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Retrospective Accessibility

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ACCESSIBILITY

As with the rest of society, Art in the Libraries made a major shift as a result of the pandemic. The programs and exhibits moved a lot of exhibits and programming online offering an opportunity to make them more accessible. For our partners in WVU Accessibility Services, it meant much, much more work and education.

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“As students transitioned to the online learning environment during the COVID-19 pandemic, an unprecedented number of videos required captioning to provide access for our Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. This need grew exponentially over the course of the pandemic; however, WVU’s Office of Accessibility Services met the challenge. Within a four-month period, seven OAS Transcribers captioned over 800 videos in 32 disciplines while simultaneously providing real-time captioning during live classes. With the use of emerging and existing technology, along with rigorous training for providers, accessibility is now within reach for more students than ever. Yet many organizations and institutions require a better understanding of what accessibility truly means, and how to anticipate the needs of students. If there was an upside to this pandemic, it’s that it showed the resourcefulness, the flexibility, and the adaptability of our students, accessibility service providers, staff, and faculty.”

-Nicole Fuller, WVU Captioner