

Translating Gardens into Multisensory Experience: An Inclusive Tour for BPS Visitors

- Xi Wang
- University of Portsmouth
- 2 December 2022

Human Rights

- UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948
- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2010
- European Audiovisual Directive 2018
- Equality Act 2010, UK

Diversity of Visitors

- In the UK, there are about **14.1** million disabled people
- **2** million people are blind or partially sighted. It is estimated that the number of BPS people will increase to over **4** million by 2050 (Access Economics, 2019).
- With the aging population increasing, the need for better access facilities is increasing.

Why Gardens? Why Green Spaces?

- Goulty (1993, p.1) points that gardens are “**our most accessible art form**”.
- Green spaces can promote the mental and physical welling-being of visitors as connection to nature “offers significant **health and well-being benefits** to people living with disability” (Souter-Brown, 2015, p. 142).
- In the UK, the Revaluing Parks and Green Spaces research project demonstrates that these spaces across the UK provide people with over **£34 billions** of health and wellbeing benefits.

Accessibility issues

- For BPS visitors
- For service providers

Case Study – Hillsborough Castle and Gardens



Multi-stage Methodology

- Stage One: Plan the **multisensory described tour** with the tour guide
- Stage Two: Carry out the tour with BPS visitors
 - In-tour questions (during the visit)
 - Interview (after the visit)
- Stage Three: Design the script for our customizable voice-driven smart guide

Listen



Touch



Taste



Smell



Keys Findings

- Smells were effective in reminding the BPS visitors of times earlier in their life. This made them want to share with the tour guide times in their life which the smell reminded them of. This then led them to share something of their life story with the guide. This was therapeutic.
- A good, proactive guide can make visitors much more perceptive and appreciative of the garden environment, and as a result to value the natural environment much more.
- Gardens have the potential to give an inclusive, enjoyable, emotionally engaging and memorable visiting experience for all visitors.

Smart Guide & Future work

- Start with our existing Customizable Smart guide: TBot used in Titanic Belfast (Wang et al., 2022)

(Four main functions: audio description, answer free-format questions, navigation instructions, and assistance)

- Future work:

Design and test the script for the smart guide which could provide multisensory described guide for BPS visitors

Thank you!

- Email: xi.wang@port.ac.uk
- Twitter: @Xi_WangQUB

References

- Economics Access. (2019). Key information and statistics - RNIB - See differently. In RNIB. <https://www.rnib.org.uk/professionals/knowledge-and-research-hub/key-information-and-statistics>
- Fields in Trust. (2018). Revaluing Parks and Garden Spaces.
- Goult, M. (1993). Heritage Gardens and Created Environments: Care, Conservation. London: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203168059>
- Souter-Brown, G. (2015). Landscape and urban design for health and well-being: Using healing, sensory and therapeutic gardens. London: Routledge.
- Wang, X., Crookes, D., Harding, S., & Johnston, D. (2022). Evaluating audio description and emotional engagement for BPS visitors in a museum context. Translation Spaces, 11(1), 134–156. <https://doi.org/10.1075/ts.21019.wan>