**RESOURCES FOR AUDIO DESCRIPTION AND NON-VISUAL ACCESS**

*“There is nothing quite so impenetrable as the smooth, unyielding, silent glass of a display case in a museum where there is no audio description. Abraham Lincoln’s emotion-packed letter to the grieving mother of a recently killed Union soldier moves everyone who reads it. Where there is audio description, the blind museum patron time travels to the vivid scene of the mother reading that letter. Where the description is absent, everyone in the room is touched by the content of the letter while the blind visitor is awash in the frustration and sorrow that always accompanies a lack of information. In short, audio description is the difference between an often-dull experience in a museum or art exhibit and a fully immersive experience where even time travel seems possible.”*

*-- Nolan Crabbe*

**Online resources about audio description:**

Art Beyond Sight (Art Education for the Blind’s Museum Education Institute has a verbal visual description database, verbal description guidelines and an on-line training):

<http://www.artbeyondsight.org/mei/>

Audio Description Project (general clearinghouse for all things audio description for both consumers and providers – what it is, who does it, where it is available, a discussion list, training, etc.)

<http://acb.org/adp/>

Perkins Scout (an information clearinghouse on blindness and visual impairment put together by Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, MA):

<http://www.perkins.org/resources/scout/audio-description/introduction.htm>

**Podcasts:**

For Museum Professionals (Podcasts by Art Beyond Sight – more than audio description, these address access for people who are blind or visually impaired)

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/museum-professionals/id396027315?mt=2>

*As a foreign-language interpreter, I am conscious of my responsibility to convey dialogue accurately, but also of my power to add nuance to the conversation, thanks to my awareness of both cultures. An audio describer is a kind of interpreter, too, as the person converts visual images into words. When this person has deep knowledge of the arts, this adds a depth and quality to the description. Knowledge of the audience listening (for example, high schoolers vs. artists, or blind from birth vs. visually aware with later vision loss) can also significantly help an audio describer in his or her crafting of language and level of detail. I am able to detect very basic shapes and colors when I see something on my own. A good audio describer sometimes almost makes my heart stop, as something that I considered unremarkable jumps into focus with details that I had not even dreamed existed.*

*--Elizabeth Sammons*

**Online resources for audio description training:**

Art Beyond Sight (Art Education for the Blind’s Museum Education Institute has a verbal visual description database, verbal description guidelines and an on-line training):

<http://www.artbeyondsight.org/mei/verbal-description-training/>

*“I love having audio description as an option. I am 46 years old and that was not an option most of my life. I even forget to ask if it is available, because I am so used to not having it. But having audio description ads [sic] a whole new dimension to a presentation or show. One of the most enriching experiences I have had was when I toured the Clinton Library in Littlerock [sic], Arkansas. For each room they took an accerpt [sic] from his book that was specific to that area. It was amazing. The audio description really eccentiates [sic] the background of what is going on.”*

*-- Dan Kelly*

**Resources for Braille, Tactile Graphics, and PowerPoints:**

American Printing House for the Blind, Inc.:

<https://www.aph.org/>

[Accessible Media Guidelines](https://www.aph.org/accessible-media-guidelines/)

National Braille Press:

Brian A. Mac Donald, president

<http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/index.html>

[Tactile and Braille Maps](http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/process.html?subcat_id=11&heading=The%20Princeton%20Braillists%20%28Tactiles%29-Maps&mv_nextpage=publications%2fbrowse_results&mv_todo=return)

[Biology Tactiles](http://www.nbp.org/ic/nbp/process.html?subcat_id=12&heading=The%20Princeton%20Braillists%20%28Tactiles%29-Biology&mv_nextpage=publications%2fbrowse_results&mv_todo=return)

**Free Captioning and AD Script Generating Software:**

CADET – Caption and Descriptive Editing Tool

<https://www.wgbh.org/foundation/what-we-do/ncam/cadet>

**Crowd Sourced or Do-It-Yourself Web-based AD:**

YouDescribe

<https://youdescribe.org/>

**Companies that provide both finished description services and offer training on a national level:**

Audio Description Associates:

<http://www.audiodescribe.com/>

Dr. Joel Snyder, president

Joel has a written a comprehensive book on AD that is available online at Amazon. You can get either a hard copy or a Kindle version.

Audio Description Solutions:

<http://www.audiodescriptionsolutions.com/index.htm>

Deborah Lewis, president

A copy of the Audio Description Coalition’s “Standards for Audio Description and Code of Professional Conduct for Describers” is available for download at this website.

**Presenters’ contact info:**

Jane Ehrenfeld (writing and voicing for visual arts, live description for movies and theater)

E-mail: jane@eye-describe.com

Telephone: 614-906-8936

Blog: <https://eye-describe.com>

Jim Kessler, Senior Access Consultant, AHEAD

Email: [jimkessler@ahead.org](mailto:jimkessler@ahead.org)

Telephone: 919-302-7188

**Suggested reading:**

Standards for Audio Description and Code of Professional Conduct for Describers

<https://audiodescriptionsolutions.com/the-standards/download-the-standards/>

## [The Visual Made Verbal: A Comprehensive Training Manual and Guide to the History and Applications of Audio Description](https://www.amazon.com/Visual-Made-Verbal-Comprehensive-Applications-ebook/dp/B00KLMESOQ/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=verbal+made+visual&qid=1560799441&s=books&sr=1-1)

Joel Snyder, PhD, author

Available in paperback (Dog Ear Publishing) and Kindle editions

More than Meets the Eye: What Blindness Brings to Art

Georgina Kleege, author

Available in hardcover, paperback (Oxford University Press) and Kindle editions

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