

August Tuggle

MUS 664 Service-learning Annotated Bibliography

Clements-Cortes, A., & Pascoe, H. (2020). Music therapy implications and considerations for individuals with visual impairments. *Canadian Music Educator*, 61(2), 33–36.

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/2481256139?pq>

-origsite=gscholar&fromopenview=true

In their article, Clements-Cortes and Pascoe (2020) summarized key findings from the research literature on music therapy with visually impaired clients and provided practical suggestions for music therapists working with this population. The authors stated that music therapy may be uniquely suited to meet the needs of visually impaired individuals as interventions often involve auditory and tactile sensory input. Music therapy for visually impaired adults tends to focus on improving social skills and providing social and emotional support. Support groups for visually impaired adults have been shown to facilitate self-expression and increase feelings of empowerment. The authors provided an example of a support group wherein visually impaired adults improvised on instruments and worked together to create a song about their shared experiences that they performed for their community. The authors highlighted the importance of setting up an accessible session space and recognizing systemic barriers when working with visually impaired people. I am currently in the process of preparing a music therapy session for a group of visually impaired adults as one of my service-learning activities. This article concisely presents considerations that will help guide my session goals and interventions.

Music resources. (2023, May 8). American Council of the Blind. Retrieved March 2, 2024, from <https://www.acb.org/music-resources>

This “Music Resources” webpage from the American Council of the Blind (2023) provides links to resources that can help visually impaired individuals learn and create music. This list includes: a website for learning and having discussions about braille music notation, a website where visually impaired individuals can learn to use MIDI, a website where music courses and a selection of songs are taught completely by ear, and a website for visually impaired musicians to connect. Bluegrass Council of the Blind (BCB) serves multiple individuals who have music backgrounds and have shown interest in further engaging with music. One of my potential service-learning activities may involve helping to start a choir for BCB service users. This website provides many resources that could help me develop a product that will assist BCB in starting a choir or encourage BCB members to further engage with music in their personal lives.

Park, H. Y., Chong, H. J., & Kim, S. J. (2015). A comparative study on the attitudes and uses of music by adults with visual impairments and those who are sighted. *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*, 109(4), 303–316.
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1114508.pdf>

Park et al. (2015) conducted a study to compare the ways in which visually impaired and sighted adults view and utilize music in their daily lives. Data was obtained via a survey completed by 63 visually impaired and 74 sighted adults aged 20-39 living in South Korea. Results indicated that both sighted and visually impaired adults view music as having a positive role in their lives and utilize music for emotional expression and stress relief. There were no significant differences regarding musical element preferences. The key difference between the

groups was in how they access music. Sighted participants reported engaging with music while driving or in a community setting, whereas visually impaired adults reported engaging with music at home and online. Visually impaired participants also reported using music as a leisure activity at a higher rate than sighted participants. The authors suggested that establishing music ensembles and support groups utilizing music-based interventions for visually impaired adults may decrease the gap in community music engagement between participant groups. When providing relevant music-based services to BCB service users, it is important to understand the ways that visually impaired adults engage with music in their daily lives. The participants in this study were younger on average than the population I will be serving. Cultural factors may have also impacted survey results as the study was conducted in South Korea. However, this article highlighted for me that a music-based service that can be accessed from home may be more likely to be used by visually impaired adults and community engagement with music may be a need for this population. These considerations are important to keep in mind as I am developing music-based activities for BCB.