Research on Description of People and Portraits: Implications for the Deafblind Community

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Background

- Study conducted on audio description preferences of people and portraits.
  - Focus on race, gender, age, disability
- Audio description (AD) provides visual information
  - Various media and other contexts
- Lack of research=Limited understanding of preferences
  - Especially for people who are DeafBlind

Methodology

- Five focus groups and two interviews with 15 blind, low vision, and DeafBlind participants.

- Recruitment: listservs, Blinded Veterans Association, and American Council of the Blind.

- **Participant Demographics:**
  - 15 participants (9 men, 5 women, 1 non-binary)
  - Diverse racial backgrounds
  - 10 identified as DeafBlind

Findings and Implications for DeafBlind Participants

- Importance of facial expression

- Impact of age of onset

- Describing directly from the visual source

- Integration of sound and sight to create a "whole picture"
- Taking an educated guess.

Other Findings

- Context around AD provision
- Self-identification of person being described
- On-going communication between AD providers and users

Conclusion

- Audio description preferences may be different for DeafBlind people
- Importance of relevance, respect for self-identification, and continuous feedback for improved AD experiences
- Further research and development of guidelines for diverse representation

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