

Are You Offering Inclusive Library Services to Individuals with Autism?

Communication

- How do you like to be communicated with?
- How fast do you talk? Do you prefer longer pauses between words or not?
- What words do you use to describe areas around the library?
- Do you use visuals when you communicate with patrons in the library?

Library spaces

- What kind of noise are you comfortable with? What is the agreed-upon noise level of the library?
- What kind of lighting makes you uncomfortable? What is the lighting in your library?
- How close does someone need to be to make you notice? How is the spacing of furniture in your library?

Library administration

- Who creates the policies in your library? In the entire library system?
- Do you know your library policies around accommodations to others? Are they shared or posted somewhere?
- How often are your policies evaluated?

Collections

- Do you know where to find books on autism in your library?
- Who orders the books on autism?
- Do you include books written by people on the autism spectrum?

Programming

- Do you have a quiet space in your programming area?
- How do you advertise your programs?
- Do you feel you are reaching people with autism in your programs?
- What are ways your programs can offer more sensory activities?

Staffing/Volunteering

- How could your library make more accommodations for those with autism in hiring and volunteering?
- How do interviews make you feel?
- Where did you find out about your library position?
- Did you feel you had enough training when you started your library job? What could have been changed? Are there different ways it could be taught?

Addendum to *Serving Teens and Adults on the Autism Spectrum— A Guide for Libraries*
by Carrie Rogers-Whitehead.