

ADAPTING EXHIBITION AND EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS PEDAGOGICAL MUSEUM OF UKRAINE TO THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH SEVERE VISUAL IMPAIRMENTS

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The creation of favorable conditions for visiting the museum by persons with special needs is an important issue for Ukrainian museums. For the last 3 years, the Pedagogical Museum of Ukraine has had a fairly long way to adapt its exhibitions and projects to people with severe visual impairment. So the texts of the exhibitions were duplicated in Braille font, and special comments and excursions have been created, tactile items have been manufactured.



Photo 1. A group of blind students

An excursion for the Ukrainian Association of the Blind was the impetus for the adaptation of exhibitions and educational projects of the museum. In fact, the first question that arises is „What can the museum show if everything is covered with glass?“ But a special method of commenting – audio discography, or audio descriptive commentary, which, albeit not new, unfortunately, is rarely used in Ukrainian museums, came to the aid.

Audio descriptive commentary describes an object, space or action that is incomprehensible to *the blind (visually impaired)* without special verbal explanations. Such a description can be oral, recorded using the Braille font and in some other way, as well as in the form of audio recording.

Having mastered the method of audio description and Braille, the staff of the Pedagogical Museum began to transform the museum and make it more accessible. The first attempt of such an adaptation was the large exhibition „Ukrainian Book of 1917-1921“, which presents periodicals, educational editions, and fiction literature published in 1917-1921. (*Photo 1*)

So three photo zones of the exhibition became the reference tactile areas for blind visitors.

A special excursion for people with severe visual impairment and a little quest were created for the exhibition, both of them were duplicated in Braille. Also, texts from rare books and magazines were made in Braille.

The next exhibition project adapted to the needs of such an audience was the exhibition „Advertising in the Ukrainian Pedagogical Periodical XIX – First Half of the XX Century. „From the very beginning, this exhibition was created, taking into account the needs of the audience with severe visual impairment. (*Photo 2*)



Photo 2. The Exhibition of Commercials

The advertising texts on the posters were made on a large scale, which made it possible for visually impaired visitors to see them. All the texts from the ads were duplicated in Braille, as well as visually compelling objects (modern analogs of the advertised products), for example, soap, candies, shoe polish, etc.

This approach allowed guided tours to audiences with severe visual impairment, using a variety of interactive methods. (*Photo 3*)

The next exhibition, „The Fantasy Exhibition of One Subject, or a School Bag“, was adapted in the same way. It had two subject groups: the first was fixed on the wall, and the second, a tactile one, was placed on the table, along with poems to the exhibition, typed in Braille.

The main exposition hall of the Pedagogical Museum of Ukraine also

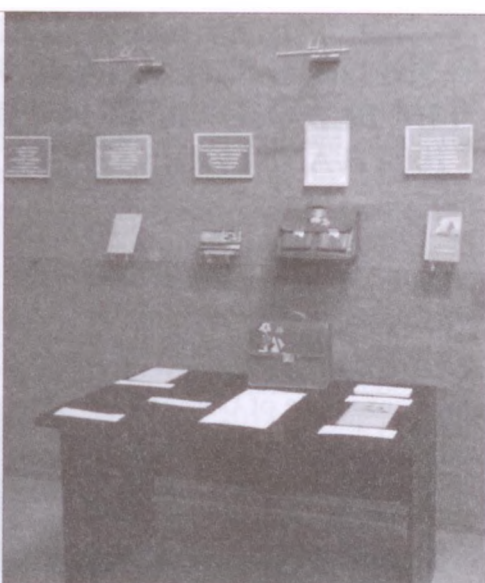
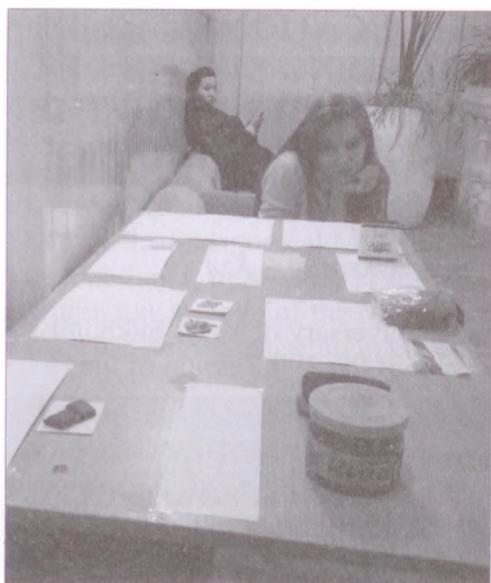


Photo 3. Tactile objects Photo 4. View of the exhibition

has elements of adaptation. A special tour was created on a stationary exposition, tactile subjects were placed, the texts from ancient books were written in Braille.

Also, a number of illustrations have been made using a 3D pen, in particular, the Old Slavonic and modern Cyrillic alphabet, figures (Old Slavonic, Arabic, and Roman).

The Pedagogical Museum of Ukraine initiated the organization of special seminars on audio descriptive commentary (audio-description) for representatives of various spheres of culture (museums, theaters).

Also, the Museum became the initiator of the preparation of one of the Kyiv musical schools to work with students who have a severe visual impairment and now the school is actively working with such an audience.

We plan to create 3-D models of books, buildings, as well as a series of tactile portraits of great teachers.

Резюме:

Представен е опитът на Педагогическия музей в Киев, Украйна, в адаптиране на изложби и образователни проекти за хора със силно увреждане на зрението. Описани са методи за постигане на достъпност – дублиране на текстове в Брайлов шрифт, използване на аудио дискография, създаване на тактилни елементи. Последните 3 години музея адаптира няколко изложби – “Украинска книга от 1917-1921”, “Реклама в украинския педагогически периодичен XIX – първата половина на XX век” и “Фантастичната изложба на един субект или училищна чанта”. Основната експозиционна зала също има елементи на адаптация. Планира се създаване на триизмерни модели на книги, сгради, както и серия от тактилни портрети на велики учители.