



Jane Bringolf

Jane has a background in community services spanning more than thirty years. Her experience ranges from direct service provision to senior management roles. A recipient of a Churchill Fellowship in 2004, Jane travelled overseas to investigate organisations pursuing universal design, accessible environments and assistive technology. Jane's nine years as Executive Director with the Independent Living Centre NSW adds to her experience of working in the aged and disability sectors. Jane's interest in the fields of assistive technology and universal design derives mostly from her experiences working in the community sector, which included representation on various committees related to home modifications, ageing in place, universal housing design and disability advocacy. Jane holds an undergraduate degree in Social Science and a Masters of Business Administration. She is currently undertaking doctoral studies at the Urban Research Centre at the University of Western Sydney.

Research Theme

Jane's research is based around the topic of universal design, which is a process of creating products and environments that suit people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. For example, taps that everyone can operate even if they have arthritis, and homes designed in such a way that people can age with their declining abilities and not have to move prematurely to a care setting. "Universal" in this context, therefore means usable, as far as possible, by everyone.

Jane is investigating the drivers and barriers to universal design, particularly in housing, and examining the economic costs to the community of not having universally designed products and environments. This will build on the work currently underway in Europe on the economic costs of not fully utilising assistive technologies for people with disabilities.

Publications

Bringolf, J. and Schraner, I., forthcoming. "Turning Back Time for Inclusion Today as Well as Tomorrow." In *Inclusion Between Past and Future: AT from Adapted Equipment to Inclusive Environments*, edited by P.L. Emiliani, Salminen, A-L., Burzagli, L., Gabbanini.F. Amsterdam, NL: IOS Press 2009.

Bringolf, J., 2008. "Universal Design: Why isn't it happening?" ICADI (International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence), Florida, USA.

Bringolf, J., Universal Design: Is it Accessible?" in *Multi* Vol 1 (2) (Spring-Summer 2008): 45-52.

Bringolf, J., 2007. "My Home, My Life: Easy living for everyone", FICCDAT (Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology), Toronto, Canada.

Bringolf, J., 2007. "Environment of Change: A policy of partnerships". FICCDAT (Festival of International Conferences on Caregiving, Disability, Aging and Technology), Toronto, Canada

Bringolf, J. "Accessible, Adaptable or Adjustable?" *Independent Living* 20, no. 2 (2004):14.

Edited books

Independent Living Centre NSW, 2007: *Helpful Handbook for Memory Loss*. J. Bringolf, ed., Independent Living Centre NSW, Sydney.

Independent Living Centre NSW, 2006: *Guide to Planning Bathrooms and Kitchens*. J. Bringolf, ed., Independent Living Centre NSW, Sydney.