

How to Commit To Accessibility in Your Library

Beginning An E-Resources Accessibility Journey, One Letter At A Time

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Knowing where to begin ensuring a library's digital spaces are accessible to users with disabilities can be a daunting task. Though many libraries have achieved accessible digital spaces, some goals and strategies for achieving them may be too ambitious for libraries at the outset of an accessibility journey.

Starting small, setting attainable goals custom fit to your library, and making room for accessibility at every level of library service will help to build a successful and lasting commitment to digital accessibility.

Educate Yourself

What makes a digital tool accessible?

- Americans with Disabilities Act, Title II
- Rehabilitation Act of 1973, section 504 & 508
- WCAG 2.0+, ATAG, UAAG
- Basis for creating attainable accessibility goals for your library

Investigate Providers

How is digital accessibility measured?

- VPAT (Voluntary Product Accessibility Template)
- Vendor provided Accessibility Guides
- Broad compliance statements (WCAG & Section 508)

Evaluate Products

How accessible is our digital content?

- Compare VPAT with databases & other digital tools to help understand limitations and issues
- Consult with Disability Services
- Accessibility Audit

Install Procedures

How can I prioritize accessibility in E-Resources Workflow?

- Trials & Purchasing
 - Ask for VPAT with price quotes & Trials for review
 - Including Accessibility clause in license negotiation is an ideal, but not always possible
- New Resource Activation
 - Store VPATs & Accessibility documentation with license for future review
 - Make directory available to users (i.e., A-Z Lists) to demonstrate efforts
- Cataloging
 - Add accessibility note to E-Resources MARC records

Organize Others

How can I prioritize accessibility outside E-Resources Workflow?

- Service (Professional Organizations, Committees)
- Scholarship (presentations & posters, research)
- Librarianship (programming, instruction)

