Improve Accessibility with BB Ally & UAS Tech Tools

UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA SOUTHEAST | Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

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Agenda

- General accessibility guidelines

- Blackboard Ally

  – Accessibility checker / report

  – Alternative formats

- Other UAS tools

  – MS Office accessibility checker

  – Grackle for Google Suite

  – Foxit PDF editor

General Accessibility Guidelines

- Clear and consistent design, language, [fonts](#)

- Strong [color contrast](#) & avoid color as only indicator

- Meaningful hyperlink text

  - Avoid "click here" or writing out URLs

- [Alt text](#) for images

- Use built-in styles

- Tables are complicated - use for data not formatting

[CELT Create Accessible Documents](#)

A Special Note About PDFs

- Most scanned PDFs are not accessible without [additional work](#):

  – Text recognition (OCR), alt text for images, and tagging

- Post documents in their original formats (Word, PPT, etc) rather than make PDFs

  – With Ally, students can download these as PDFs if needed

- At a minimum, make sure PDFs are:

  – Oriented the correct way for reading

  – Legible (text not cut off / blurred, no extraneous black marks)

Video

- Must have synchronous closed captions
    - Capitalization & punctuation
    - Spelling is correct

- Audio description
    - Use when essential visual content has no oral description

- Transcripts are also helpful**
    - For longer videos, include timings when possible

**For audio-only content, transcripts are required

Closed Captioning Options (Free)

- 3Play Media
  - Check with CELT
- YouTube
  - Automatic closed captioning (requires editing)
  - Can also upload a script and use auto-timings
- Zoom
  - Easier to edit than YouTube, can do live captioning (AI generated)
  - Can download transcript file and upload to YouTube
- ScreenPal
- Google Slides
  - Live captioning - does not meet standards, but may be helpful

Blackboard Ally

Accessibility Ratings for Uploaded Content

PDFs for Training

- BioTextbook.pdf
- BioTextbook - Ocred.pdf
- BioTextbook - Ocred and FoxIt.pdf
- HorizontalPages.pdf
- CrookedHalfofPage.pdf
- InnerPageIssues.pdf
- Scanned_PDF_Example.pdf

Accessibility Guidance During Item Creation
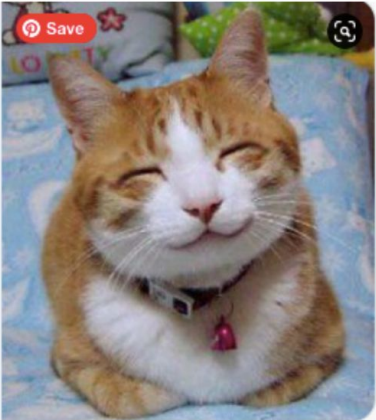
Assistance Provided to Correct Issues
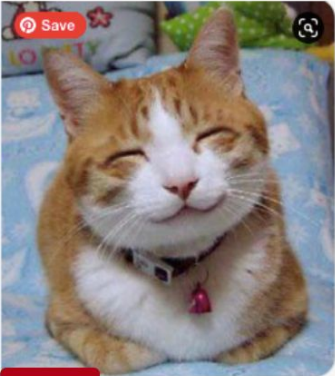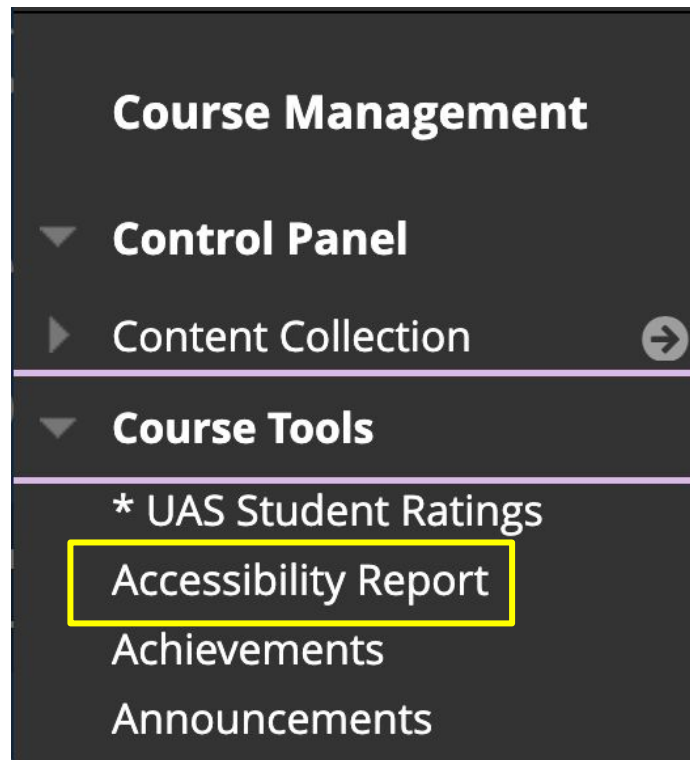
Ally Course Report

- Located in the Course Tools Menu

- Runs a report for whole course
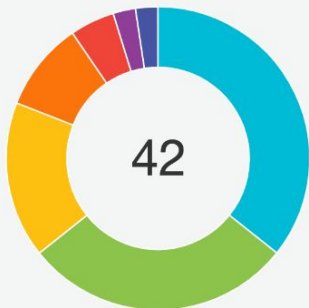
- Has options for fixing content

Course Management

▼ **Control Panel**

▶ Content Collection →

▼ **Course Tools**

* UAS Student Ratings

Accessibility Report

Achievements

Announcements

Course Report Snapshot

Course accessibility score

69%

Test KBHENRICKSON-TEST01: Kaia KBHENRICKSON Test Course

Overview   Content

All course content

42

● PDF document	15	
● Item	12	
● Word document	7	
● Image	4	
● Presentation	2	
● HTML file	1	
● Page	1	

View

Content with the easiest issues to fix

5   Start

Fix low scoring content

11   Start

Alternative Formats

- Students can download material in alternative formats that may be more accessible for them

- Faculty can use alternative formats to help create more accessible PDFs from scanned documents

- [Chart with details about each format](#)

Ally Alternative Formats Menu

PDFs for Training

Alternative Formats Drop-down menu

- BioTextbook.pdf
- BioTextbook - Ocred.pdf
- BioTextbook - Ocred and FoxIt.pdf
- HorizontalPages.pdf
- CrookedHalfofPage.pdf
- InnerPageIssues.pdf
- Scanned_PDF_Example.pdf

Download alternative formats

Selected file:

BioTextbook.pdf

Use this option for scanned PDFs

OCRed PDF
Automatically extracted text for improved reading and searching

HTML
For viewing in the browser and on mobile devices

ePub
For reading as an e-book on an iPad and other e-book readers

Electronic braille
BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays

Audio
MP3 version for listening

Beneficial tools for students

BeeLine Reader
Enhanced version for easier and faster on-screen reading

Immersive Reader NEW
Aid reading comprehension and grammar skills. Internet required.

Help

By downloading an alternative format, you agree with the Terms of Use

Cancel

Download

Other Accessibility Tools

Microsoft Office Accessibility Checker

- Check and fix your Word, PPT, and Excel documents

[Grackle](#) for Google Suite

- Check and fix your Google Docs, Slides, and Sheets

- Create accessible PDFs

Grackle Report

Foxit PDF Editor

The screenshot shows the Foxit PDF Editor interface with the Accessibility tab selected. Callouts indicate:

- **Accessibility Tools Menu** (pointing to the Accessibility menu tab)
- **Right click on red items and choose "Fix."** (pointing to the Accessibility Check panel)

The Accessibility ribbon shows tools: Autotag Document, Autotag Form Field, Full Check, Accessibility Report, Setup Assistant, Reading Option, Reading Order, Set Alternate Text, Set Area Reading Order, Change Area Order, Apply Area Order.

The Accessibility Check panel shows:

Document (4 issues)
- Accessibility permission flag - Pass
- Image-only PDF - Passed
- Tagged PDF - Passed
- Logical Reading Order - Needs m
- Primary language - Failed
- Title - Failed
- Bookmarks - Passed
- Color contrast - Need

Right-click context menu options: Fix, Skip Rule, Explain, Check Again, Show Report, Options

- Page Content (1 issue)
- Forms
- Alternate Text
- Tables
- Lists
- Headings

Questions?

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