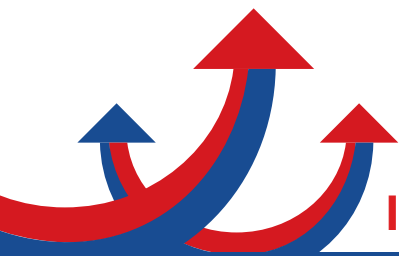


The importance of creating an accessible Museum for people with disabilities

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1st Publicity Event of the “Cultural Dipole” project
Friday the 1st of June, Serres



INVESTORS IN CULTURE for fighting crisis



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According to the new Greek Building Regulations published at the Official Government Gazette (OGG 79/A'/9-4-2012), **accessibility** is the characteristic of the environment that allows all persons, regardless of sex, age or other characteristics such as size, strength, nationality, to have access to it and approach and use all infrastructure and services autonomously, safely and comfortably.

Accessibility refers not only to physical access, but also to functionality, perception, communication, autonomy and security.

Accessibility = physical access and perceptibility

Physical access: ability to autonomously access, move and remain at a particular space. Ability to use all available infrastructure, services, goods and information regardless of age, gender or disability, with comfort and security.

Perceptibility: the way a person, perceives, understands and learns from the environment.

Design for all

“Design for all” or “Universal Design”: design that takes into account, to the greatest possible extent, the needs of the various groups of persons with restricted mobility

“Persons with restricted mobility”: this groups includes disabled persons as well as ageing population, pregnant women, persons carrying weight etc. They are estimated to account for around 50% of the total population.

Legislation

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – Article 30

States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities:

- (a) Enjoy access to cultural materials in accessible formats;
- (b) Enjoy access to television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities, in accessible formats;
- (c) Enjoy access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services, and, as far as possible, enjoy access to monuments and sites of national cultural importance.

Legislation

Article 21 of the Greek Constitution: “6. Persons with disabilities have the right to enjoy measures ensuring autonomy, occupational integration and participation in the social, economic and political life of the country”.

Law 4067/2012 - New Greek Building Regulations: In articles 26 and 27 it is defined that it is necessary to ensure the horizontal and vertical autonomous and safe access by people with disabilities or people with restricted mobility and these people should be served in all the internal and external spaces of the new buildings. Furthermore, it is mentioned that is obligatory to ensure accessibility in all the existing public buildings through interventions that should be completed until 2020.

Existing situation

In a research carried out in 2013 among 4506 persons by the Greek Confederation of Persons with Disability, 28,4% of the participants responded that access to cultural and sport activities has got worse during the previous 3 years, with 37,1% responding that access has remained unchanged.

In a research carried out by the Greek Confederation of Persons with Disability in the frame of the EQUAL 23 project among 1.386 participants, as far as access to cultural and recreational areas are concerned, only 17,6% were very satisfied with the existing access level, with 36,8% being moderately satisfied and 32% not satisfied.

Access to cultural spaces

- Access to infrastructure
- Access to exhibits
- Access to events/
educational programs



Good practice examples

musée du quai Branly, Paris

For visitors with physical disabilities:

- Level access to exhibits
- Wheelchairs and sticks available for loan
- Step is available for loan for persons of small stature



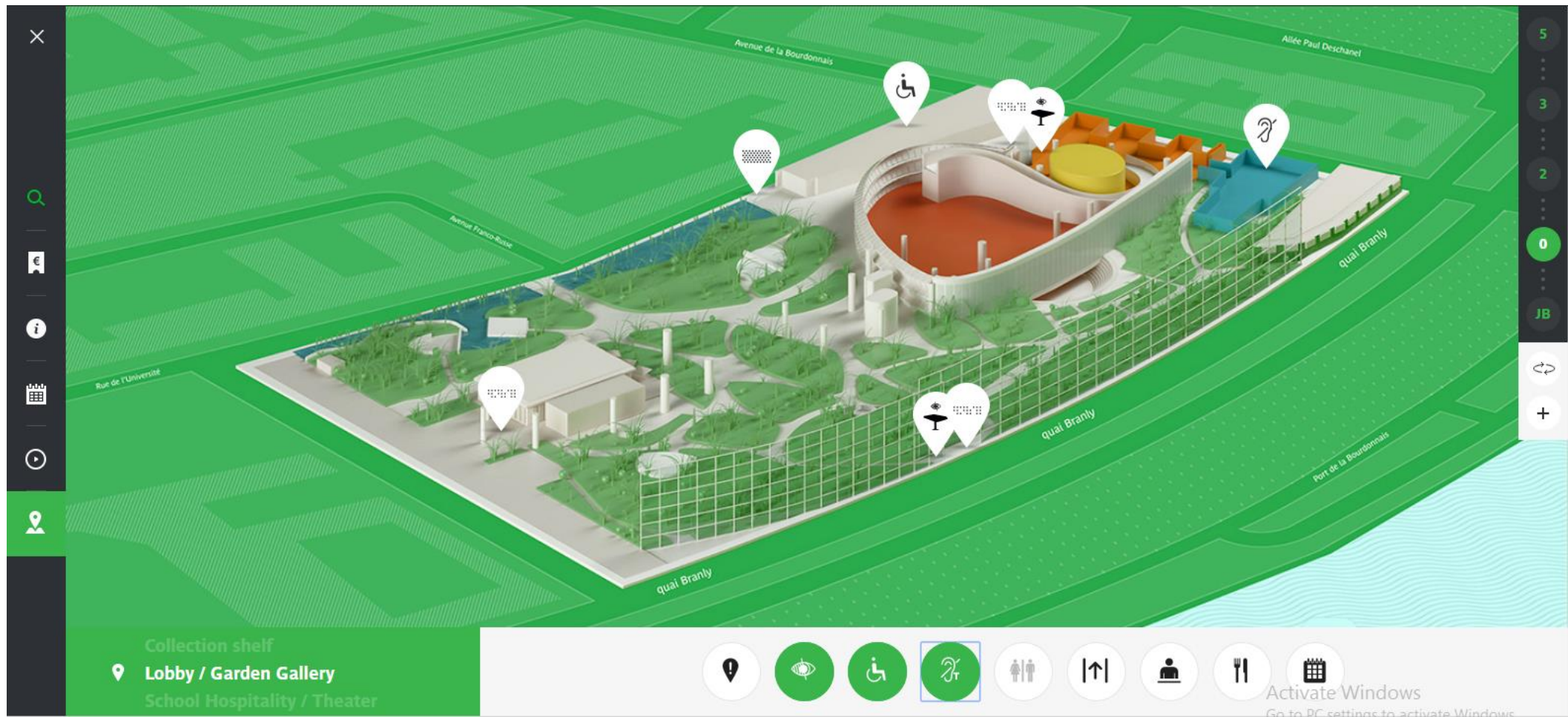
musée du quai Branly, Paris

For visitors with sensory disabilities:

- Tactile information and maps
- Information provided in audio, video with subtitles and sign language
- Access to guide dogs allowed
- Equipment available for loan (magnifying glasses, binoculars and torches)

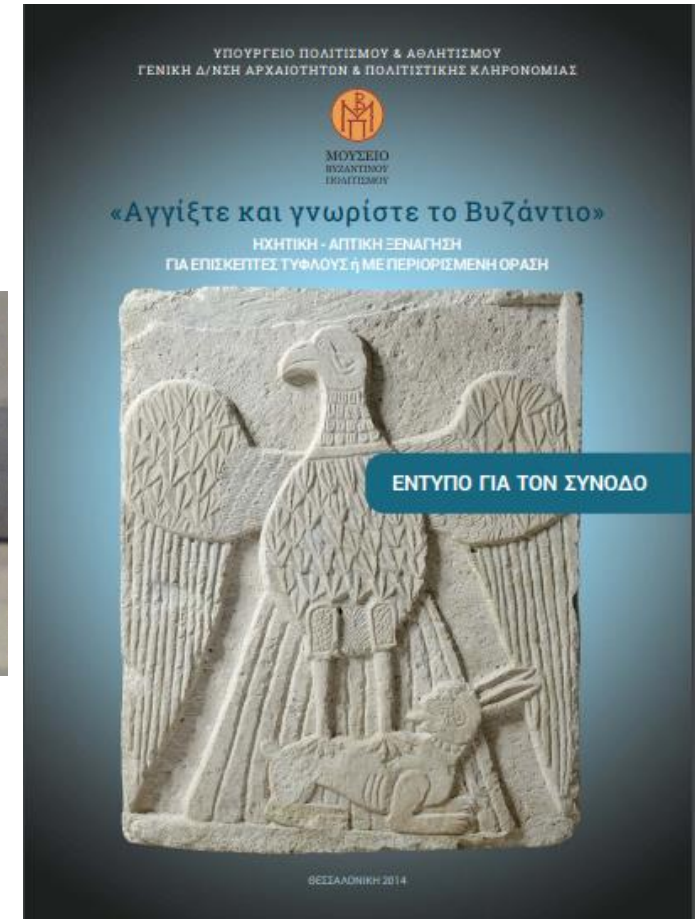


musée du quai Branly, Paris



Museum of Byzantine Culture

Audible and tactile tour including 15 exhibits of marble and clay, created from the 3rd until the 14th century A.C.



Goulandris Foundation Museum of Cycladic Art

Educational program for children with vision impairments



Prospelasis/ accessible monuments

In the frame of the research project, which was financed by the EEA grants and the national Program for Public Investments, significant improvements in the accessibility of 6 major Byzantine monuments (Acheiropoietos, Saint Demetrios, Saint Nicholas Orphanos, Hagia Sofia, Rotunda, Heptapyrgion Fortress) were realized which included:

- Interventions for physical access (bridge, platform lift, lift, ramps)
- Installation in the six Monuments of a Wi-Fi system providing information in text, audio, Greek and International Sign Language
- Creation of two tactile models for visitors with reduced vision in Rotunda and Heptapyrgion

Prospelasis/ Rotunda, physical access



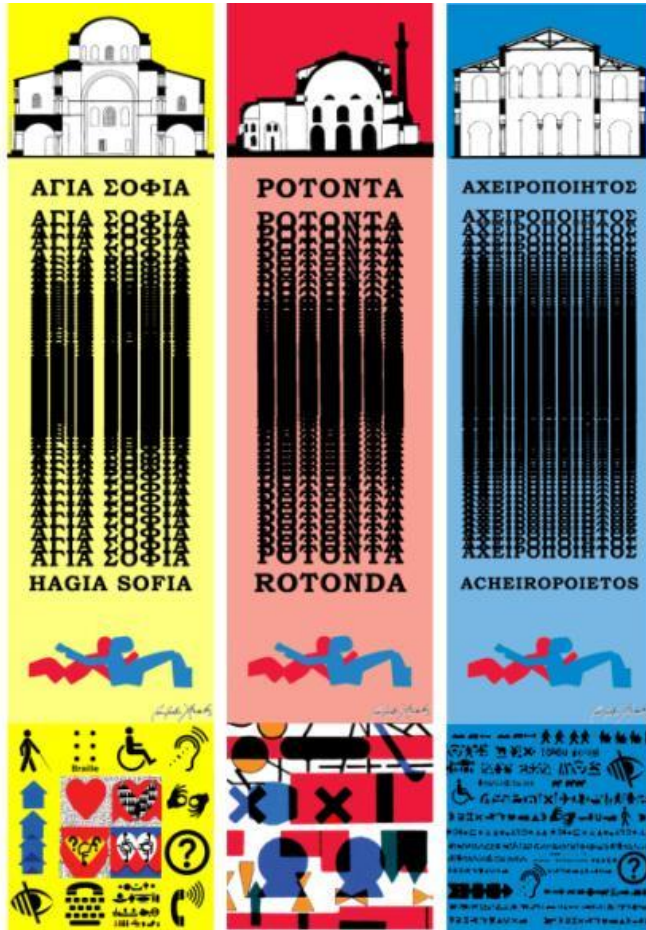
Prospelasis/ Rotunda: perceptibility, vision impairments



Prospelasis/ Rotunda: perceptibility, hearing impairments



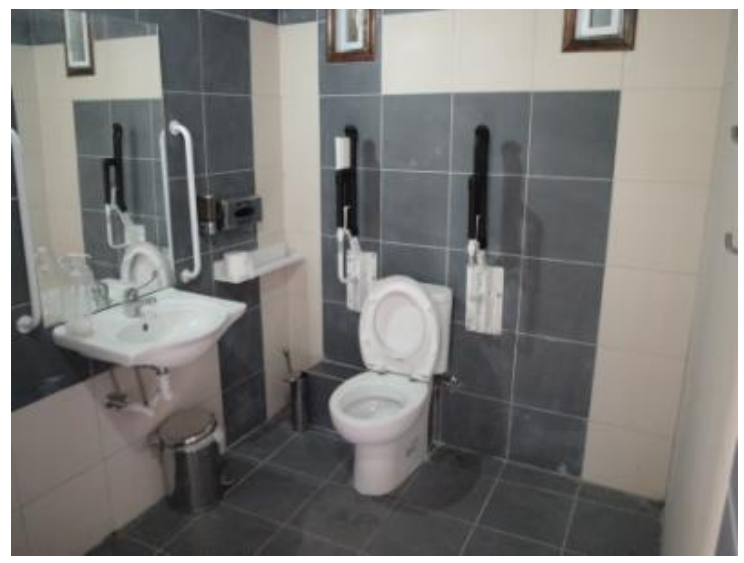
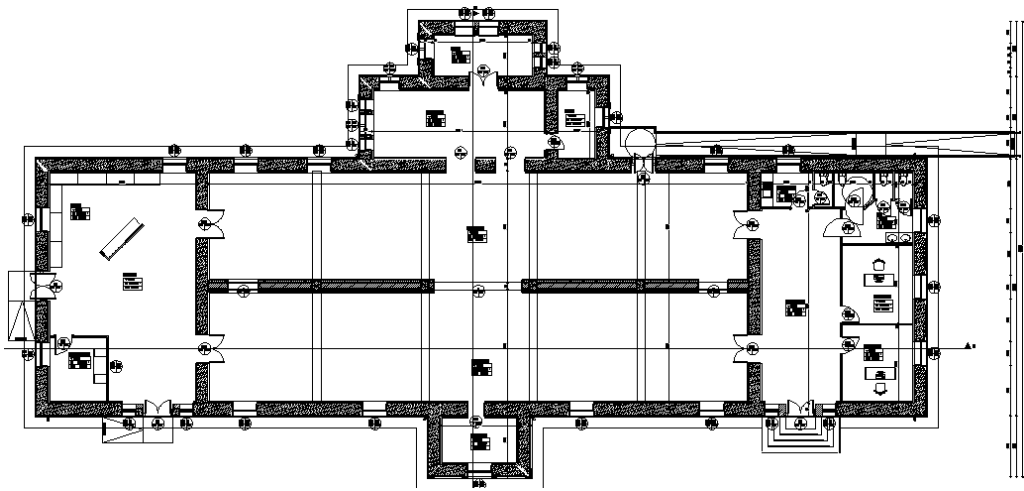
Prospelasis/ signage of route connecting 3 monuments created by Constantin Xenakis



Accessibility provisions realized at the “Constantin Xenakis” museum

Visitors with physical impairments

- Accessible parking spaces
- Access to exhibition halls and emergency exits
- Exhibits at proper heights
- Handrails
- Accessible WC

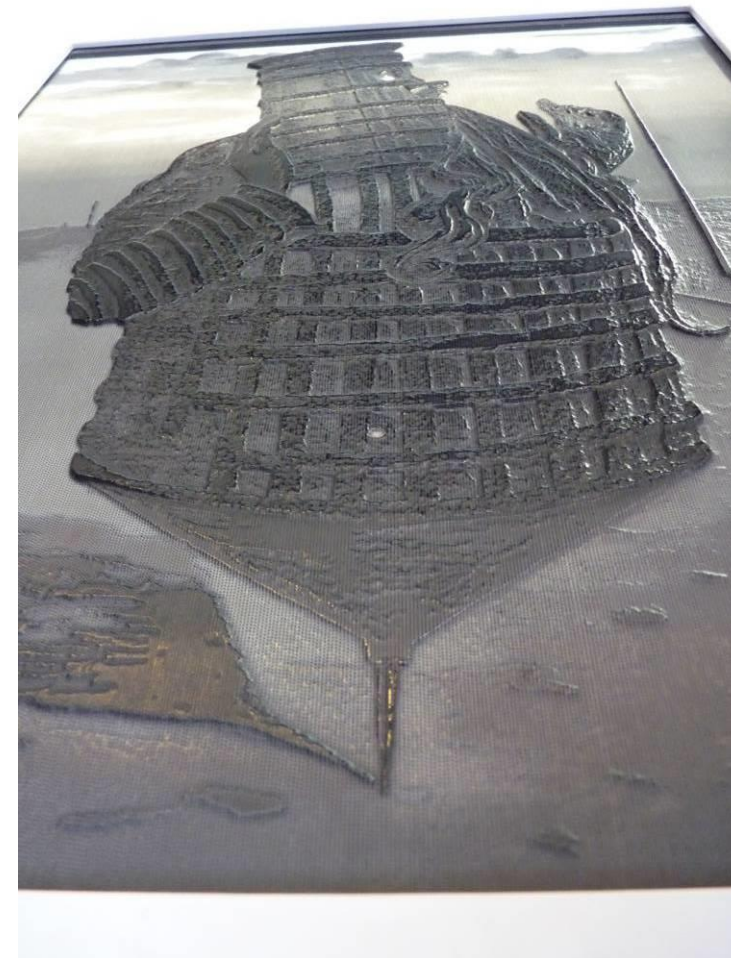
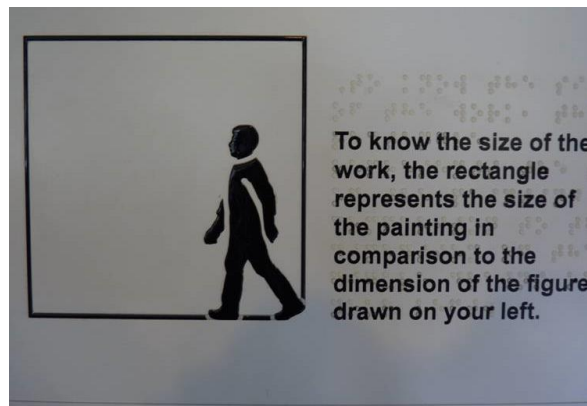


Visitors with vision impairments

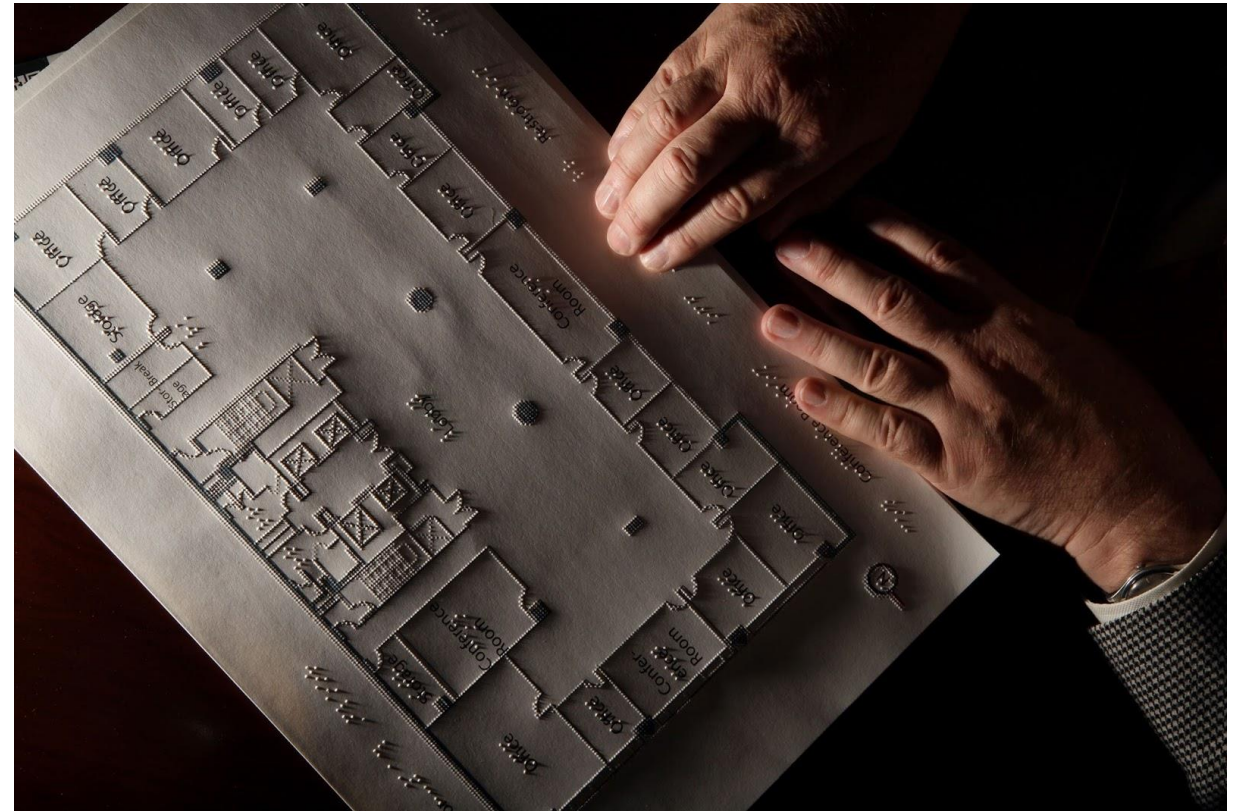
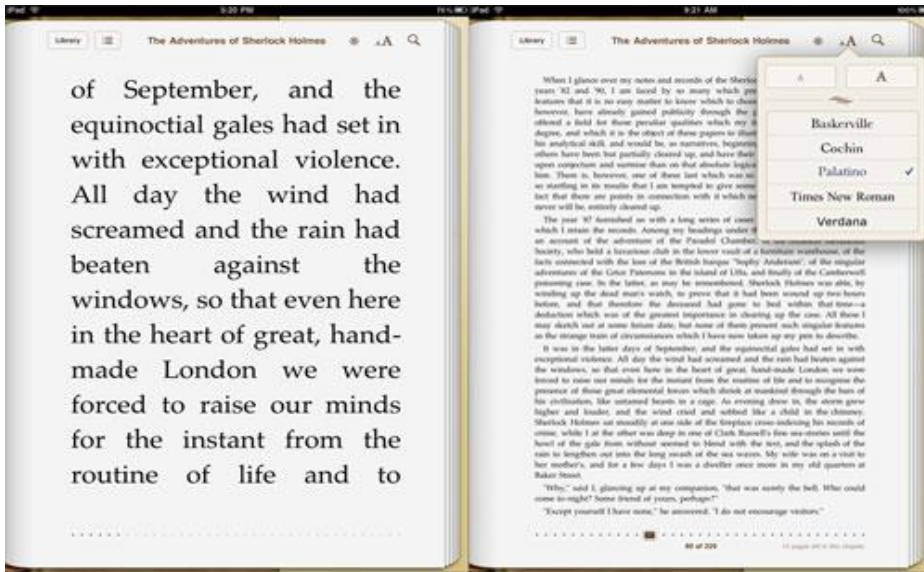
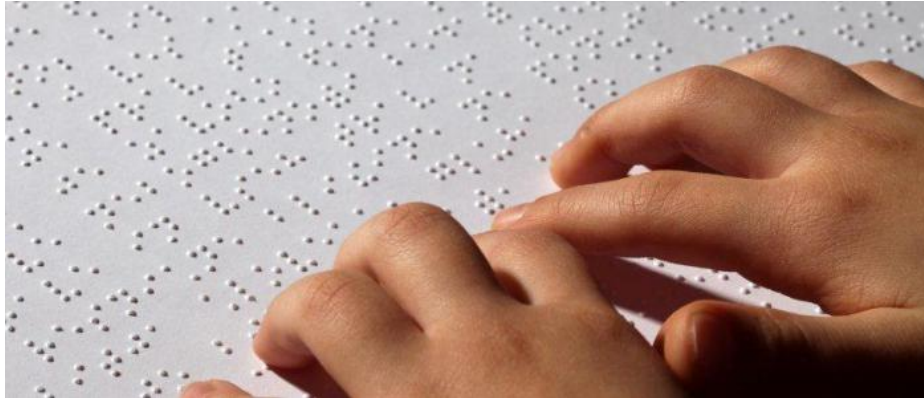
- Tactile Surface Indicator leading to the main entrance
- Use of colour contrast in the frame of museiographic study
- Tactile models of exhibits
- Information provision through Wi-Fi application
- Tactile map and enlarged print



Tactile models



Tactile map and large print



Visitors with hearing impairments

- Signage
- Information through Wi-Fi application
- Information in Sign Language



Suggestions for future actions

- Organization of education programs and organized visits focused on disabled visitors
- Realization of training programs for the museum's staff focusing on accessibility
- Creation of an accessible Museum Guide



Thank you for your attention!

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