

Bendel J. *Methods of accessibility data analysis: application in a computerized information system of accessibility to tourist and recreation sites*. In Ed. Feldman D., Lahav Y., Haimovitz S., "Accessibility of the Israeli Society to People with Disabilities in the 21st century" Governmental Advertising Bureau, Israel 2007 (In Hebrew)

Abstracts

Accessibility requirements are complicated and comprised of many details to meet the needs of people with many types of disabilities. There are many different requirements for different types of buildings, based on the functions they serve. Accessibility implies the combination of all the requirements and the connections between them, and not the availability of each component on its own. There are many possible such combinations; as a result, determining the general level of accessibility to public facilities in general and at tourist sites in particular is a complicated task.

Access Unlimited has developed a decision support data analysis system which is able to overcome this problem. The data analysis system was designed while bearing in mind three major aspects:

1. The Israeli requirements for accessibility, which are part of the Israeli building codes
2. The physical and sensory abilities of wheelchair users, mobility-impaired individuals using canes, walkers etc. and visually or hearing- impaired persons
3. The needs of persons with disabilities while visiting tourist sites

The computerized data analysis system is based on mathematical equations and analyzes the level of accessibility quantitatively, e.g., the level of accessibility of the parking lot, rest room etc. It then compiles the results for all individual elements to provide an overall weighted grade for the site as a whole. The system is flexible and provides for changes in requirements or technologic innovation.

The data is analyzed by type of facility, (i.e. hotel, museum, beach etc). In this way the specific requirements of each type of site are taken into consideration, according to the function it fulfills.

The grading is automated, therefore ensuring consistency, objectivity and reliability, and is not subject to the personal impressions of the surveyor. Nor is the accessibility criteria related to items such as cleanliness, quality of service etc.

The data analysis system enables simple and clear presentation catering to Israelis or tourists with disabilities from other countries, who are familiar with the accessibility standards in their country of origin.

The results of the data analysis can be presented in many different ways; a detailed description of each site is available with accessibility information integrated with general tourist information in different media such as maps, CDs etc.

