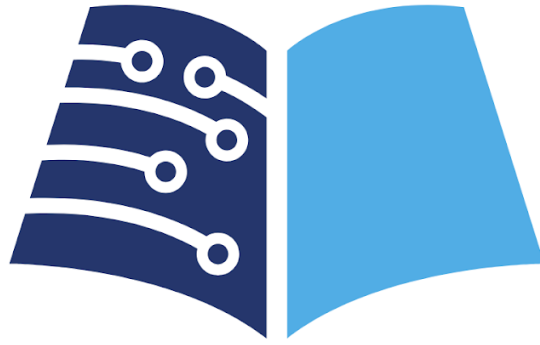




DIGITABILITY

**PROMOTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES' EMPLOYMENT
BY ENHANCING THEIR DIGITAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCES TO SUPPORT
A REMOTE WORKING SCHEME**

Online Learning



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1. Introduction

In the contemporary world, access to digital skills has become crucial for professional success. Proficiency in digital fields not only broadens job opportunities but also facilitates greater engagement in society and the economy. This chapter explores how the access to online learning can be accessed by people with disabilities and play a pivotal role in enhancing their digital skills, opening doors to a realm of employment opportunities that were previously unimaginable.

People with disabilities bring a wide array of talents, abilities, and unique skills that can enrich any workplace. However, they often encounter additional challenges in accessing education and professional opportunities. Online learning emerges as a significant resource for breaking down geographical and physical barriers, enabling individuals with disabilities to acquire digital skills and compete effectively in the job market.

This chapter examines the potential of online learning in providing personalized and accessible education for people with disabilities. Through an analysis of online tools, resources, and strategies, we will discover how online learning can be tailored to the diverse needs of individuals with disabilities, improving their independence and career prospects.

1.1. The Learning Objectives Covered by Topic

In completing this Topic, the learner will be able to:

- Learn how to access and utilize most common platforms aimed at online learning:
 - Moodle
 - Google Classroom
 - MS Teams
 - Canvas LMS
- Activate and enable accessibility features related to each specific impairment

2. Moodle



Moodle is an open-source learning management system (LMS), renowned for its adaptability and widespread use in the education sector. It serves as a robust platform for educators to create and manage online courses, offering a range of tools and features to enhance the learning experience.

At its core, Moodle is free to download and use, a hallmark of its open-source nature. This aspect not only makes it accessible to a wide range of educational institutions but also allows for extensive customization to meet specific needs and preferences. The platform enables educators to design comprehensive courses, incorporating various materials such as lectures, readings, quizzes, and assignments. It supports a diverse set of interactive tools including forums, wikis, and chats, fostering an engaging and collaborative learning environment.

One of the significant strengths of Moodle is its sophisticated user management system. It accommodates different user roles, including administrators, teachers, and students, each granted distinct levels of access and capabilities. This feature ensures a streamlined and role-specific experience for each user, enhancing the overall functionality of the platform.

Moodle is not just about course delivery; it also excels in tracking and reporting student performance. Educators can leverage Moodle's tools to monitor student progress, assess participation, and generate detailed reports, which are invaluable for guiding instructional strategies and student support.

Customization is another area where Moodle stands out. Institutions can tailor the platform's appearance and functionalities to align with their specific requirements. This flexibility is further bolstered by the availability of a wide range of plugins, developed by Moodle's vibrant community. This community, consisting of users and developers, plays a crucial role in the ongoing development and enhancement of the platform, providing valuable support and resources.

Moodle's scalability is a crucial feature, making it suitable for a variety of settings, from small classes to large universities and organizations. This scalability ensures that as an institution grows or changes, Moodle can adapt accordingly.

Its design emphasizes accessibility and mobile compatibility. It ensures that the platform is easily navigable on various devices, including smartphones and tablets. This feature is particularly important in today's mobile-centric world, as it allows learners to access educational content conveniently, irrespective of their location.

2.1 Accessibility for People with Visual Impairments

To cater to the diverse needs of these individuals, Moodle, as a widely-used e-learning platform, provides features and tools that support accessibility. Screen reader compatibility, alternative text for images, and keyboard navigation options are among the key features that make Moodle more user-friendly for those with visual impairments. Moreover, Moodle supports various assistive technologies, making it possible for users to access course materials, engage in discussions, submit assignments, and take assessments with ease. By prioritizing accessibility,

Certainly, here are some examples of accessibility tools in Moodle for people with visual impairments, along with instructions on how users can activate these tools:

Screen Reader Compatibility

Most popular screen readers, like JAWS, NVDA, and VoiceOver, are compatible with Moodle by default. Users with visual impairments simply need to have their preferred screen reader software installed and running on their device. Once activated, the screen reader will provide audible feedback, allowing users to navigate the Moodle interface and access course materials.

- **How to Activate:** Install a screen reader like JAWS, NVDA, or VoiceOver. Once the screen reader is running, it will automatically interface with Moodle, providing audio feedback and navigation cues.

Alternative Text for Images:

Content creators and instructors in Moodle can add alternative text to images when they upload them. When an image is inserted into a course or resource, there's an option to provide alt text. For example, when adding an image of a diagram, the user can enter a brief description to convey the content or purpose of the image to screen reader users.

- **How to Add Alt Text (admin side):** When uploading an image to Moodle, select the option to add alternative text and enter a descriptive text for the image. This description will be read by screen readers, conveying the image's content or purpose.

Keyboard Navigation:

Keyboard navigation in Moodle is inherent. Users can navigate through the platform using keyboard shortcuts, such as the Tab key to move between elements and the Enter key to select them. No specific activation is needed; this feature is available by default.

- **Usage Instructions:** Use the Tab key to move through elements on the Moodle page and the Enter key to select options. No activation is required as this feature is inherent in Moodle.

Text-to-Speech Tools

Some Moodle instances offer integrated text-to-speech plugins. Users can activate these tools in their user settings or preferences. Once enabled, they can simply click on text or content to have it read aloud. For example, they might select a paragraph of text and click a "Read Aloud" button to have the content spoken.

- **Activation Process:** In Moodle, go to user settings or preferences and enable any available text-to-speech plugins. Once activated, click on text or content to hear it read aloud.

High-Contrast Themes

Moodle themes that support high contrast can be selected by users. In the user settings, under "Preferences" or "Appearance," users can choose a high-contrast theme. This option typically alters the visual style of Moodle to provide better contrast for those with low vision.

- **How to Select a Theme:** Navigate to user settings, then to "Preferences" or "Appearance," and select a high-contrast theme to improve visibility and readability.

Braille Display Compatibility

Some Moodle instances come with Braille display compatibility as a default feature. Users with Braille displays can simply connect their devices to their computer or mobile device and the Moodle platform will recognize and work with the Braille display.

- **Connecting a Braille Display:** Connect your Braille display to your computer or mobile device. Moodle should automatically recognize and work with the display.

2.1.1 Exercises

Activity 1: Using a Screen Reader with Moodle

Objective:

To navigate Moodle using a screen reader like JAWS, NVDA, or VoiceOver.

Steps:

- Install a Screen Reader:

Choose a screen reader (JAWS, NVDA, VoiceOver).

Install it on your device following the installation instructions provided by the software.

- Open Moodle:

Launch your web browser.

Navigate to your institution's Moodle website.

- Use the Screen Reader:

Turn on the screen reader. It should automatically start providing audio feedback.

Use keyboard shortcuts to navigate. For instance, use Tab to move between elements and Enter to select them.

Explore different sections of Moodle, such as course materials, by following the audio cues.

Activity 2: Enabling and Using Text-to-Speech in Moodle

Objective:

To enable and use text-to-speech tools in Moodle for reading out text content.

Steps:

- Access User Settings:

Log in to your Moodle account.

Go to your user profile and access the settings or preferences menu.

- Enable Text-to-Speech:

Look for text-to-speech options or plugins in the settings.

Enable the text-to-speech feature or plugin.

Configure any additional settings if available (like voice type or speed).

- Use Text-to-Speech:

Navigate to a course and open a page with text content.

If there's a "Read Aloud" button or similar, click it.

The text-to-speech tool should start reading the text aloud.

Use additional controls to pause, stop, or adjust the reading as needed.

Activity 3: Selecting and Using a High-Contrast Theme in Moodle

Objective:

To enhance visibility and readability in Moodle by selecting and using a high-contrast theme, especially beneficial for users with low vision.

Steps:

- Access Moodle and Log In:

Open your web browser and go to your Moodle site.

Enter your username and password to log in.

- Navigate to User Preferences:

Once logged in, locate your user profile icon or name, usually found at the top right corner of the page.

Click on it and select "Preferences" or a similar option from the dropdown menu.

- Select a High-Contrast Theme:

In the "Preferences" menu, look for an option related to "Appearance" or "User Interface."

Find the section for theme selection.

Browse through available themes and select one that is labeled as high contrast. These themes are designed with stark color differences and clear text visibility.

Apply the theme and wait for the page to reload with the new settings.

- Explore and Adjust if Needed:

Navigate through different parts of Moodle to see how the high-contrast theme improves visibility.

If the theme doesn't meet your needs, return to the theme settings and try a different high-contrast option.

Adjust other display settings if available, like font size or screen brightness, to enhance readability.

2.6 Resources

MoodleDocs on Accessibility: <https://docs.moodle.org/en/accessibility>

How Moodle supports accessibility: <https://moodle.com/>

Accessibility Toolkit – MoodleDocs: https://docs.moodle.org/en/Accessibility_Toolkit

3. Google Classroom



Google Classroom is a free web service developed by Google for schools that aims to simplify creating, distributing, and grading assignments in a paperless way. It's part of the Google Workspace for Education suite which includes Google Docs, Gmail, and Google Drive. Google Classroom is designed to streamline the process of sharing files between teachers and students, making it a popular choice in the realm of digital education.

One of the key features of Google Classroom is its intuitive interface. It's designed to be user-friendly, allowing teachers to quickly set up a virtual classroom, invite students, and start distributing materials and assignments. The platform integrates seamlessly with other Google services like Google Docs and Google Drive, facilitating easy creation, submission, and storage of assignments and course materials.

Google Classroom enables teachers to create classes, post assignments, organize folders, and view work in real-time. It's particularly effective in supporting a paperless classroom environment. Teachers can create assignments within the platform, and students can complete and submit their work all online. The system also supports the grading and feedback process, allowing teachers to provide direct and timely feedback on student submissions.

Collaboration is another strong aspect of Google Classroom. It encourages interaction between students and teachers through features like the class stream, where announcements can be

made, and questions can be posed and answered. Additionally, it supports collaborative projects where students can work together in real-time using Google Docs and other Workspace tools.

Google Classroom is also known for its accessibility and efficiency. It's accessible from any device with an internet connection, making it a convenient option for remote or blended learning environments. The platform reduces the need for physical materials, which can be beneficial for both the environment and reducing school costs.

3.1 Accessibility for People with Visual Impairments

Google Classroom, as a prominent e-learning platform, incorporates several features and tools to support users with visual impairments. These include compatibility with screen readers, the provision of alternative text for images, and the facilitation of keyboard navigation. These functionalities are designed to enhance the user experience for visually impaired users, enabling them to access course content, participate in discussions, submit assignments, and complete assessments more effectively. Through these accessibility features, Google Classroom demonstrates its commitment to equal learning opportunities for all users.

Here are some examples of accessibility features in Google Classroom for people with visual impairments, along with instructions for using these tools:

Screen Reader Compatibility

Google Classroom is compatible with most popular screen readers such as JAWS, NVDA, and VoiceOver. Users with visual impairments can navigate the platform using their preferred screen reader, which will provide audio feedback to facilitate access to course materials and navigation within the interface.

- **How to Activate:** Ensure your preferred screen reader (e.g., JAWS, NVDA, VoiceOver) is installed and running on your device. The screen reader will automatically work with Google Classroom, offering audio feedback and navigation assistance.

Alternative Text for Images

Instructors and content creators in Google Classroom can add alternative text to images. This feature allows the inclusion of a descriptive text for images, aiding screen reader users in understanding the content or purpose of the image.

- **How to Add Alt Text (admin side):** When uploading an image in Google Classroom, choose the option to add alternative text and provide a descriptive text for the image. This description will be accessible to screen readers.

Keyboard Navigation

Google Classroom supports comprehensive keyboard navigation, allowing users to move through the platform using keyboard shortcuts like the Tab and Enter keys. This feature is inherently available and requires no activation.

- **Usage Instructions:** Utilize the Tab key to navigate through elements and the Enter key to select options within Google Classroom. No additional activation is necessary.

Text-to-Speech Tools

Google Classroom may offer integrated text-to-speech tools, allowing users to have text content read aloud. These tools can usually be activated in user settings or preferences.

- **Activation Process:** In Google Classroom, access user settings or preferences and enable any available text-to-speech tools. Once activated, select the text or content to have it read aloud.

High-Contrast Themes

Google Classroom provides themes with high contrast options, suitable for users with low vision. These themes can be selected in the user settings under preferences or appearance options.

- How to Select a Theme: Go to user settings, then preferences or appearance, and choose a high-contrast theme to enhance visibility and readability.

Braille Display Compatibility

Google Classroom may support compatibility with Braille displays, allowing users to connect their Braille devices for a more accessible experience.

- Connecting a Braille Display: Connect the Braille display to your computer or mobile device. Google Classroom should recognize and interact with the display appropriately.

3.1.1 Exercises

Activity 1: Using a Screen Reader with Google Classroom

Objective:

To navigate Google Classroom using a screen reader like JAWS, NVDA, or VoiceOver.

Steps:

- Install a Screen Reader:

Choose and install a screen reader (e.g., JAWS, NVDA, VoiceOver) on your device.

- Open Google Classroom:

Launch your web browser and go to the Google Classroom website.

Log in with your credentials.

- Navigate with the Screen Reader:

Turn on the screen reader. It should start providing audio feedback automatically.

Use keyboard shortcuts to explore different sections, courses, and materials.

Activity 2: Navigating Google Classroom Using Keyboard

Objective:

To navigate through Google Classroom using only keyboard shortcuts.

Steps:

- Access Google Classroom:

Open Google Classroom in your web browser and log in.

- Use Keyboard Navigation:

Utilize the Tab key to move through elements.

Press Enter to select options.

Explore various courses and materials using these keyboard shortcuts.

Activity 3: Activating Text-to-Speech in Google Classroom

Objective:

To enable and use text-to-speech tools in Google Classroom.

Steps:

- Open User Settings:

In Google Classroom, navigate to user settings or preferences.

- Enable Text-to-Speech:

Find and activate available text-to-speech tools.

Adjust settings like voice type or speed if applicable.

- Use Text-to-Speech:

Select text within course materials.

Use the activated tool to have the content read aloud.

Activity 4: Selecting High-Contrast Themes in Google Classroom

Objective:

To choose and apply a high-contrast theme in Google Classroom for better visibility.

Steps:

- Access Settings:

Go to user settings in Google Classroom.

- Select a High-Contrast Theme:

Find the preferences or appearance section.

Choose and apply a high-contrast theme.

- Navigate Classroom:

Explore Google Classroom with the new theme.

Ensure it enhances visibility and readability.

Activity 5: Connecting and Using a Braille Display with Google Classroom

Objective:

To connect a Braille display to your device and use it with Google Classroom.

Steps:

- Connect the Braille Display:

Connect your Braille display to your computer or mobile device.

- Access Google Classroom:

Open Google Classroom in your browser.

The platform should recognize and work with the Braille display.

- Interact with Classroom Content:

Navigate through courses and materials using the Braille display.

Ensure that the content is accessible and the display functions correctly.

3.6 Resources

Accessibility features in Google for Education

<https://edu.google.com/why-google/accessibility/>

Google Classroom accessibility empowers inclusive learning



<https://blog.google/outreach-initiatives/education/classroom-accessibility/>

Google Classroom - How can I make my class accessible for learners?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=agbjRsjGCms>

Google Education: Accessibility Tools and Features

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f6t0HcVcxHA>



4. Microsoft Teams



Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams, a part of the Microsoft 365 suite of applications, has emerged as a significant tool for e-learning and virtual collaboration. Originally designed as a business communication platform, its features have been adapted to meet the growing needs of the educational sector, especially in the context of increasing demand for remote and hybrid learning environments.

At its core, Microsoft Teams provides a comprehensive, integrated platform that facilitates both synchronous and asynchronous learning. The platform allows educators to create virtual classrooms, where they can conduct live classes via video conferencing. This live interaction is crucial for maintaining a sense of classroom community and direct engagement between teachers and students, which is often a challenge in online education.

One of the distinguishing features of Teams is its seamless integration with the broader Microsoft 365 suite, including applications like Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote. This integration enables educators and students to collaborate efficiently on assignments and projects. For instance, the integration with OneNote allows for the creation of class notebooks, a digital space where teachers can share course materials and students can take and submit notes and assignments.

Beyond just video conferencing and document sharing, Teams also offers features like chat functions, file storage, and collaborative workspaces. These features support a diverse range of teaching and learning styles, making it easier to adapt to different educational needs and

preferences. The chat function, for example, enables quick communication and fosters a collaborative community among students, allowing for discussions, group projects, and peer learning.

An important aspect of Microsoft Teams is its ability to create a structured and organized learning environment. Educators can set up different channels for different subjects or groups, helping to keep course materials and discussions organized and easily accessible. This organization is critical in an online learning environment where managing digital resources efficiently can be challenging.

Microsoft Teams also places a strong emphasis on accessibility and inclusivity. The platform includes features like automatic subtitles in video calls, immersive reading experiences, and support for multiple languages, ensuring that students with different needs and abilities can participate fully in the learning process.

4.1 Accessibility for People with Visual Impairments

MS Teams provides an accessible and inclusive learning environment for all users, including those with visual impairments. The platform incorporates a range of features designed to support these users, ensuring they can effectively access course content, participate in discussions, submit assignments, and complete assessments.

Screen Reader Compatibility

Microsoft Teams is fully compatible with screen readers, providing audio descriptions of on-screen content.

- **How to Use:** Users can utilize their preferred screen reader software to navigate, read messages, and use features in Teams.

High-Contrast Modes

Teams supports high-contrast modes to improve visibility and reduce eye strain.

- **Activation:** Users can enable high-contrast modes in their operating system settings, which Teams will automatically adapt to.

Magnification and Zoom Features

Teams allows users to magnify the interface and use zoom controls for better visibility.

- **How to Use:** Features like browser zoom or built-in magnification tools in Teams help users enlarge text and images.

Keyboard Navigation

The platform is navigable using keyboard shortcuts, aiding users who have difficulty using a mouse.

- **Navigation Process:** Comprehensive keyboard shortcuts enable users to access all features of Teams without a mouse.

Voice Commands and Dictation

Voice commands through Cortana and dictation features are available, assisting users with visual impairments in navigating and communicating.

Usage: Users can give voice commands for various actions and dictate messages or documents.

Customizable Display Settings

Teams allows users to customize display settings, including font size and color schemes.

- **Customization Process:** Users can adjust these settings to enhance readability and contrast based on their visual preferences.

Live Captions in Meetings

Live captions are available in Teams meetings, beneficial for users who are hard of hearing and as a visual aid.

- **How to Enable:** Users can activate live captions during a meeting to follow along with the conversation in text format.

Alt Text for Images and Visual Content

Teams supports the use of alt text for images and other visual content, making it accessible for screen reader users.

- **Implementation:** When uploading images, users can add descriptive alt text to convey the content of the image.

4.1.1 Exercises

Activity 1: Using a Screen Reader with Microsoft Teams

Objective:

To navigate and use Microsoft Teams using a screen reader.

Steps:

- Install a Screen Reader:

Ensure a screen reader like JAWS, NVDA, or VoiceOver is installed on your device.

- Open Microsoft Teams:

Launch the Teams application or access it via a web browser.

- Navigate with Screen Reader:

Use the screen reader to navigate through Teams, read messages, and access features.

Activity 2: Enabling High-Contrast Modes in Teams

Objective:

To improve visibility in Teams using high-contrast modes.

Steps:

- Adjust Operating System Settings:

Go to your device's settings and enable high-contrast mode.

- Use Teams:

Open Microsoft Teams, which will adapt to the high-contrast settings.

- Evaluate Visibility:

Navigate Teams to ensure improved visibility and reduced eye strain.

Activity 3: Using Magnification and Zoom Features in Teams

Objective:

To enlarge text and images in Microsoft Teams for better visibility.

Steps:

- Access Zoom Controls:

Use browser zoom or built-in magnification tools in Teams.

- Adjust Magnification:

Enlarge text and images to a comfortable viewing size.

- Navigate Interface:

Explore various sections in Teams to ensure readability and visibility.

Activity 4: Navigating Teams Using Keyboard Shortcuts

Objective:

To navigate Microsoft Teams using keyboard shortcuts.

Steps:

- Learn Keyboard Shortcuts:

Familiarize yourself with Teams keyboard shortcuts.

- Navigate Without a Mouse:

Use shortcuts to access different features and communicate in Teams.

Activity 5: Using Voice Commands and Dictation in Teams

Objective:

To utilize voice commands and dictation for navigation and communication in Teams.

Steps:

- Enable Voice Recognition:

Activate Cortana or a similar voice recognition tool on your device.

- Use Voice Commands:

Give voice commands to navigate Teams and dictate messages or documents.

Activity 6: Customizing Display Settings in Teams

Objective:

To adjust display settings in Teams for enhanced readability.

Steps:

- Access Display Settings:

In Teams, go to settings to adjust display options.

- Customize Settings:

Change font size, color schemes, and other settings to suit your visual needs.

- Evaluate Changes:

Ensure the adjustments make Teams easier to read and navigate.

Activity 7: Enabling Live Captions in Teams Meetings

Objective:

To activate live captions during Teams meetings for better comprehension.

Steps:

- Join a Teams Meeting:

Enter a meeting in Microsoft Teams.

- Enable Live Captions:

Find the option to activate live captions within the meeting controls.

- Follow Meeting:

Use the captions to follow along with the conversation in real-time.

4.6 Resources

Accessibility tools for Microsoft Teams

<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/accessibility-tools-for-microsoft-teams-2d4009e7-1300-4766-87e8-7a217496c3d5>

Top 15 Microsoft Teams accessibility features

<https://www.nasstar.com/hub/blog/microsoft-teams-accessibility-features>

Quick guide to Microsoft Teams: Accessibility

<https://nptcgroup.libguides.com/c.php?g=684015&p=4882789>

5. Canvas LMS



Canvas LMS (Learning Management System) is a widely adopted online learning platform used in educational institutions worldwide. Developed by Instructure, Canvas provides a comprehensive and user-friendly environment for both instructors and students to enhance the educational experience. It's particularly known for its flexibility, intuitive design, and robust set of tools that cater to various teaching and learning needs.

One of the key strengths of Canvas LMS is its clean, intuitive user interface, which simplifies navigation and makes it easy for users to find and access course content. This user-friendly design is crucial for encouraging engagement and ensuring that both teachers and students can focus on learning rather than navigating a complex platform.

Canvas offers a range of features that support interactive and collaborative learning. Instructors can create and manage course materials, assignments, and quizzes. The platform also supports a variety of multimedia content, allowing for a richer, more engaging course experience. Additionally, its discussion forums and messaging tools enable effective communication and collaboration among students and between students and instructors.

Integration with third-party tools is another area where Canvas excels. The platform integrates with a multitude of educational tools and services, including video conferencing tools, plagiarism detection software, and various content management systems. This flexibility allows institutions to tailor the platform to their specific needs and preferences.

Canvas also provides robust assessment and feedback tools. Instructors can use these tools to track student progress, grade assignments, and provide timely feedback. The analytics and reporting features in Canvas offer valuable insights into student performance and engagement, aiding educators in identifying areas where students might need additional support.

Accessibility is a cornerstone of Canvas LMS. The platform is designed to be accessible to all users, including those with disabilities. It adheres to web accessibility standards, ensuring that educational materials are available to everyone, regardless of their physical or technological constraints.

5.1 Accessibility for People with Visual Impairments

Canvas LMS is dedicated to providing an accessible and inclusive learning environment for all users, including those with visual impairments. The platform incorporates a range of features designed to support these users, ensuring they can effectively access course content, participate in discussions, submit assignments, and complete assessments.

Key Accessibility Features in Canvas LMS

Screen Reader Compatibility

Canvas LMS works seamlessly with popular screen readers like JAWS, NVDA, and VoiceOver. This compatibility is crucial for users who rely on auditory feedback to navigate and interact with digital content.

How to Activate: Ensure your screen reader is installed and running on your device. Canvas automatically interfaces with these screen readers, providing necessary auditory feedback for navigation and content interaction.

Alternative Text for Images

Canvas allows for the inclusion of alternative text for images used in course materials. This feature is essential for conveying the content or purpose of images to users who rely on screen readers.

How to Add Alt Text: When uploading an image in Canvas, select the option to add alternative text and provide a descriptive caption. This text becomes accessible to screen reader users.

Keyboard Navigation

Canvas supports comprehensive keyboard navigation, enabling users to interact with the platform using keyboard shortcuts. This feature is particularly beneficial for those who cannot use a mouse.

Usage Instructions: Use the Tab key to move through interactive elements and the Enter key to select options within Canvas. This functionality is inherently available and requires no special activation.

Text-to-Speech Tools

Some text-to-speech options may be available in Canvas, allowing users to have text content read aloud.

Activation Process: In Canvas, go to user settings or preferences to enable any available text-to-speech tools. Once activated, you can select text for it to be audibly read.

High-Contrast Themes

Canvas provides themes with high contrast to improve visibility and readability for users with low vision.

How to Select a Theme: Access user settings, then preferences or appearance, and choose a high-contrast theme to enhance visual clarity.

Braille Display Compatibility

Canvas supports Braille displays, allowing visually impaired users to connect their Braille devices for a tactile reading experience.

Connecting a Braille Display: Connect the Braille display to your device. Canvas should recognize the display and interact accordingly.

Customizable Font Sizes and Styles

Users can adjust the font size and style to their preference, aiding in readability.

How to Adjust: This feature can typically be found in the user settings or appearance options, allowing individuals to choose from a range of font sizes and styles.

Color Adjustment Settings

Beyond high-contrast themes, users should have the option to adjust the color settings to suit their specific visual needs.

How to Use: In the settings or appearance menu, users can customize colors for backgrounds, text, and interactive elements.

Audio Descriptions for Videos

For educational videos, audio descriptions provide a verbal depiction of key visual elements.

How to Access: When available, users can enable audio descriptions via the video player controls or within the course settings.

Magnification Tools

Magnification tools can enlarge specific areas of the screen for better visibility.

Activation Process: These tools are typically available as built-in features or external applications that integrate with the Canvas platform.

Accessible Navigation Menus

Menus and navigation elements are designed to be easily navigable using assistive technologies.

How to Navigate: These menus can be accessed through standard keyboard shortcuts and are structured to be screen-reader friendly.

Voice Command Integration

Integration with voice command technologies allows users to navigate and interact with Canvas using spoken commands.

How to Use: Users can link their voice command software with Canvas to begin using voice commands for various actions.

Responsive Design

Ensuring that Canvas is fully responsive, so it works seamlessly on various devices and screen sizes, including mobile devices.

User Experience: This feature automatically adjusts the layout and interface to suit the device being used.

Training and Resources for Accessibility

Providing comprehensive training and resources for educators and users on how to utilize and benefit from these accessibility features.

Accessing Resources: These can be made available within the Canvas help center or as part of an introductory course module.

5.1.1 Exercises

Activity 1: Using a Screen Reader with Canvas LMS

Objective:

To navigate and interact with Canvas using a screen reader.

Steps:

- Set Up Screen Reader:

Ensure a screen reader like JAWS, NVDA, or VoiceOver is installed on your device.

- Access Canvas:

Open Canvas LMS in a web browser.

- Navigate with Screen Reader:

Use the screen reader to explore courses, read content, and interact with Canvas features.

Activity 2: Adding Alternative Text to Images in Canvas

Objective:

For educators to add alternative text to images in Canvas courses.

Steps:

- Upload an Image:

In a course, select the option to add an image.

- Add Alt Text:

Provide a descriptive caption for the image in the alternative text field.



Activity 3: Navigating Canvas Using Keyboard Shortcuts

Objective:

To interact with Canvas using keyboard navigation.

Steps:

- Learn Keyboard Shortcuts:

Familiarize yourself with Canvas's keyboard shortcuts.

- Practice Navigation:

Use the Tab and Enter keys to navigate through Canvas.

Activity 4: Enabling Text-to-Speech in Canvas

Objective:

To activate and use text-to-speech tools in Canvas.

Steps:

- Access Settings:

In Canvas, go to user settings or preferences.

- Enable Text-to-Speech:

Activate any available text-to-speech options.

- Use Feature:

Select text and use the tool to have it read aloud.



Activity 5: Selecting High-Contrast Themes in Canvas

Objective:

To choose a high-contrast theme in Canvas for better visibility.

Steps:

- Access Settings:

Go to user settings, then to preferences or appearance.

- Choose High-Contrast Theme:

Select a high-contrast theme to enhance visual clarity.

Activity 6: Connecting a Braille Display to Canvas

Objective:

To connect and use a Braille display with Canvas.

Steps:

- Connect Braille Display:

Connect your Braille display to your computer.

- Use with Canvas:

Ensure Canvas recognizes the display for a tactile reading experience.

Activity 7: Customizing Font Sizes and Styles in Canvas

Objective:

To adjust font size and style in Canvas for easier reading.

Steps:

- Access Appearance Settings:

In Canvas, find the settings for font adjustments.

- Make Adjustments:

Choose preferred font sizes and styles.

Activity 8: Adjusting Color Settings in Canvas

Objective:

To customize color settings in Canvas to suit visual preferences.

Steps:

- Access Color Settings:

Find the color adjustment options in Canvas settings.

- Customize Colors:

Adjust colors for backgrounds, text, and elements as needed.

Activity 9: Enabling Audio Descriptions for Videos

Objective:

To access audio descriptions for educational videos in Canvas.

Steps:

- Play a Video:

Open a video within a Canvas course.

- Enable Audio Descriptions:

Activate the audio descriptions feature if available.



5.6 Resources

Best Practices for Canvas Accessibility:

https://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2020/03/SSD-CANVAS-Best-Practices_2020.pdf

Canvas – Accessibility:

<https://oit.colorado.edu/services/teaching-learning-applications/canvas/canvas-accessibility>