

# Accessibility:

## Policies and Resources for Digital Works

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# Agenda:

- Definition
- Policies
- Examples
- Tools
- Resources

# What is “Accessibility”?

Accessibility is the design of products, services, vehicles, or environments to improve usability to differently-abled groups.

Accessibility for digital content is determined and enforced under the WCAG portion of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**\*\* All users can benefit from accessibility features! \*\***

## **ADA & WCAG:**

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) are technical standards that help make the digital world accessible to people with disabilities.

WCAG isn't a law—but organizations that want to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) should follow WCAG standards.

## 508 Standards:

**Section 508** of the Rehabilitation Act requires federal agencies to ensure that their electronic and information technology (ICT) is accessible to people with disabilities. This includes compliance with accessibility standards for websites, software, and other digital communications.

## 255 Guidelines:

Technical requirements for the design, development, and fabrication of telecommunications equipment and customer premises equipment, content, and support documentation and services, to ensure accessibility and usability by individuals with disabilities.

# Policies:

## NLM/ PubMed:

- Makes every effort to ensure that the information available on their website is accessible to all.

## ProQuest:

- Aims to meet Level AA of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1) and Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act for features and functions.
- Accessibility standards are built into their design and style guides and included as part of requirements in their software development and quality assurance pipeline.

# Policies:

## EBSCO:

- Designs, builds and tests against WCAG 2.2 AA and relevant EU standards.
- Completes accessibility audits conducted by a qualified third party.

## Elsevier/ ClinicalKey:

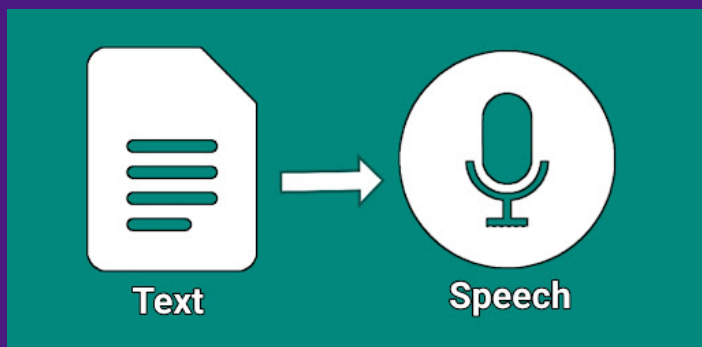
- Develops products towards World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines Version 2.1 level AA and future revisions 2.
- Creates digital products and services that are perceivable, operable, understandable, robust (P.O.U.R.) and compatible with a range of assistive technologies.

# Accessibility for Scholarly Works

- Adding captions to images
- Adding transcription or speech-to-text functionality

- Adding Optical Character Recognition (OCR) enhancement to a text document
- Correcting HTML tags for improved text-to-speech functionality





# Tools:



OCR/Recognize text



Prepare for accessibility



## PDF Accessibility Checker (PAC)

A free PDF accessibility checking tool since 2010  
PAC can check many PDF and WCAG requirements  
and supports the required visual check

# Tools:



Use the “Cloud Recording” feature for automatic transcription functionality



and



Subtitle Edit and Otter.ai are free (or free trial) editors for video subtitles

# Resources:



**U.S. Access Board**

*Advancing Full Access and Inclusion for All*

Information and Communication Technology

***508 Standards and 255 Guidelines***

**[www.access-board.gov](http://www.access-board.gov)**

**Web Accessibility**

**Initiative**

**WAI**

Develops strategies, standards, and supporting resources to make the web accessible to people with disabilities.

**[www.w3.org/WAI](http://www.w3.org/WAI)**

# Added Resource:

(Not in the original presentation)



## HTML Examples

W3 Schools (not affiliated with W3C) is an online collection of self-paced tutorials for learning how to code.

The above link connects to the HTML tagging examples page of the HTML tutorial.

# Resources:



[A Socio-Legal Framework for Improving the Accessibility of Research Articles for People With Disabilities](#)

By **Brian Wentz, Jonathan Lazar, Paul T. Jaeger and Ursula Gorham**,  
*J Bus Technol Law*. 2021;16(2):223–257



**ACS Publications**  
Most Trusted. Most Cited. Most Read.

[Beyond the Visual: Achieving Accessibility in Scientific Figures](#)

By **Hannah Ramsey and Imke Schröder**,  
*ACS Chemical Health & Safety*. 2025; Vol 32/Issue 2



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