

The role of the Egyptian Government in establishing the rights of persons with disabilities, with special respect for library services

From constitutional recognition to campus-wide Disability Service Centers, Egypt has embarked on a transformative journey toward full inclusion of persons with disabilities in higher education — reshaping what is possible for thousands of students.

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Former Vice Manager of Mansoura University Center for Persons with Disabilities

Faculty Coordinator for students with disabilities

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HMU, 21st-25th of September 2026





PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN EGYPT

Key Statistics from the 2017 Population Census (CAPMAS)



According to CAPMAS,
10.67% of Egyptians
aged 5 years and above experienced
at least one functional difficulty,
ranging from mild to severe.



Persons with
**severe to complete
difficulties**
accounted for
2.61%
of the population aged
5 years and above.

PREVALENCE OF FUNCTIONAL DIFFICULTY

(% of population aged 5 years and above)

Total Population



10.67%

Males



10.99%

Females



10.34%

Urban Areas



12.22%

Rural Areas



9.71%

TYPES OF FUNCTIONAL DIFFICULTIES

(% of population aged 5 years and above)

Walking or
Climbing Stairs



6.32%

Seeing



4.73%

Remembering
or Concentrating



3.65%

Hearing



3.59%

Self-care



2.94%

Communication
and Understanding



2.78%



IMPORTANT NOTE

The **10.67%** figure refers to people aged 5 years and above who reported **at least one functional difficulty**. It should not be interpreted as the percentage of people with severe disabilities only.

“

According to CAPMAS, **10.67%** of Egyptians aged 5 years and above experienced at least one functional difficulty, according to the 2017 Population Census. The prevalence was **10.99%** among males and **10.34%** among females, with a higher prevalence in **urban areas (12.22%)** than in **rural areas (9.71%)**.

”

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STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF DISABILITIES IN EGYPT (CAPMAS DATA)

(CAPMAS DATA)



« NATIONAL SURVEY: PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (2025) »

1 OVERALL PREVALENCE

OVERALL TOTAL
(SOME TO ABSOLUTE DIFFICULTY)



11%

OF TOTAL POPULATION



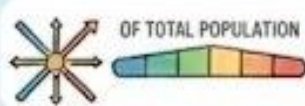
OF TOTAL POPULATION

DISABILITIES WITH ACTUAL
IMPACT
(SEVERE TO ABSOLUTE DIFFICULTY)



4.86%

OF TOTAL POPULATION (AGES 5+)



OF TOTAL POPULATION

2 DEMOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION (ALL DIFFICULTY LEVELS)

BY RESIDENTIAL AREA



URBAN: 12.1%



RURAL: 10.1%

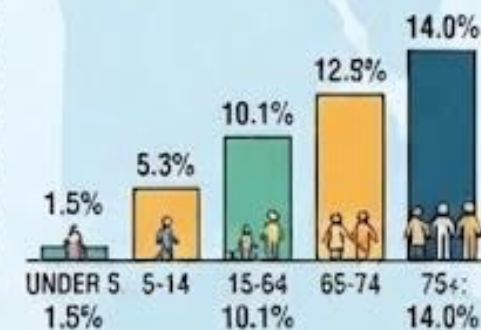
BY GENDER



FEMALES: 11.4%



BY AGE GROUP



3 DISTRIBUTION BY TYPE OF DISABILITY (SEVERE TO ABSOLUTE DIFFICULTY)



LOWER LIMB
MOBILITY

2.65%



VISUAL
IMPAIRMENT

1.36%



SELF-CARE
DIFFICULTY

1.13%



UPPER LIMB
MOBILITY

0.78%



PSYCHIATRIC
DISORDERS

0.20%



HEARING
IMPAIRMENT

4.5%

*Causes: Illness (28.8%) & Congenital (15.4%)

DATA BASED ON LATEST CAPMAS ANNOUNCEMENT. FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.



Governmental role toward person with disabilities



Constitution 2014 Article 81

- “The State shall be committed to guaranteeing the health, economic, social, cultural, recreational, sports and educational rights of persons with disabilities and dwarfs, to providing employment opportunities for them, with allocating a percentage thereof to them, and to adapting public facilities and their surrounding environment.”
- “The State shall also be committed to ensuring their exercise of all political rights, and integrating them with other citizens, in application of the principles of equality, justice and equal opportunities”



Governmental role toward person with disabilities



Turning point

Law 10, 2018

"The comprehensive Egyptian legislation for the rights of persons with disabilities, aiming to guarantee their health, educational, career, and social rights, and to integrate them into society."

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Governmental role toward person with disabilities



Law 66, 2019

Establishment of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, which has a dependency in financial, technical, and administrative aspects

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Education



Integration of
students with minor
disabilities within
classrooms with a
10% limit



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Education



The resources room
network:
993 rooms in
different localities



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Education

Higher levels of disabilities

Specialized schools are prepared for them

Such as Hope (Deaf) and Light (Blind) schools

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Education

Academic Year	Total dedicated Specialized Schools	Total Enrolled Students
2018 / 2019	1,090	41,200
2020 / 2021	1,116	43,719
2022 / 2023	1,200	46,400
2023 / 2024	1,180	47,000
2024 / 2025	1,200	49,100

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Governmental role toward person with disabilities



Campaign Name
“Differently-abled”

Under the patronage of the
Egyptian president

The Ministry of Social Solidarity and the
Ministry of Youth and Sports, in
collaboration with the Sports Federation
for Intellectual Disabilities.

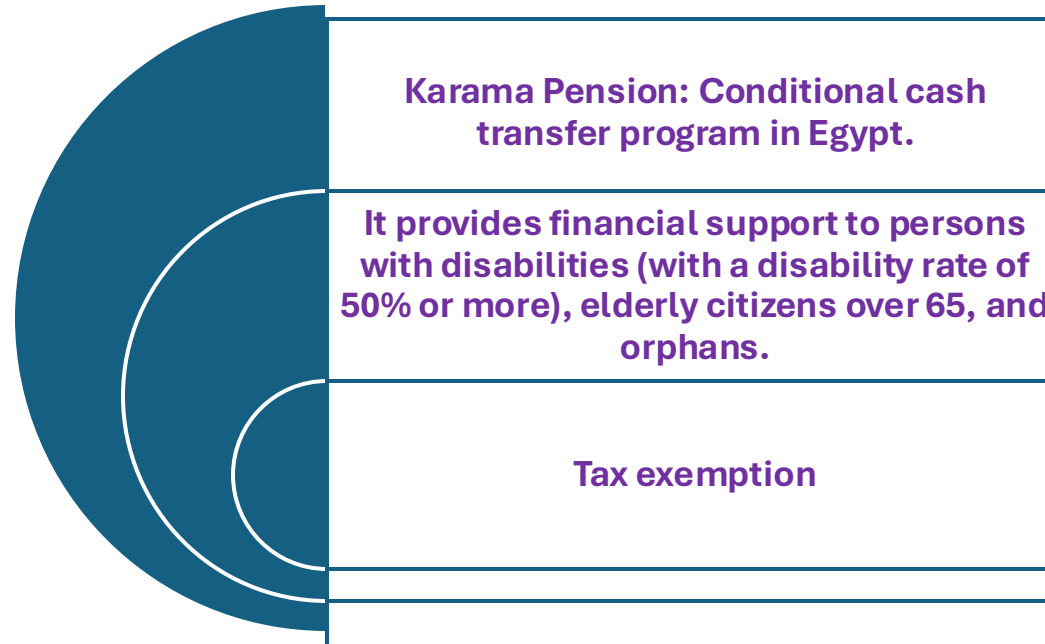


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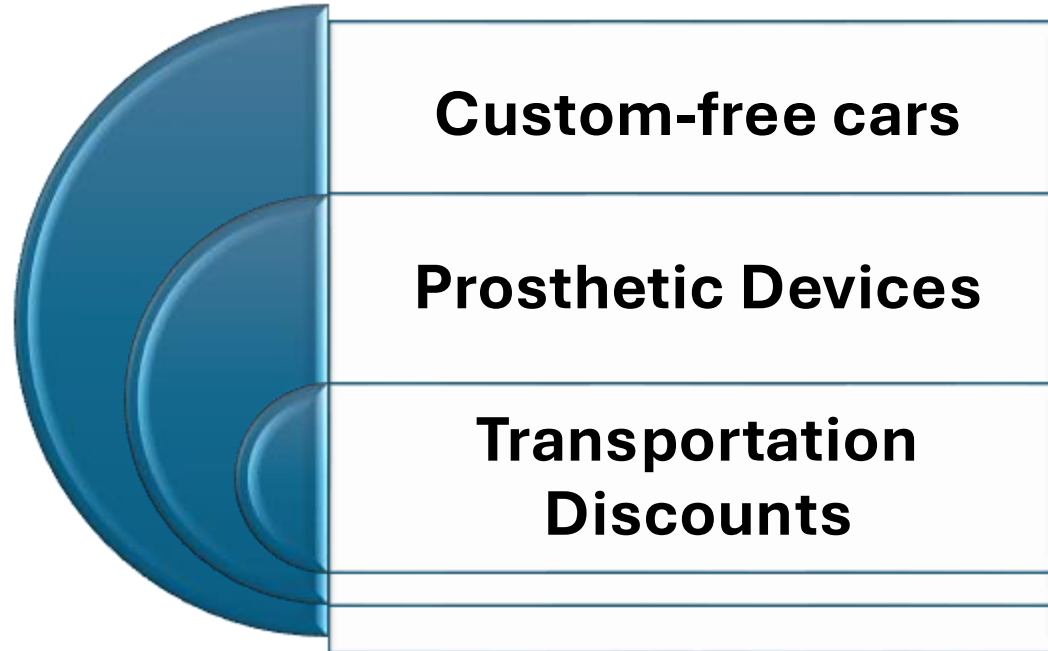
Financial support



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Custom free services



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Integrated service card



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University services

The opening of person with disabilities center in Mansoura University on 15th December, 2020

The American-Egyptian Higher Education Initiative to establish centers for people with disabilities within public universities



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The Pilot Success: 5 Model Centers

Five flagship disability support centers were established at Egypt's most prominent public universities, each serving as a replicable model for the nation.



Cairo University

Central hub for advocacy, assistive technology, and academic support.



Ain Shams University

Integrated students into previously closed practical fields.



Alexandria University

Accessible learning environment redesigned for full participation.



Mansoura University

Faculty training and inclusive pedagogy programs launched.



Assiut University

Regional model extending inclusion beyond Cairo and Alexandria.



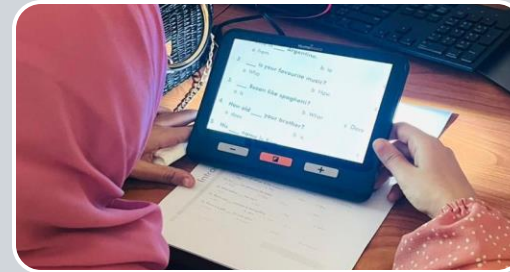
Services provided by the center



Psychologic
al support
and family
counseling
services



Community
services



Research
services



Educational
services

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"A computer lab equipped with screen readers for the blind"

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Deaf tools for persons with disabilities



Williams sound pFM
listening system



Williams sound loop
system

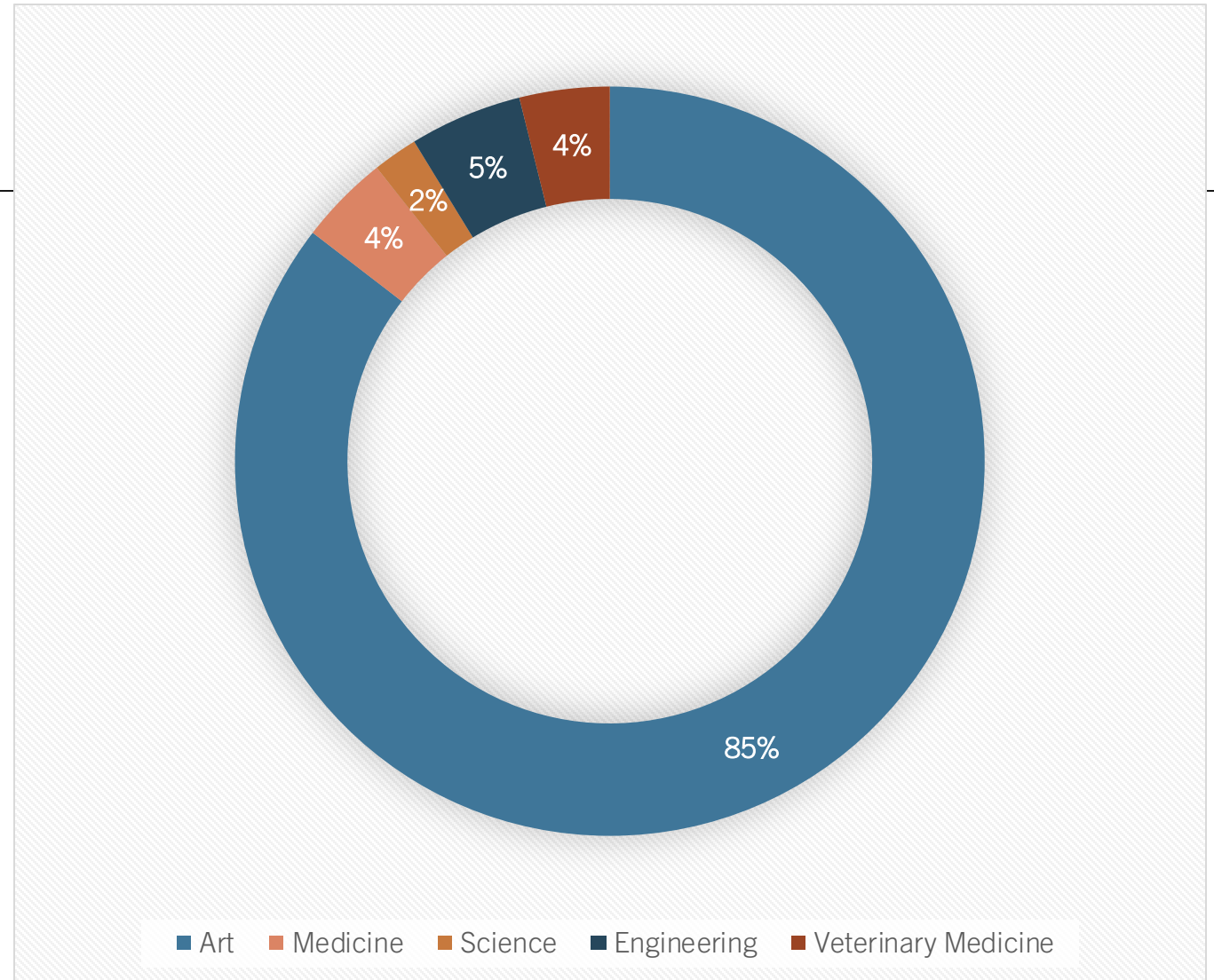


Communication board



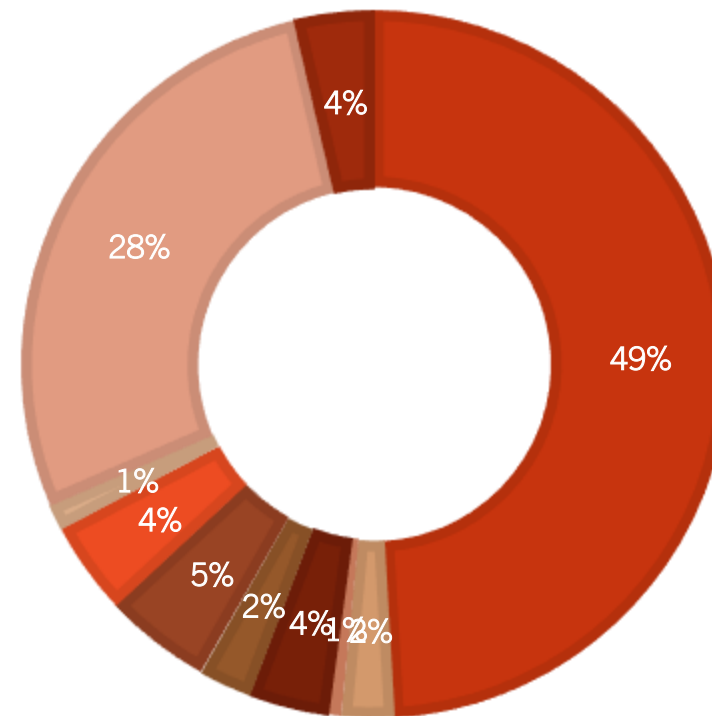
Tascam Recorder

Number of
students
admitted to
Mansoura
University
with different
disabilities
(2021-2022)
(103)



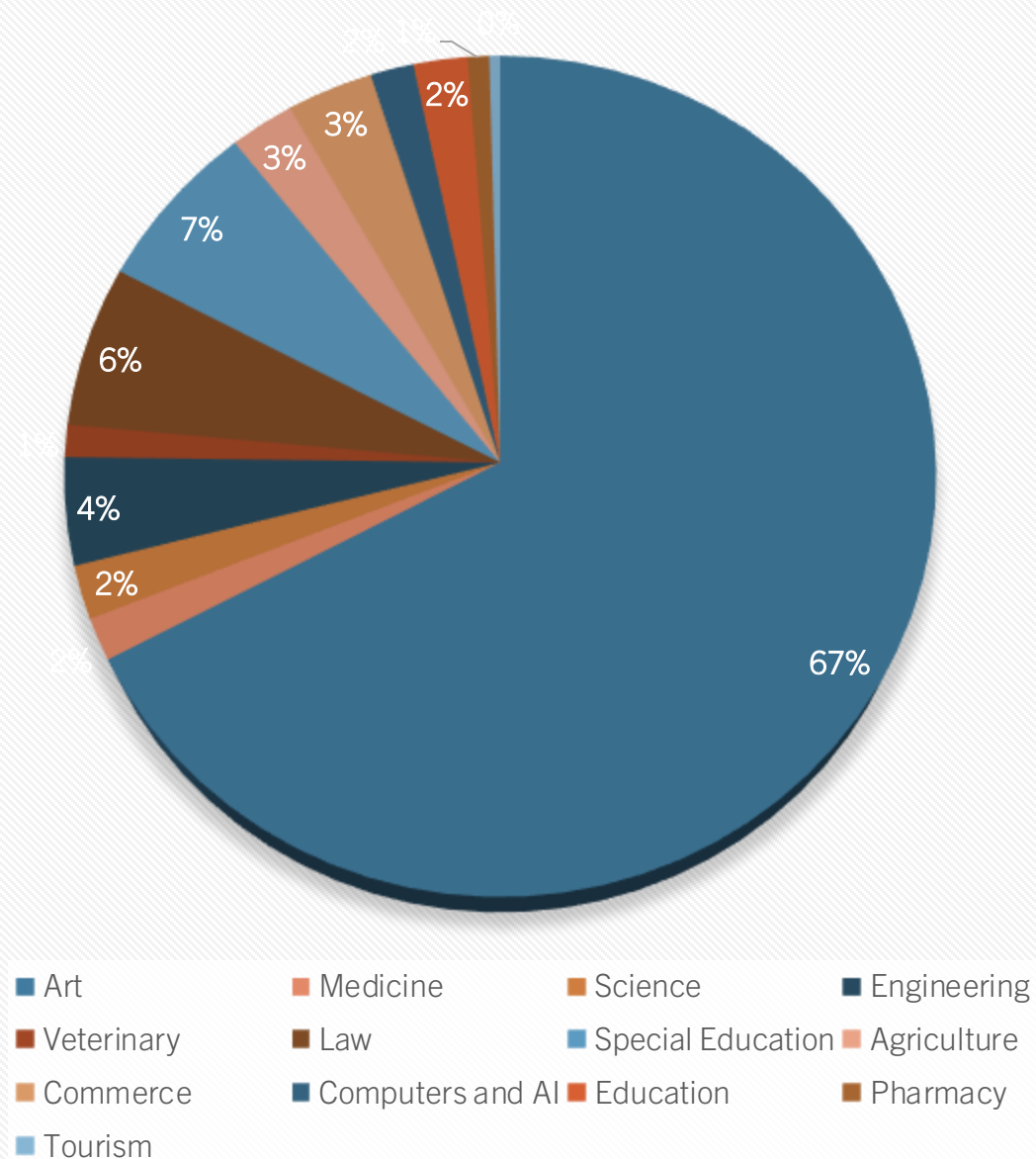
Number of
students
admitted to
Mansoura
University with
different
disabilities (2022-
2023)
(125)

Arts Medicine Science
Engineering Veterinary Medicine Law
Special education Agriculture Commerce
Computers and AI



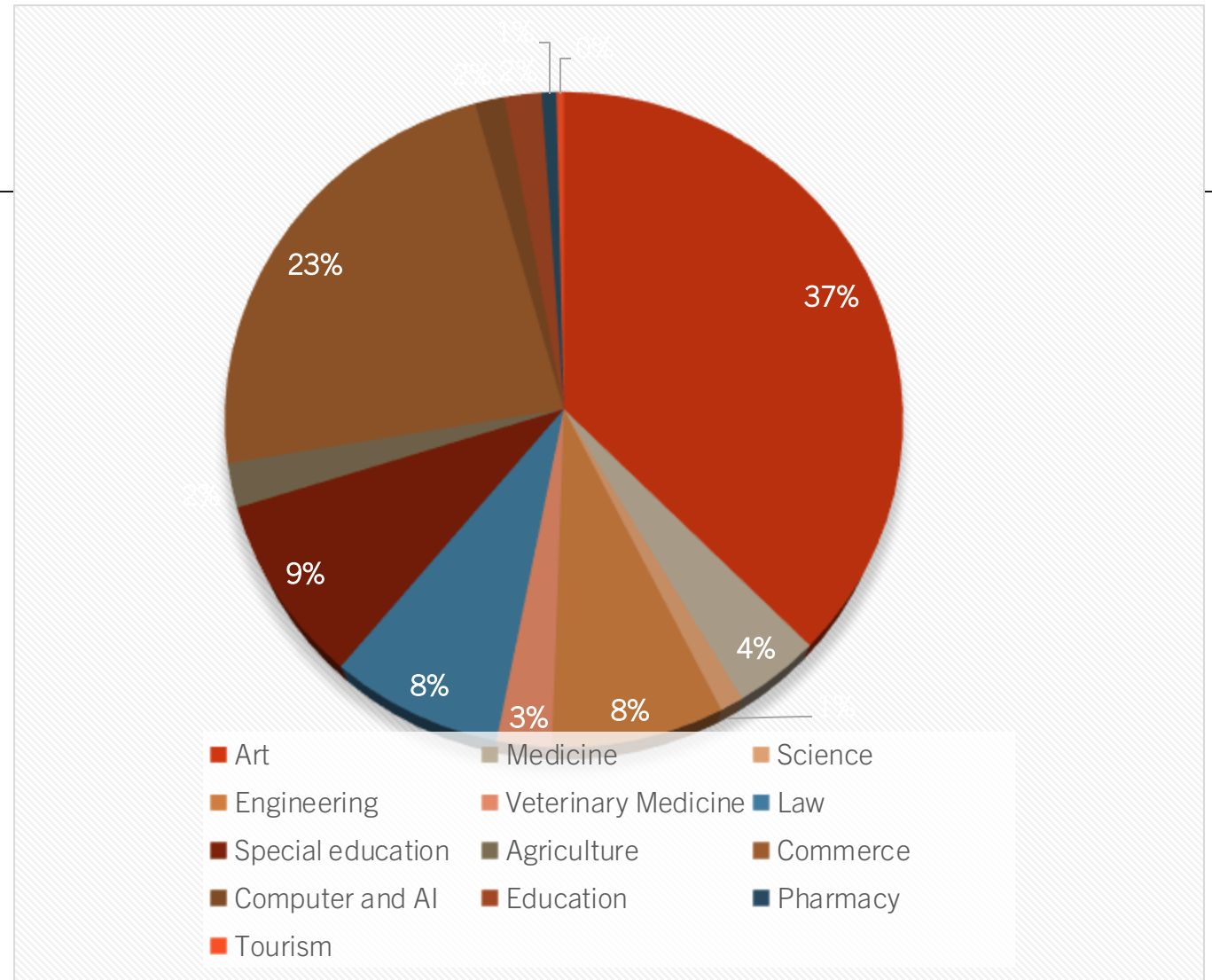
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Number of
students admitted
to Mansoura
University with
different disabilities
(2023-2024)
(275)



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Number of students
admitted to
Mansoura University
with different
disabilities (2024-
2025)
(292)



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LIBRARY SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Equal Access • Inclusion • Empowerment

We are committed to providing an accessible, inclusive and supportive library environment where everyone can learn, research and succeed.



BRaille MATERIALS

Availability of Braille books and educational resources.



AUDIO MATERIALS

Access to audio books and recorded lectures.



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Computers and software equipped to support various disabilities.



ACCESSIBLE ENVIRONMENT

Barrier-free access, ramps, elevators and accessible study spaces.



SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT

Braille printers, screen readers, magnifiers and adaptive tools.



PERSONALIZED SUPPORT

Assistance from trained staff and individualized support for library users.



Accessible Collections

Resources in multiple formats to meet diverse needs.



Academic Support

Help with research, information literacy and study skills.



Inclusive Programs

Workshops and awareness programs for an inclusive library community.



Digital Access

Online resources and digital library services accessible to all.



Partnership & Collaboration

Working with disability support services and community organizations.

Knowledge for All – Opportunities for Everyone

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Who Are We Designing For?



Visual Impairment



Hearing Impairment



Physical or Mobility
Limitations



Cognitive or Learning
Differences

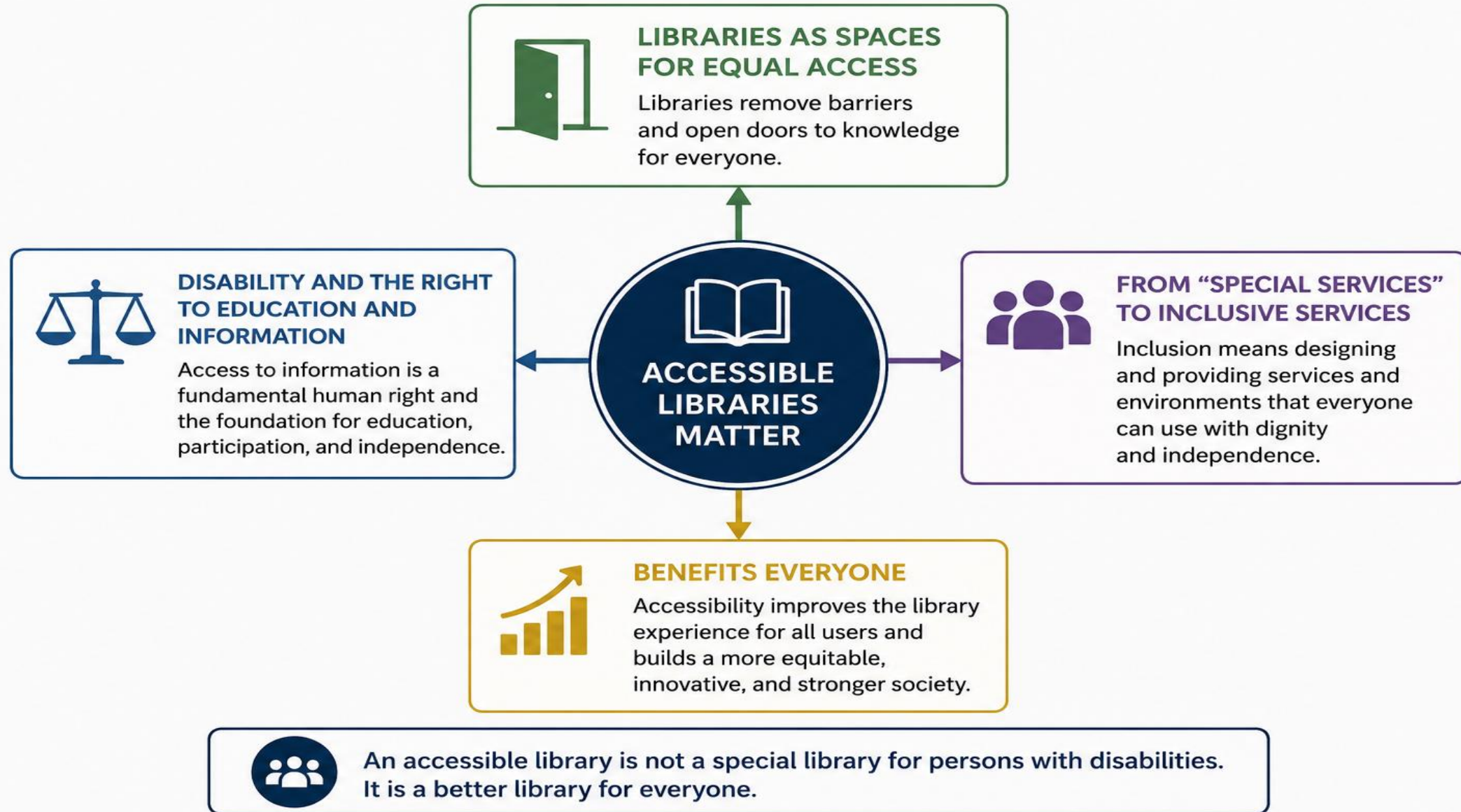


Temporary Disabilities and
and Age-Related Limitations
Limitations



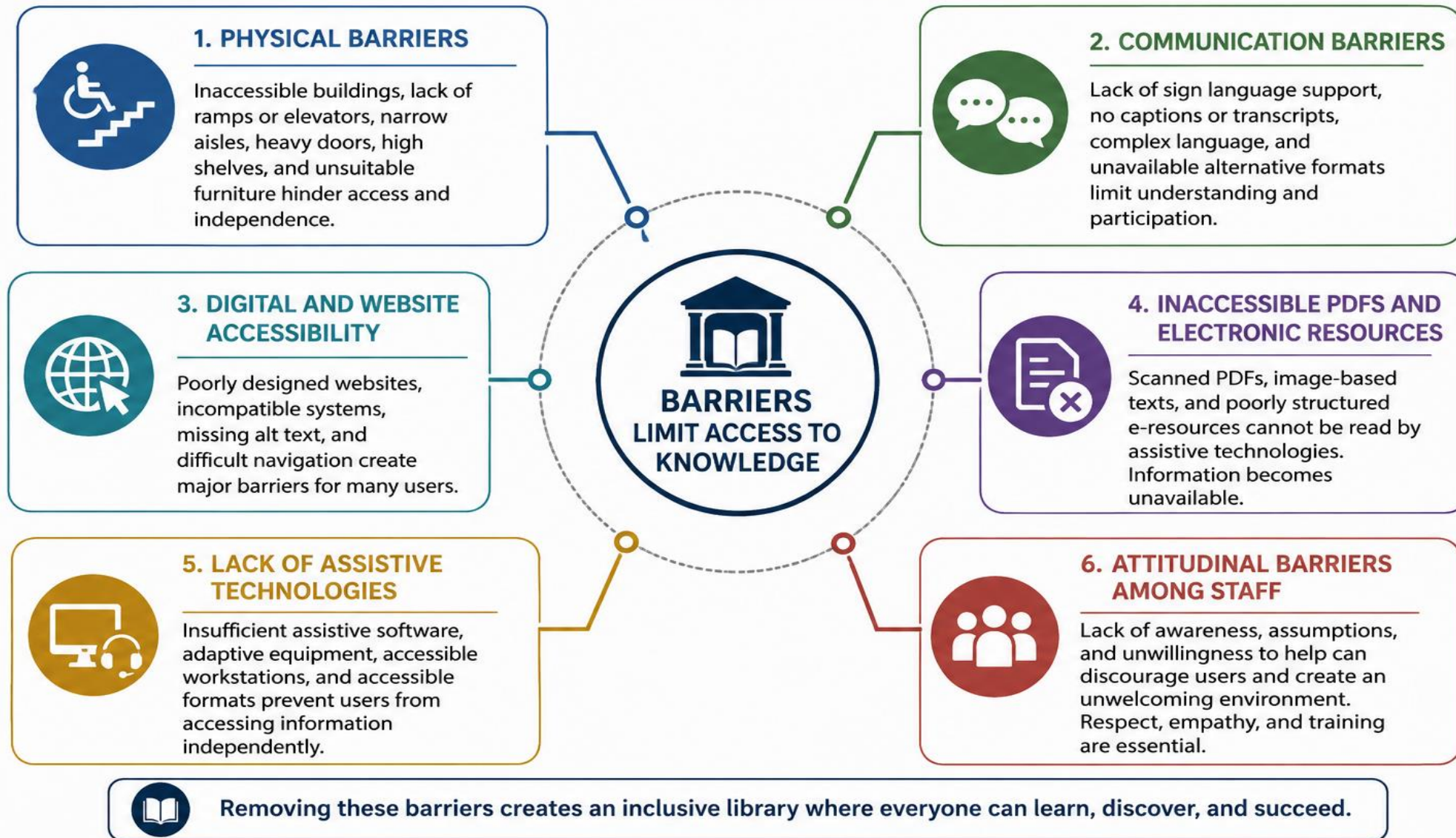
Disability is diverse, and accessibility cannot be a one-size-fits-all solution.

WHY ACCESSIBLE LIBRARIES MATTER



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BARRIERS FACED BY LIBRARY USERS



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Inclusive Library Access: Different Users, Barriers, and Solutions.

User Group	Common Barrier	Library Solution
 Blind User	→ Visual Information	→ Screen Reader, Braille, Audio
 Low-Vision User 	→ Small/Low-Contrast Text	→ Magnification, Large Print
 Wheelchair User	→ Physical Circulation	→ Ramps, Elevators, Accessible Aisles
 Deaf User 	→ Audio Information	→ Captions, Visual Communication
 Dyslexic User	→ Conventional Text	→ Accessible Digital Text, TTS
 Autistic/Neurodiverse User  Quiet Zone	→ Sensory Environment	→ Quiet Spaces, Predictable Navigation
 Motor Impairment User  Voice command	→ Conventional Input	→ Alternative Keyboards, Voice Control

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LIBRARY SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Suitable design

Law for person with disabilities

Accessible websites

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Starting Points in Providing ACCESSIBLE LIBRARY SERVICES



ACCESSIBLE ARCHITECTURE



Handrails



Elevators



Ramps / moving ramps



Extra large doorways



Automatic doors



Braille instructions within hand reach



Braille elevator buttons / signage



Visible / Large Signage – Universal Design
(i.e. Female/Male shapes for restrooms)



Break of recess at stopping points on bottom
of walls for visually impaired using canes



Shelf height within hand reach and/or provide
page assistance to pull materials for
wheelchair users



ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES



Good amplification system



Telecommunication Device
for the Deaf in public
phone areas



Headphones / microphones
in conference rooms



Audio books



ACCESS FOR ALL,
KNOWLEDGE FOR EVERYONE



VISUAL AIDS



Large print materials



Braille materials



Close captioned videos/DVDs



Good lighting



Magnification software, hand held
magnifiers, screen enlargers, etc.



Smoke detectors with
strobe alarms



Building an inclusive library environment ensures
equitable access, independence and dignity for all.



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TYPES OF DISABILITIES



Disabilities can be visible or invisible and may affect physical, sensory, intellectual, mental or neurological abilities.

PHYSICAL DISABILITIES



Affect the body's movement, mobility or physical function.

Examples:

- Mobility impairments
- Amputations
- Chronic pain conditions
- Arthritis

SENSORY DISABILITIES



Affect the senses of hearing, vision, touch, taste or smell.

Examples:

- Visual impairments (blind, low vision)
- Hearing impairments (deaf, hard of hearing)
- Loss of taste or smell

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES



Affect cognitive abilities and adaptive skills.

Examples:

- Intellectual Disability
- Down Syndrome
- Learning disabilities

MENTAL HEALTH DISABILITIES



Affect emotional well-being and mental functioning.

Examples:

- Depression
- Anxiety disorders
- Bipolar disorder
- PTSD

NEUROLOGICAL DISABILITIES



Affect the nervous system and brain function.

Examples:

- Epilepsy
- Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
- Parkinson's Disease
- Cerebral Palsy

COMMUNICATION DISABILITIES



Affect a person's ability to communicate or be understood.

Examples:

- Speech disorders
- Language disorders
- Stuttering

CHRONIC HEALTH CONDITIONS



Long-term health conditions that affect daily life activities.

Examples:

- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Asthma

SPECIFIC LEARNING DISABILITIES



Affect the ability to learn and process academic information.

Examples:

- Dyslexia
- Dyscalculia
- Dysgraphia

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



Affect physical, learning, language or behavior development.

Examples:

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- ADHD
- Developmental Delays

MULTIPLE DISABILITIES



A combination of two or more types of disabilities.

Examples:

- Combination of physical, sensory, intellectual or other disabilities



Every ability deserves respect, inclusion and equality.



Create accessible environments



Promote inclusion and participation



Practice empathy and respect



Support rights and independence



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MODEL OF DISABILITIES

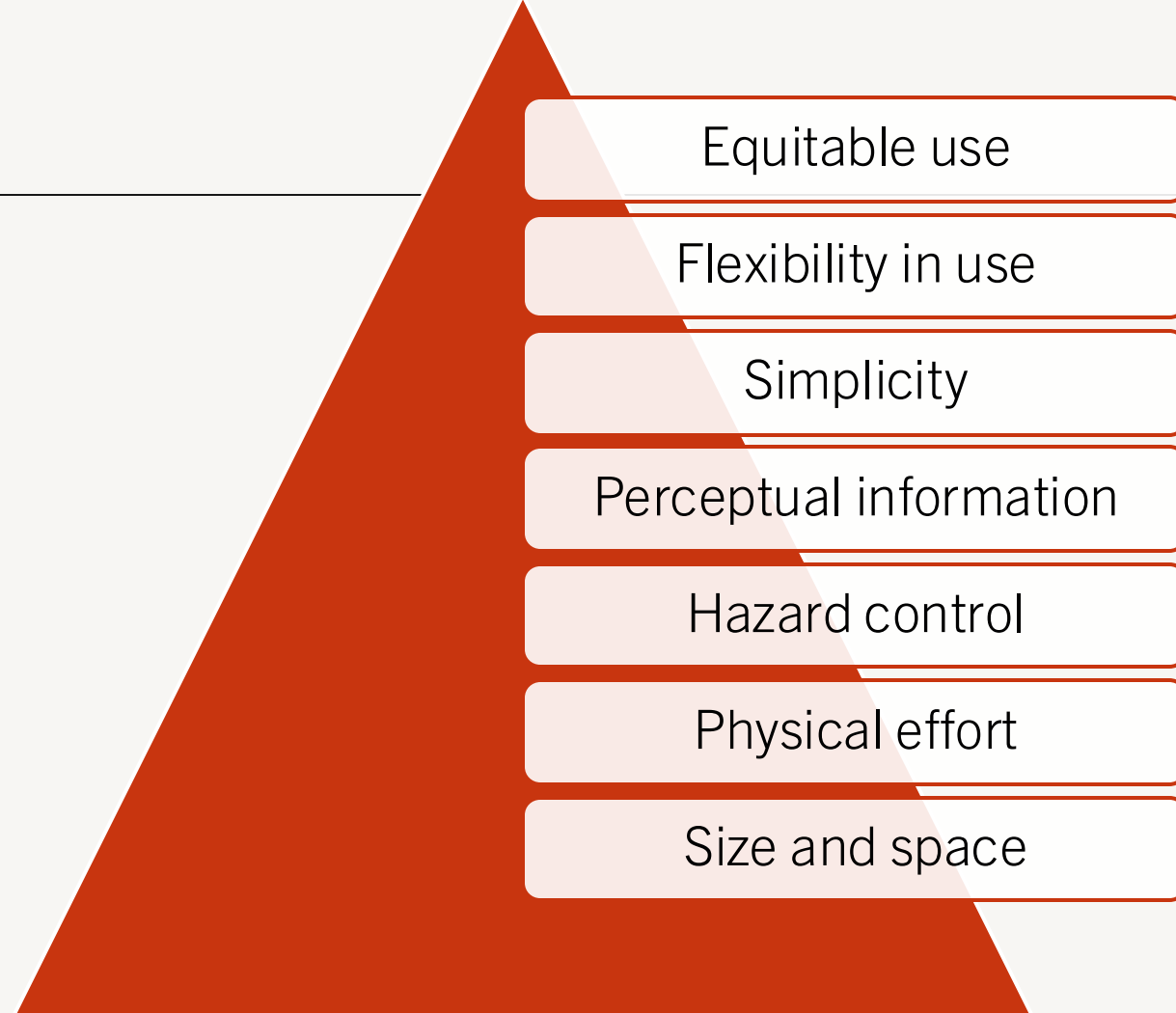


Medical issues



Social issues

DESIGN OF THE LIBRARY



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DESIGN OF THE LIBRARY

1 Equitable use

Inclusive entry, adjustable furniture & shelving, diverse learning zones.



2 Flexibility in use

Modular shelving, multi-purpose rooms, movable partitions.



3 Simplicity

Clear wayfinding signage, intuitive layouts, minimal visual clutter.



4 Perceptual information

High-contrast displays, tactile maps, visual and auditory cues.



5 Hazard control

Automatic doors, slip-resistant flooring, well-lit spaces, safe shelving heights.



6 Physical effort

Ergonomic seating, accessible workstations, power-assisted doors, book carts.



7 Size and space

Spacious aisles, varied seating sizes, circulation desk height variation.

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The Human Factor — Staff as Accessibility Partners

Library staff need awareness, communication skills, confidence and knowledge of assistive technologies.

“

"Ask, don't assume."

”

“

"Nothing about us without us."

”

Users with disabilities should be involved in designing and evaluating library services.

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MANSOURA UNIVERSITY CENTRAL LIBRARY



Equal access
to
knowledge
and
education

Assistive
technology
and digital
accessibility

Digital
library and
research
services

Integration
with
disability
center

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Turn principles into routine practice

Use a repeating cycle: plan, audit, equip, train, and evaluate.

1

Plan

Include disabled users in needs assessment and program design.

2

Audit

Review entrances, signage, lighting, shelving, websites, and e-resources.

3

Equip

Provide adaptive technologies, alternative formats, and accessible instruction.

4

Train

Build disability awareness into onboarding and continuing development.

5

Evaluate

Promote services, collect feedback, and document improvements.

Accessibility becomes meaningful when it is visible in everyday decisions.

Heaven, 2009 | Getts & Stewart, 2018 | Ferrara, 2023 | Kumbier & Starkey, 2016

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