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Sensory Friendly & Neuroinclusive Spaces in Academia

Accessibility Driven Work at the UW Tacoma Library

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LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON | TACOMA



Agenda

01

Project's Start

02

Philosophy & Literature Review

03

Creating the Sensory-Friendly Space

04

Challenges & Growth

05

What's Next

Project's Start and Inspiration

Alignment of key factors

Underutilized Classroom Space

Shared Value for Accessibility Centered Work

Interest and Labor

Supportive & Knowledgeable Mentors

Philosophy of the Project

“DEIA is not an abstract concept; it is a framework for building institutions where everyone belongs and is able to thrive, while addressing systemic barriers that have historically excluded marginalized communities.”

- ACLU



NYU Bobst Library



- Increase of neurodivergent students on college campuses
- Sensory overwhelm in libraries

Research & Lit Review



West Chester University Library

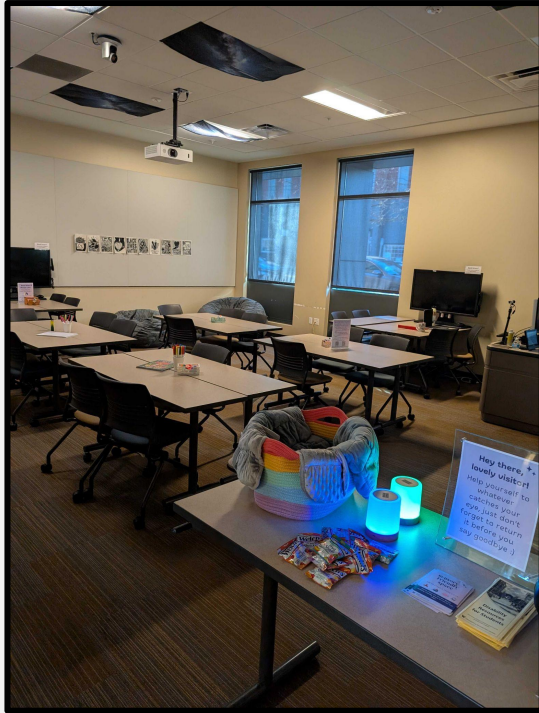


Susquehanna University Library

- Control of sensory needs & interactions
- Core features

Research & Lit Review

Creating the Sensory Friendly Space



1. Things to Consider
2. Deciding on Priorities
3. Figuring out Details and Specifics
4. Opening the Space



Space & budget constraints:

- Low versus high sensory needs
- Critical resources
- Quantity versus quality

Deciding on Priorities

- Layout
- Documentation
- Name & Signage
- Assessment Options



Details &
Specifics



- Iterative Process
- Record & Reflect
- Promote! Promote! Promote!
- Collaboration

Opening
the
Space

Challenges & Growth

Trial & Error

- Adjusting layout
- Works and doesn't work

Promotion

- Getting the word out
- Usage

Determining Needs

- What is working?
- What isn't?
- What needs to change?

Growth

- Shifting hours
- New materials
- Growing our team
- Collaboration

What's Next

- 1** Partnering with other campus units
- 2** Continue efforts to grow student usage of the space
- 3** Address wide spectrum of sensory needs
- 4** Creating a long term plan for the space

Final Reflections & Impace

- This space does not exist in isolation
- Neuroinclusive spaces are one of many ways to address accessibility
- Current attacks to DEIA initiatives and this type of work
- Continuing to put in the work and fight the good fight

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Questions?

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