

# Serving Seniors

Kentucky Summer Reading Conference 2014

Presented by Sarah Hubbard  
Librarian, Lexington Public Library  
[shubbard@lexpublib.org](mailto:shubbard@lexpublib.org)

## Tips for Buildings

- Signage – color contrast, sign, visibility, lighting, simplicity and clarity.
- Parking lot – well lit, clean, bright paint, highly visible handicap parking, free of potholes or uneven/cracked areas. Also consider having more than the minimum required handicap spots
- Sidewalks – clean, free of cracks/uneven spots. Sloped portions with non-skid surfaces to help with traction. Staff policy about salting in icy weather
- Wheelchair accessibility – in all building areas, check to see what barriers might be there for walkers, cane users, and wheelchair users. If the library has its own wheelchair (recommended), ‘test’ the building in it yourself
- Physical barriers – (handrails, stairs, uneven floor areas, strips for wiring) brightly marked
- Lighting – bright, no ‘mood’ lighting
- Flooring – carpeting or non-skid surfaces for good traction
- Seating – benches or chairs at regular intervals throughout building for people with breathing or endurance problems. Chairs at tables light enough to move with decreased strength, lounge chairs designed for ease of standing
- Collection height – books/media shelved not too low or high. Seating aids to help with bad knees or arthritis.
- Quiet areas – for those sensitive to noise, or distressed by ‘non-traditional’ library noise levels
- Availability of impairment aids – devices for use or check out (like possibly magnifiers or TTY phones)

## Tips for Programming

- DO NOT SCHEDULE PROGRAMS AFTER DARK.
- Programs scheduled at mid-day to coincide with building traffic lulls are best.
- Give frequent offerings of digital literacy classes, with computers provided.
- Keep awareness of events and groups in your area to prevent schedule conflicts.
- Be aware of transportation availability to local assisted living facilities.

## **In-Building Programming**

- Financial literacy and security \*Certified experts only
  - Health care/insurance
  - Affordable housing
  - Money investments and risk/scams/short- and long-term planning
  - Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid
  - Taxes
- Medical and health \*Certified experts only
  - Managing chronic health issues
  - Caregiving
  - New medical advances/choices
  - Physical/mental health
- Continuing education
  - Crafts/household skills
  - Genealogy
  - Writing
  - Foreign languages
- Recareering
  - Second careers
  - Grandparents as parents
- Digital literacy
  - Range of classes, but always ensure some are VERY basic skills
  - Ongoing offerings
- Social/Support
  - Book talks/book discussion
  - Guest lecture series
  - Game/craft/movie nights
  - Exercise groups
  - Traditional support groups (recommended find local nonprofit to run)

## **Marketing**

- Partnerships
  - Local senior centers/assisted living facilities
  - Senior advocacy groups (ex: AARP)
  - Local history/genealogy/craft & hobby
  - Local businesses
- Outreach
  - Fairs/festivals
  - Senior centers
  - Local history groups/relevant nonprofits
- Flyers/Media
  - Local newspapers/newsletters/college papers/radio stations
  - Homeowners' Associations/relevant nonprofits
  - Community boards
  - Local relevant government departments