

## VMS – Accessibility (4-26-2024)

Instead of a monograph, please read these articles. Take a look at what your work and your venues look like through the lens of people with disabilities. As you read these see if you can find commonalities across the experiences. Are the same topics popping up? These articles focus mostly on the experiences of people with mobility disabilities. Would these be the same or different concerns if the audience members were blind/low vision? Deaf/hearing loss? Neurodivergent?

### AUSTRALIA

- Major Sporting Events Are Rarely Accessible To Disabled Fans. This Women's World Cup, FIFA Is Trying To Reverse That Trend  
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-08-05/accessibility-fifa-womens-world-cup-disabled-fans/102646034>  
This article does discuss ticketing concerns. Just a reminder that in the USA ticketing is regulated and there are requirements about how those seats get managed.

*NOTE: This is a link to Australian disability rights law - <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights/about-disability-rights>*

### CANADA

- People With Disabilities Shine A Light On Lack Of Accessibility At Concerts  
<https://globalnews.ca/news/9801510/saddledome-stadium-design-accessibilities/>  
Taking a look at the disability experience in venues
- Canadian Paralympian Hopes Blue Jays Reno Creates More Options For Fans With A Disability  
<https://www.sportsnet.ca/mlb/canadian-paralympian-hopes-blue-jays-reno-creates-options-fans-disability>  
Through the eyes of someone who has been in a lot of venues around the world
- The Accessibility Era  
<https://www.rickhansen.com/news-stories/blog/accessibility-era>  
Compares different experiences and expectations.

*Note: this is a link to resources on understanding Canadian Disability Rights*  
<https://www.disabilityresources.ca/blog/understanding-canadian-disability-rights>

## United Kingdom (UK)

The following fan survey was conducted by Level Playing Field, a registered charity in England and Wales that seeks to improve the experience of disabled fans attending live sport. A lot of what they identified is probably true across experiences for fans around the world.

NOTE: focus on the sections about “Barriers to Attending” and “Services and Facilities.”

- Women’s Football Disabled Fan Survey 2023  
<https://s27807.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/Womens-Football-Fan-Survey-Summary-final.pdf>
- Accessible Concerts: What Disabled Fans Want from Venues  
<https://myblurredworld.com/2022/01/09/accessible-concerts-what-disabled-fans-want-from-venues/>  
A more personal perspective on attending a concert event when one has a disability.

NOTE: This is a link to UK disability rights law <https://www.gov.uk/rights-disabled-person>

## United States (USA)

- Fans With Disabilities Present Sports Industry With \$490 Billion Growth Opportunity  
<https://blog.johnwallstreet.com/p/fans-disabilities-present-sports-industry-490-billion-growth-opportunity>  
Look at the business case for welcoming people with disabilities into your venue.
- Editorial: 30 Years After The ADA Was Passed, Disabled Fans Are Still An Afterthought in Sports  
<https://www.bgn.fm/editorial-30-years-after-the-ada-was-passed-disabled-fans-are-still-an-afterthought-in-sports/>  
A very personal view of attending events with a disability.
- Disabled People Deserve Concert Venues That Ensure Full Accessibility  
<https://prismreports.org/2023/08/14/disabled-people-concerts-accessibility/>  
A very personal view and frustration attending a concert as a wheelchair user.
- Metal Hurts: What It Can Be Like Going To Concerts With Disabilities  
<https://www.metalsucks.net/2023/07/24/metal-hurts-what-it-can-be-like-going-to-concerts-with-disabilities/>  
Attending a concert with non-apparent physical disabilities.

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The following are a good introductions to leaning about U.S.A Federal Disability Rights Law

*(not required to read)*

**Introduction to Federal Disability Rights Laws**

<https://www.ada.gov/resources/disability-rights-guide/>

**Introduction to the Americans with Disabilities Act**

<https://www.ada.gov/topics/intro-to-ada/>

**Design for Accessibility: A Cultural Rights Administrator**

<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/Design-for-Accessibility.pdf>

This resource, published in 2004, is a little out of date. However, it is still very much on target for the underlying concepts – look at Chapter 2 - Key Requirements and Best Practices (pages 23-31).

**2010 Revised Regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act Titles II and III**

<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/NEA-ADA-TipSheet-v2.pdf>

This has good information for those based in the U.S. – how to figure out the minimum number of wheelchair locations, how many Assistive Listening receivers are required, ticketing requirements, etc.