ACCESSIBILITY & OER
2 WHO WE ARE

Angie Brunk

• MAS in human factors
• Frequently writes and speaks on accessibility
• Born with a visual impairment
• Academic Services Librarian at K-State

Carolyn Jackson

• Scholarly Communication & OER Librarian at K-State
WHY ACCESSIBILITY?

Compliance

• ADA
• 508
• IDEA

Reaching a Broader Audience

Almost everyone will temporarily or permanently experience disability at some point in their life. An estimated 1.3 billion people – about 16% of the global population – currently experience significant disability.
4 WHY ACCESSIBILITY?

Accessibility means that all people can perceive, understand, navigate, and interact with electronic information and be active, contributing members of the digital world.

Disability Considerations:

- visual
- auditory
- physical
- speech
- cognitive
- intellectual
- neurological
5 THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

• The big players in textbooks and software hire people to do accessibility work
• If our approach to accessibility is slipshod, instructors have an incentive to avoid OER
THE MOST IMPORTANT PRINCIPALS

- You cannot retain full design control
- In electronic documents the end user must have some control over the look and feel of the document
- You are conveying content not creating great design.
- Usability and accessibility are two sides of the same coin
IF IT BREAKS WHEN....

- You substitute comic sans or open dyslexic
- You invert the color space
- You enlarge the text

....it is not accessible!
8 STANDARDS

• WCAG 2.1 is the current standard
  Moving toward AG which is in the public comment phase

• Standards are a place to start not the end point
AUTOMATED TESTING

“508 checkers” “WAVE scanners” etc. provide basic information on accessibility

- [http://webaim.org](http://webaim.org)
- Results should always be analyzed by a knowledgeable human
- Do not consider usability
- Ideally test with humans who use assistive tech
MAJESTIC MILLION STUDY

- Uses automated 508 checkers to evaluate top 1,000,000,000 websites according to Google
- Results are not encouraging
- Most websites have errors
- Not getting better over time
TESTING WITH HUMANS

- Recruit user who use assistive tech in their daily lives
  - If it is designed right, a blind person can use your OER. The real question is how does it play with a screen reader?
- How do our products compare to other products the tester uses?
Your repository should have an accessibility statement!

What standards do you follow?

Are there any known issues?

Who can users contact to report a problem?
INTERNAL DOCUMENTATION

This is for people down the line to know what was done to insure accessibility

• What tools did you use?
• What standards did you follow
FUTUREPROOFING

• Weed outdated materials from your repository!
• Understand you will need to update documents you choose to maintain to conform to new standards
TOOLS

- All modern production software has built in accessibility tools
  - When choosing new software ask to see the VPATs!
- Learn the tools available to you
- Some “free” software does not do accessibility well or at all. I’m looking at YOU Google docs!
- Equidox allows you to set screen reader or convert PDF (or other formats) to HTML
FORMATS

HTML has a lot of advantages

• Well documented and established standards
• Very universal
• Is probably the easiest to make accessible and allows for more user agency.

PDFs can be accessible but it requires extra work
COMMON ASSISTIVE TECH

- Screen readers
  Not just for visually impaired people!
- Magnification
  In browser vs. whole screen
- Font substitution
- Color modifications
- Masking/highlighting
- Alternative pointing devices
- Captions
PLEASE DON’T FORGET

• Good image descriptions (captions or <alt> text) help a wide variety of people and should give a sense of why an image matters

• Assistive tech use is very personal and user needs can vary day to day

• Disabilities and chronic diseases can emerge at any point in life.
THANK YOU AND QUESTIONS?

Carolyn Jackson  Angie Brunk
cjaxson@ksu.edu  abrunk@ksu.edu