

Poster Accessibility Checklist

Text and Language

- Use clear, straightforward English (avoid jargon and technical terms unless explained)
- Write in active voice with short sentences (≤ 25 words) and concise labels (75–100 words max)
- Provide an overview paragraph at the start of panels for quick comprehension
- Avoid all caps, script, and italic type for essential information; use sans serif or simple serif fonts
- Ensure appropriate type size for viewing distance (Minimum x-height: 4.5 mm; larger for greater distances)

Typography and Layout

- Line length: Max 55 characters per line; narrower columns (45–50 characters) preferred
- Leading (line spacing): At least 20% greater than font size
- Margins: Left-justified, ragged right; avoid centering more than three lines
- Consistent letter and word spacing; avoid kerning that causes letters to touch

Contrast and Background

- High contrast between text and background (at least 70% light reflectance difference)
- Dark text on light background works best for panels; light text on dark acceptable for backlit displays
- Avoid overprinting on images or textured backgrounds; use solid backgrounds only
- Non-glare surfaces: Print on matte or eggshell finishes to reduce glare

Mounting and Position

- Height for wall labels: 1220–1675 mm (48–67 in.) from floor; optimal centerline at 1370 mm (54 in.)
- Label rails: Top of label at ~1015 mm (40 in.) for seated and standing visitors

- Angle: Labels mounted at 45° toward viewer are easier to read than flat surfaces
- Consistent placement throughout the exhibition for predictability

Lighting

- Provide 100–300 lux (10–30 footcandles) on labels for readability; ensure uniform lighting and avoid shadows

Alternative Formats

- Offer Braille, large print, and audio versions of essential label information within the gallery
- Include tactile diagrams or raised-line drawings where possible

Visual Examples

Typography and Contrast Examples:

POSTER ACCESSIBILITY

GOOD

POOR

Typography
Clear and legible sans-serif text

Small, italicized, serif text

High contrast between text and background

Low contrast between text and background

Positioned at a readable height and angle

Mounted too high for easy viewing



Lighting and Glare Example:

POSTER ACCESSIBILITY

GOOD

Typography
Clear and legible sans-serif text

High contrast between text and background

Positioned at a readable height and angle

Adequate lighting on the poster



POOR

Small, italicized, serif text

Low contrast between text and background

Mounted too high for easy viewing



Wheelchair and Mobility Access

- Ensure accessible routes to all signage and displays (minimum 36 in. wide, firm, stable, slip-resistant)
- Provide clear floor space of at least 30 x 48 inches in front of panels for forward or side approach
- Maintain reach ranges for interactive elements: Forward reach 15–48 in.; Side reach 9–54 in.

- Mount labels and panels at optimal viewing centerline of 54 in. from floor; bottom edge ≥ 48 in., top edge ≤ 67 in.
- Avoid protruding objects into circulation paths more than 4 in.
- Provide knee and toe clearance for interactive stations: Minimum 27 in. high, 17–25 in. deep
- Ensure turning space near major interpretive panels: 60-in. diameter circle or T-shaped turning area
- Offer alternative formats (Braille, tactile graphics, audio descriptions) for essential content