

Äänijälki is an interactive audio service for museums that allows the exchange of comments within present, past visitors and museum staff. These comments relate to the pieces in the exhibition and the navigation inside the museum. Äänijälki will be used for sharing hints about the experience of going to and being in an exhibition. The goal is to motivate visually impaired people to visit museums by providing a tool to get information about museum spaces and exhibitions, with their comments. It is now in a prototype stage.

We organized two workshops using Participatory Design approaches in Ateneum summer and fall 2005. Our aim was to begin a dialogue with the community. During these workshops visually impaired participants discussed about exhibition design and guides in museum spaces.

Guidelines for accesible future exhibition design:

- Layout the exhibition clearly
- Enable multisensory experience
- Allow existence of natural light
- Make sure contrast is sufficient

Put clear instructions in entrance

- Support autonomy
- Try to include nature element
- Do not forget cafeteria :)
- Make sure: no obstacles
- Provide more human guides
- Utilize technical aids
- Broaden your idea of special groups
- Include various accessibility solutions



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