We’re Open Access... 
But Are We Accessible?

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Open Access, Accessibility, & Our IR

Lingering Questions +
Institutional Attention +
A Convenient Opportunity
Getting Started
Accessibility 101: Legal Obligations
Accessibility Legislation

- Americans With Disabilities Act
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
“…electronic and information technology developed, maintained, procured, or used by the Federal government...[must be accessible to people with disabilities]”
Reasonable Accommodations

Undue Burdens

Fundamental Alteration
Accessibility 101: Elements of Accessibility
Text Documents

Character Recognition
Tagged Formatting
Alternate Text
Machine-Readable Tables
Organization drivers intentionally develop the organizational supports and systems interventions needed to ensure that the individuals carrying out the innovation or strategy are effectively supported and that data are used for continuous improvement. Decision-support data systems should be used by organizations to ensure that timely, relevant, and actionable information is collected and used to improve the intervention or strategy. Administrative and systems support must also be put in place to create the enabling context for staff to carry out the expectations of the new intervention or strategy. At the base of the triangle is leadership; effective leaders support the installation of each of the competency drivers.

**FIGURE 2** Implementation Drivers

![Diagram showing the relationship between Reliable Benefits, Optimal Use of Strategy, Fidelity, Leadership, Technical, Adaptive, Decision-Support Data System, Facilitative Administration, Systems Intervention, Coaching, Training, Selection, Competency Drivers, Organization Drivers.](image-url)
Website Content

Perceivable
Operable
Understandable
Robust
Enabling Accessibility: From the Beginning
Enabling Accessibility: After the Fact
Our Accessibility Audit
Our Questions

1. What kinds of digital content do we have?

2. Are they at all accessible?
Evaluation Tools

WebAIM’s WAVE
Adobe Acrobat
Human Observation
Audit: Digital Commons Platform

- Great Metadata
- Good Markup
- Meeting W3C Standards
- Issues are Few & Minor
Key Ingredients for School Food Systems: An Evaluation of the Orfalea Foundation's School Food Initiative

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Evaluation Specialists

Barbara Andersen

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Obstacles to Accessibility

I think they need a few more signs! by Dawn Huczek used under a CC-BY 2.0 license.
Obstacles to Creator-Managed Accessibility

- Last Stop in the Process
- Voluntary Submissions
- Limited Leverage
Obstacles to IR-Managed Accessibility

- Time & Resources
- Opportunity Costs
- Unmediated Collections
Non-Accessible Content
Legal (& Moral) Obligations
Significant Obstacles & High Costs
What would you do?

Non-Accessible Content

Legal (& Moral) Obligations

Significant Obstacles & High Costs
Finding Our Way Forward
Incremental Changes

Stronger Metadata
Accessibility Conversations
Guidance & Resources
Advocate & Observe
Website Redesign
Accessible OER

High Interest
Used Locally
Significant Library Involvement
Discrete & Manageable
Accessibility On Demand

Manageable Burden
Prioritize Real Needs
Prioritize Campus Obligations
What can we all do?

- Assess Accessibility
- Find Our Allies
- Seek Incremental Changes
- Keep Talking!
Questions?
Useful Resources
Resources: Getting Started

- **Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)** formally outlines how bepress approaches accessibility with the Digital Commons platform.
  - Our IR’s [default accessibility statement](#) provided by bepress.
- **Making Documents Accessible**, from GVSU’s Disability Support Resources Office.
  - Your institution and/or peer institutions likely have similar offices or support units.
- **Do You Hear What I See?** by Wendy Walker & Teressa Keenan. Compares accessibility in Digital Commons & ContentDM.
  - You can find related work by Walker & Keenan in the [Faculty Publications community of the University of MT’s repository](#).
- **Introduction to Web Accessibility**, a primer from [web accessibility in mind](#) (WebAIM).
  - The W3C’s [full Web Content Accessibility Guidelines](#).
- **7 Things You Should Know About IT Accessibility**, from EDUCAUSE.
- **Developing Policies on Web Accessibility**, from W3C.
- An [8-Step Implementation Model](#) from WebAIM. A detailed approach for establishing policies.
Resources: Government Info

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Portal**, from the Department of Justice
  - ADA Technical Assistance Manual
  - A Guide to Disability Rights Laws
  - Defining an "Undue Burden"
  - ADA Q & A

- The Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights:
  - Overview of disability legislation enforced by OCR
  - Section 504 FAQ
  - Q & A about disability discrimination in education

- Section 504 - full text
- Section 504 FAQ on 'reasonable accommodations' from the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Accessibility in Electronic & Information Technology info from the Department of Health & Human Services
  - How Section 504 relates to Section 508
  - Accessibility Accomodations in EIT systems

- Understanding Section 508, from the General Services Administration
  - Section 508 and related laws & policies
- Michigan Disability Resources - your state likely has similar services/resources
Resources: Evaluation Tools

Note: Firefox is probably the friendliest browser for most screen readers/assistive technology programs

Try a screen reader yourself:

- WindowEyes (free with Office 2010+)
- NVDA - NonVisual Desktop Access (free, Windows-only)
- VoiceOver (built-in accessibility software for Mac OS)
- JAWS Screen Reader (expensive: $900-1100 for an individual)

Fangs Screen Reader Emulator – a Firefox extension that emulates what a screenreader would see from a webpage.

WAVE (Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool) from WebAIM – identifies accessibility issues for web pages.

Accessibility Checklists

- Section 508 compliance checklist from WebAIM
- WCAG checklist from WebAIM
- Making Files Accessible – checklist from HHS

6 Tools for a More Accessible Website

- Using Acrobat Pro's Accessibility Checker – from Adobe
Resources: Creating Accessible Content

- WebAIM Guides
  - PDF Accessibility
  - PowerPoint Accessibility
  - Word Accessibility
  - Other Accessibility Guides

- Microsoft Office support on PowerPoint Accessibility

- Creating Accessible Documents in Word – online training module from Microsoft

- Creating Accessible PDF Documents – video tutorial from the National Center on Disability and Access to Education

- Accessibility Resources for Adobe Programs

- Making Files Accessible – a comprehensive guide from HHS

- Creating Accessible PowerPoint Presentations – from Michigan Disability Resources

- Creating accessible PDFs in ABBYY FineReader – guide from Berea College
Resources: Additional Links

- **Accessibility Resources** - useful resources from a captioning company
- The [Digital Commons Google Group has a few discussions of accessibility](https://digitalcommons.google.com) - talk to your bepress support rep if you don’t already have access to the group
- A recent [Scholarly Kitchen Guest Post on Accessibility](https://scholarlykitchen.sAGEpub.com)
- [Annual Disability Statistics Compendium](https://www.annualdisabilitystats.com) - extensive database
- [Accessible Best Practices for Publishers](https://www.scholarlykitchen.sAGEpub.com) - comprehensive guide aimed at larger/commercial publishers, but many sections relevant for library publishers using Digital Commons
- [Risk Statements & Evidence](https://www.scholarlykitchen.sAGEpub.com) - Risks of not addressing IT accessibility, from EDUCAUSE
- [Accessible Electronic Resources for All](https://www.scholarlykitchen.sAGEpub.com) - webinar slides on accessibility in libraries
- [Accessibility from Scratch: One Library's Journey to Prioritize the Accessibility of Electronic Information Resources](https://www.scholarlykitchen.sAGEpub.com) - case study from Kiersten Ostergaard at Montana State
- [Michigan State University LibGuide on Accessible Materials](https://www.scholarlykitchen.sAGEpub.com)
- Settlements from the Dept. of Ed’s Office of Civil Rights Investigations:
  - [University of Montana Agreement Resolution](https://www.scholarlykitchen.sAGEpub.com)
  - [Penn State Settlement](https://www.scholarlykitchen.sAGEpub.com)
  - [UC Berkeley Settlement](https://www.scholarlykitchen.sAGEpub.com)
  - Dept. of Education press release on further settlements