

Summary

This study focuses on disabled users of public libraries. First, general attitude towards physically handicapped people is analyzed on the basis of literature review. Furthermore, past surveys were utilized in order to describe attitudes demonstrated by library staff in particular as well as approach taken by the libraries in order to ease access for disabled users to library services. Analysis is complemented by overview of current projects aimed to improve accessibility of libraries including communication facilities and tools overcoming construction barriers. General principles of barrier-free access to libraries are derived from this overview. The field survey in the second part of this study evaluates accessibility of selected libraries from the point of view of disabled users. The sample focused particularly on libraries which have not been reviewed yet. Particular conditions in each library classify the respective institution to the corresponding category of accessibility. Derived knowledge was published on website of Pražská organizace vozíčkářů, o.s. (Prague wheelchair association, NGO).