

Redefining the Poster Symposium: Changing Guidelines for Equal Access

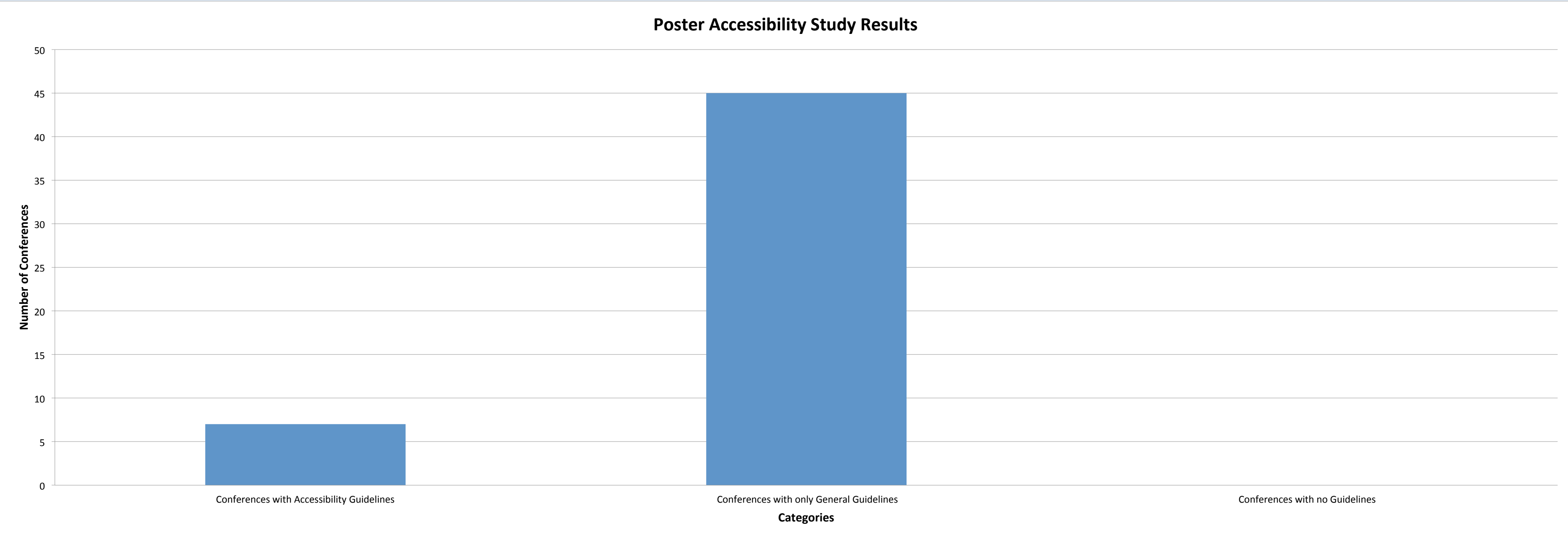
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Professional posters tend to....

- ...be highly visual
- ...be text heavy with small font
- ...include technical language
- ...require individuals to feel comfortable standing next to the presenter while reading the poster

This may result in professional posters being inaccessible for many individuals. Conference organizers are recognizing the need to design accessible poster sessions.



Description of the Graph

A review of 53 conferences across the disciplines of disability, education, medicine, nutrition, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychology, public health, social work, speech/ language pathology, and special education demonstrated that poster accessibility guidelines are still the exception, not the norm. The disciplines of Disability, Occupational Therapy, Public Health, and Speech/Language Pathology were most likely to include accessibility guidelines for their conference poster sessions.



Use a QR reader to scan the code for a text document. Use the text to speech feature to have the contents of this poster read to you.

	Example Accessibility Guidelines (See more guidelines on large-print handout)
Poster Size	✓ Be wary of crowding a small poster. Use a larger poster and utilize more white space to improve access
Line Spacing	✓ Use 1.5-2.0 line spacing.
Font Type	✓ Use sans serif typeface. Common sans serif typefaces are Helvetica, Verdana, Microsoft Sans Serif and Arial
Font Size	✓Font Size - Sizes may vary depending on the viewing distance and amount of text to be included. ✓Title Size: Ideal is 158-point font but titles should be at least 72-point font or larger. ✓Section Title: Ideal is 56-point font but should be at least 46 to 56-point. ✓Block Text/Body: Ideal is 36-point font but should be at least 24-36 point
Font Color	✓Font Color - Black text with a light background is the most legible for printed material; If it is important to have many colors for aesthetic or other reasons, it is better to use combinations different from black text on white background only for larger or highlighted text, such as headlines and titles. ✓Out of courtesy to the red/green color blind, we suggest that you do not use these colors.
General	✓Keep push pins off the floor; can puncture wheelchair & scooter tires

In addition to adhering to the guidelines provided above, the Center for Leadership in Disability uses the following process to increase poster accessibility

- ✓ The poster is accessible in multiple formats (Word, PDF, PPT) on a weebly website
- ✓ QR codes are generated to link each poster to the website which contains text from the poster and text descriptions of the images, including graphs, tables, and photographs
- ✓ An electronic device with text-to-speech software links to the written description of the poster. Disposable ear phones are provided.