

Internship: Disability Digital Archive – BIB Network for Disability History

The Disability Digital Archive (DDA) will be a virtual hub for the collection and interpretation of experiences of disability, past and present, by students, researchers, disability service organizations, and the creative industries. The hub includes: 1) a digital archive, to share historically-significant documents, images, and multimedia, 2) an interpretive space, where curators, researchers, and students will engage with these sources to answer research questions about disability history, resulting in online exhibitions, digital documentaries, and scholarly essays, all presented in the hub and 3) a network zone, facilitating the exchange of information and advice on potential new research questions the hub can be used to answer. The DDA will be the first archive in the Netherlands to gather and analyse a wide range of historical sources on disabilities together, the first shared virtual environment to utilize the cultural heritage of disability to foster and disseminate new scholarly research and creative industry solutions to the challenges of aging societies, and the first to make these accessible online to people with a wide variety of disabilities. The process of designing the DDA and using it for research will be reflected on in a scholarly symposium and published article. The virtual hub will provide a model for accessible online communication about living with a disability, which is urgent given the aging of society. The private partner Driebit, an innovator in the field of digital heritage, will draw on the expertise of the academic partners and disability service organizations to design and build the hub, experimenting with and improving upon techniques of accessible web design in the process.

Research

- maintaining a Facebook group where people can share their historical experiences on the topic of 'arbeid'
- find and interview people about their experiences and memories with respect to the topic of 'arbeid'
- do library and archival research on the topic of the history of 'arbeid' with respect to different disabilities
- tracing online information already available through other institutions on the topic of 'arbeid' with a disability

Creating content for the website

- curate data and write texts for the website with respect to: 1. data obtained through the Facebook group; 2. the individuals who were interviewed; 3. the history of 'arbeid' with respect to different disabilities (based on library and archival research) 4. links to already available information online
- edit films with people's experiences based on the interviews
- curate a community space in which people can discuss topics on the website and add sources and links

All videos and text should be made according to the standards of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, so including subtitles for instance and written in accessible language.

Website development

- participate in the further conceptual and technical development of the website

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