design.

Another key piece of baseline accessible design guidance is provided in “Entryways: Creating Attractive, Low-Cost Zero-Step Entrances”

The areas where we find the Principles of Universal Design incorporated continue to grow and include fitness, Fit for Inclusion (UK), Universally-Designed Retail Workstations (US) and myriad examples are available via information about the 2006 World Usability Day.

And, we continue to find those who examine the connection between Aging and Universal Design, such as found in the 2005 White House Conference on Aging Report and the ASID appointment of a Council to Examine Design Issues for an Aging America.

We also share the exciting news that the University of Salford has designated a “Professor of Inclusive Design.” This both reflects on the contributions made by Marcus Ormerod and the understanding of how critical Universal Design is.

As always, please do check out the Calendar for upcoming events.

Information from the Online News may be freely copied and quoted as long as the individual author, and/or web site and this source is cited. Previous issues of the Online News are available online at the Global Universal Design Education Network website at: <http://www.universaldesign.net>.

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NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL NETWORK

CANADA

Ontario Government Supports Inclusion

The Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services is providing support to businesses and education to remove the barriers that prevent the participation of people with disabilities in community life. A recent awards program honored the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre as a leader in providing accessibility in services and employment. In partnership with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and Visa Canada, the Ministry award recognized the hotel by noting, “Providing accessibility isn’t only the right thing to do, it’s the smart thing to do...more customers, a larger pool of potential employees and long-term growth for Ontario businesses.

The Ministry also provided significant funding for programs for people with developmental disabilities and also to colleges and universities to support students with disabilities.

For the full press release, see:

<http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/mcss/english/news/releases/061115.htm>

To read more about accessibility in Ontario, see:

<http://www.mcsc.gov.on.ca/mcss/english/pillars/accessibilityOntario/>

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EUROPE

Building Accessible Services “Orange Book”

The Building Accessible Services (BAS) “Orange Book” documents examples of good accessibility practice in diverse buildings throughout the European Union. The book is one of the products of the two-year BAS project that addressed the European mainstreaming policy concerning built environment and public services. It highlights the social and economic value of accessibility giving special importance to accessible workplaces. BAS was supported by the Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs of the European Commission.

All documents from the two-year BAS project are available in English at www.accessible-buildings.eu.

Build for All, Public Procurement for an Accessible Europe

The presentation to the European Parliament about the European program on Public Procurement and Accessibility to the Built Environment was held on November 15th, 2006. It introduced the **BUILD FOR ALL REFERENCE MANUAL**. Build for All is a European Union (EU) supported work team; its goal has been to develop a manual to facilitate the application of Design for All in governments and city hall's public procurement procedures. President José Manuel Barroso, said in his welcoming speech, "Accessibility used traditionally to be regarded as an "add-on" feature catering to specific needs of a limited group of people - wheelchair users, visually or hearing impaired persons."

Specifically, Build for All's mission is to develop the European Commission policies to promote accessibility criteria in services and public works, according to the EU, 2004/17/EC and 2004/18/EC directives.

To learn more about Build for All, read and hear speeches, and access the "Build for All Reference Manual," see the multi-lingual website: <http://www.build-for-all.net/>

To learn more about the introductory seminar held in Barcelona, see: <http://www.designforall.org/en/novetats/noticia.php?id=337>

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JAPAN

Guides for People with Disabilities

There has been a multi-year project to document the accessibility of Tokyo, Kyoto, and Kamakura, Japan. An English-language version of these documents is available. These were produced by volunteer groups belonging to the Japanese Red Cross Society and are called "The Japanese Red Cross Language Service Volunteers." Topics covered include: hotels, shopping facilities, museums, halls, parks, getting in and out of Japan, etc.

To access the guides in English, see: <http://accessible.jp.org/title2-e.html>

We learned of this news from Rolling Rains, <http://www.rollingrains.com/>

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SINGAPORE

Housing Board Launches Universal Design Guide

Barrier-free access in Housing and Development Board (HDB) estates and flat and precinct designs for residents of all ages is detailed in the Housing and Development Board's new Universal Design Guide. HDB houses about 85% of the Singapore population.

A rapidly aging population means the HDB must change its public housing design to meet the needs of people who are elderly. Grace Fu, Minister of State for National Development, said, "Universal Design involves the integration of accessibility features for the elderly and those with physical disabilities, right at the start of the design process. This approach will result in a more holistic design of our HDB estates from the outset, and avoid the need to add or modify features later."

From a wider corridor, to low-height rocker switches, to wider toilet door widths for easy wheelchair access - these features are part of the concept of Universal Design, a design approach which the HDB says it is adopting for all its future housing projects. A recently-completed pilot project in Bukit Batok East has shown how HDB, the Land Transport Authority, NParks and the town council worked together for a barrier-free estate. For an article about the guide, see: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/233159/1.html>

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UNITED KINGDOM

Fit for Inclusion

The Inclusive Fitness Initiative's (IFI) first conference - entirely dedicated to developing a more inclusive fitness industry - is supported by the Disability Rights Commission (DRC). The event was an opportunity for senior managers and practitioners in the fitness industry to learn how to implement the principles of inclusive fitness, to increase the participation of disabled people in fitness and sport activities. IFI has also launched the "Inclusive Fitness Mark."

The Inclusive Fitness Mark (IFI Mark) is the quality mark accreditation scheme based upon the principles of the £6million Lottery Funded project, the Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI).

The IFI Mark benefits both fitness facilities and their customers; by giving advice and support, it helps fitness facilities work towards meeting the needs of disabled people and gives recognition for the work they have completed. The IFI Mark has huge relevance to both disabled and non-disabled customers in demonstrating that facilities have considered their needs.

The IFI now boasts a network of over 180 inclusive facilities across England. This figure will increase even further with the launch of the **Inclusive Fitness Mark** in 2006 opening accredited facilities across the whole of the United Kingdom.

Full details at: <http://www.inclusivefitness.org/ifi-national-conference/fit-for-inclusion/>

The Principles of Inclusive Design, They Include You

This guide to the principles of inclusive design marks the extension of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment's (CABE) role in inclusive design. CABE takes responsibility for support of the government's advisory body on the built environment needs of disabled people and are determined to champion design that creates places that everyone can use. As the demographic shift towards an ageing population intensifies, CABE will continue to argue that inclusive design is not a choice but a basic essential.

Full document available at: <http://www.cabe.org.uk/default.aspx?contentitemid=1499>

Professor of Universal Design at Salford

Marcus Ormerod, Director of SURFACE, the Inclusive Design Research Centre, was recently appointed Professor of Inclusive Design at the University of Salford, England, UK. Marcus has been involved from the early stages in the development of inclusive design in the UK. In 1998 he developed a research team focused on accessibility in the built environment and by 2003 this had enlarged into **SURFACE**, <http://www.inclusive-design.it>. He also initiated an extensive educational program on inclusive design with courses, certificates and a degree program. Many of the educational elements are available through distance learning. Marcus also initiated the Accessibuilt list (<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/accessibuilt.html>)

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UNITED STATES

2005 White House Conference on Aging Releases Report

The 175-page report on the 2005 gathering opens with a short executive summary and a list of the 50 resolutions adopted by the delegates. Following these 28 pages are 117 pages of tables. The tables show "Resolutions, Overviews and Implementation Strategies (IS) with Strongest and Strong Support." Columns list each resolution, along with implementation strategies favored by delegates.

To download the complete report, see: <http://www.whcoa.gov/about/about.asp#report>

ASID Appoints Council to Examine Design Issues for an Aging America

Recognizing that the majority of Americans want to remain in their homes as they age, the American Society of Interior Designers has established a volunteer council of experts to look at how design solutions can enhance and support residents throughout the life span. The Council will draw upon its vast experience and networks of professionals to provide the ASID Board of Directors with recommendations on information, research and education efforts that the Society should undertake to better prepare designers and consumers to meet the challenges that come with the normal process of aging.

For the article, see:

<http://www.furninfo.com/absolutenm/templates/NewsFeed.asp?articleid=6828>

For more information about designing for aging-in-place, visit the Aging in Place Resource Center, <http://www.asid.org/resource/Aging+in+Place+Resource+Center.htm>

Disability Nation

DisabilityNation is an audio magazine by and for people with disabilities. You can listen to recent shows and read transcripts of select episodes. Two recent episodes have included a UD element: DN 14 -- Eleanor Smith and Concrete Change and DN 15 – overview of Universal Design.

To access all the shows, visit: <http://www.disabilitynation.net/>

"Entryways: Creating Attractive, Low-Cost Zero-Step Entrances"

Over the years, a question frequently asked by builders is, "How do we construct the zero-step entrance?" PowerPoint presentation was created to answer that question in detail.

An introductory section on the Benefits of zero-step entrances is followed by sections covering Myths, Basic Construction Principles, seven Methods, and Costs. The intended audiences are builders, architects, architecture students and advocates of all types who need to prepare themselves to answer builders' questions with knowledge and confidence.

You must register (its free) to access the PowerPoint presentation at:

http://www.concretechange.org/products_download.htm

Just for All: Design Accessible Courthouses

The design of courthouses poses challenges to access due to unique features, such as courtroom areas that are elevated within confined spaces. Determining the best way to provide access to these spaces can be difficult. While the U.S. Access Board has established guidelines for courthouses which cover access to courtrooms, many have sought guidance on how access can best be achieved. So, in October, 2004, the U.S. Access Board organized an advisory

committee to develop such guidance and to promote access to courthouses as part of an overall plan for targeted outreach on different aspects or spheres of accessibility.

The report published November 15th contains recommendations of the Courthouse Access Advisory Committee for the U.S. Access Board's use in developing and disseminating guidance on accessible courthouse design under the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Architectural Barriers Act. It is emphasized that this report is not a regulation, only guidance.

The full list of recommendations is at: <http://www.access-board.gov/caac/report.htm>

NCR and CATEA on Universally-Designed Retail Workstations

Most "accessible check stands" in stores have been designed to be accessible only for customers, not employees. To address this problem, a research study was undertaken through a partnership between National Cash Register (NCR) and the Center for Assistive Technology & Environmental Access (CATEA). The intent was to develop a universally designed grocery/retail check stand, accessible to employees (checkers) with (and without) disabilities. Preliminary results indicated that universally design grocery retail checkout counter should include the following features:

- Checkers and shoppers wanted to adjust the components they used most often to a comfortable height and be able to change these heights if desired.
- Checkers wanted to be able to adjust the scanner, keyboard and bagging station to a comfortable work height.
- Shoppers wanted to be able to adjust the in-feed conveyor, payment center and monitor
- Shoppers wanted self-checkout stations to be more intuitive, easier to use, with knee space and space for purse, wallet and keys.
- Checkers using wheelchairs and scooters wanted knee space and enough space to turn around.
- Shoppers wanted more lane space to move around their carts without bumping displays and feeling crowded.

To read more, see: http://www.catea.org/ccn/html_email.html#2

Universal Design “Blogs”

Blog -- “A **blog** is a website where entries are made in journal style and displayed in a reverse chronological order ... The ability for readers to leave comments in an interactive format is an important part of many blogs.” (Wikipedia)

Blogs are becoming increasingly popular. Recognize that a blog is typically informal and does not necessarily present accurate and/or expert information!

In the last issue we talked about Rolling Rains as a resource and it also happens to be a blog. For this issue, we did some looking around to see what other blogs may be of interest to our readers. There are many blogs about UD, though many are a single post and so are not

included, unless we thought them compelling (Kyoto's Adaptive Advice). Here is a sampling of what we found.

- >> Curb Cut Design, <http://www.communityinclusion.org/curbcut/>
- >> Dear Santa, Can I have Universal Design Please, <http://wheelieatholic.blogspot.com/2006/11/dear-santa-can-i-have-universal-design.html> (one person's perspective on the inaccessibility of many homes and so not being able to attend holiday functions)
- >> Design for All (Ireland), <http://www.design-for-all.ie/> (the whole web site is presented in blog format)
- >> Design for Diversity, <http://www.designfordiversity.eu/blog/> (Europe)
- >> Healthy Aging for a Lifetime (includes some UD), <http://health.yahoo.com/experts/agingridge/383/>
- >> Kyoto's Adaptive Advice, http://www.businessweek.com/innovate/content/nov2006/id20061130_464436.htm?chan=global_biz_asia_innovation+%2B+design (refers to the 2nd International Conference for Universal Design in Kyoto)
- >> IQBlog, <http://www.iqcontent.com/blog/> (iQ Content is a group of usability, accessibility and content experts dedicated to creating better websites for everyone.)
- >> Learn About Universal Design and Visitability, <http://www.spj.org/blog/blogs/diversity/default.aspx?p=2>
- >> Making knowledge accessible in the digital age, <http://kestrell.livejournal.com/213838.html>

Please suggest any we may have overlooked!

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WORLD

Winter Issue of *DisabilityWorld* Now Online

It includes 40 information-packed articles covering developments in access, technology, the UN Convention, media arts, women and youth, with endnotes highlighting achievements from 2006. This webzine features news and views from Britain, Canada, China, Germany, India, Kenya, Russia and South Africa.

Of particular note are:

- Frank Bowe, Ph.D., *Outlines How to Improve Electronic Access in University Setting*, http://www.disabilityworld.org/01_07/bowe.shtml -- talks about his experiences at Hofstra University and a study conducted on communications and concludes that the University needs to take steps to improve implementation of campus accessibility efforts and, particularly, to improve electronic accessibility. As Hofstra encourages faculty to make greater use of electronics in instruction, support needs to be extended to professors on how they can make electronic information accessible to and useable by persons with disabilities.
- Eric Zang, *The Protection of Rights of People with Disabilities in China*, http://www.disabilityworld.org/01_07/china.shtml -- talks about the progress and the challenges that still exist to ensure the full realization of "Equality, Participation and Sharing" for people with disabilities.

- *Top 10 list for 2006*, http://www.disabilityworld.org/01_07/top10.shtml -- a list of ten outstanding events, products and developments that impacted people with disabilities in 2006

For the full issue, see: <http://www.disabilityworld.org/>

World Usability Day

November 14th was World Usability Day. With over 210 events in 39 countries, this earth day style event promoted the value of user-centered design and every user's right to ask for things that work better.

For full details, see: <http://www.worldusabilityday.org/>

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Global Universal Design Educator's Network e-mail list

After 6 years, the Trace Research and Development Center is no longer able to host the educator's email list. Note that the email list and the Online News were two distinct features. The list was interactive, unlike the Online News that you receive quarterly. We are investigating other options for an interactive online process for people who are interested in teaching and learning about universal design education. Please send an email to Elaine Ostroff Elaine@ostroff.org if you are interested in such a process, Thanks to Trace Center, especially Kate and Gregg Vanderheiden, who made the e-list possible.

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CALENDAR AND CALLS FOR PAPERS

February 23, 2007: Deadline for abstracts for the DPI 7th World Assembly, Korea. Full details at: <http://v1.dpi.org/lang-en/resources/details.php?page=810>

March 7-10, 2007: 2007 ASA-NCOA Joint Conference, Chicago, IL. Full details at: <http://www.agingconference.org/asav2/conf/jc/jc07/>

April 2-4, 2007: INCLUDE 2007: Involving the Consumer, London, UK. Full details at: <http://www.hhrc.rca.ac.uk/programmes/include/2007/index.html>

June 16-19, 2007: Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology, Toronto, Canada. Full details at: <http://www.ficdat.ca/>

July 17-21, 2007: AHEAD Conference 2007, Charlotte, North Carolina. Check here for details: <http://www.ahead.org/training/conference/index.htm>

June 18-21, 2007: 11th International Conference on Mobility and Transport for Elderly and Disabled Persons (TRANSED), Montréal, Canada. The theme is Benchmarking, Evaluation and Vision for the Future. Announcement is at: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/pol/en/transed2007/home.htm>

July 22-27, 2007: HCI International, Beijing, China. One of the theme areas is universal access in HCI, including the topic of Universal Design. Full details at: <http://www.hcii2007.org/ta/ua.html>

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Adding your information, questions to the Online News:

Send e-mail to elaine@ostroff.org by the 20th of the month before the scheduled quarterly issue. Articles should be limited to 300 words. If the issue is too full to include, and the timeliness of the article allows it, we may hold the item until the following issue. Queries about potential submissions are welcome.

To subscribe to the Online News, send an e-mail message to the same address. Please include your name and email address within the body of the message. There is no charge.

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