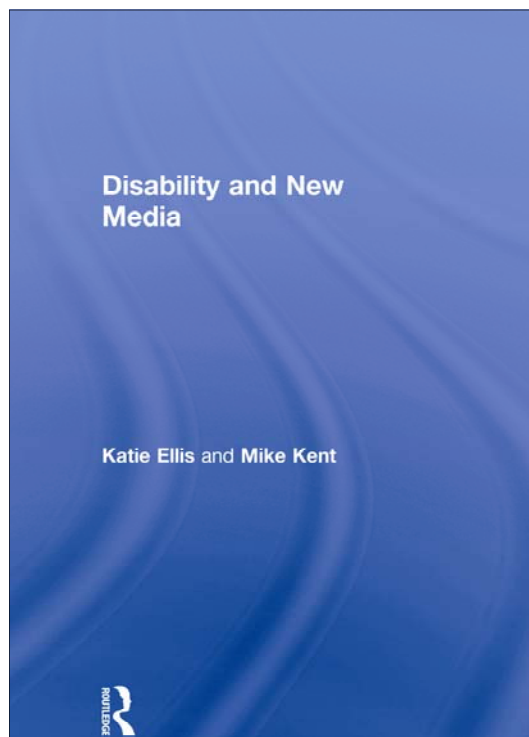


# Disability and New Media

**NEW!**

By **Katie Ellis** and **Mike Kent**



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*Disability and New Media* explores the contemporary new media environment and its impact on people with disabilities. Bringing together the fields of Internet Studies and Critical Disability Studies the book explores how the early promise of the world wide web of access for all people regardless of disability has been hijacked by more recent developments in an increasingly complex web 2.0 environment. Along with these setbacks the book also explores a number of successes in obtaining access for people with disabilities to previously unavailable digital platforms, and how these outcomes were achieved.

While many studies into disability and digital technology have focused on the early Internet and world wide web, this book takes in the scope of the more recent developments in the online environment exploring online platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Second Life, and their sometimes strained relationship with accessibility and universal design. Decisions made that impact on the accessibility of digital platforms are often portrayed as being merely technical in nature. This book exposes these as decisions as being highly political, with great impacts on the ability of people with disabilities to fully participate in the societies in which they live.

## About the Authors:

**Katie Ellis** is a lecturer in Media and Communications at Murdoch University. A film-critic and cultural commentator, she is the author of *Disabling Diversity* (VDM 2008). She has mentored filmmakers with disability and published a number of articles on cinema and new media addressing both issues of representation and active possibilities for social inclusion.

**Mike Kent** is a lecturer in Internet Studies at Curtin University. As well as a keen interest in Disability and the Internet his research focuses broadly on new media, digital technology and society.

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