School of Social Work

Improving Accessibility on Blackboard with Ally.

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3 Questions:

- 1. What does the term "accessible" mean to you in the physical world? (buildings, streets, sidewalks, etc...)
- 2. What does the term "accessibility" mean to you and/or your students?
- 3. What are ways you have made your course materials/activities accessible to as many students as possible?



UDL

UDL: Universal Design for Learning

UDL is a term for making curriculum all-encompassing and farreaching, ensuring that all students can access learning.

Students are not the same.

Rather, they are individuals with differing abilities, strengths, experiences, backgrounds, needs, and learning styles.





Blackboard Ally: For Students

New to UMB in 2021





Course Welcome
On the current page, you will find the Course Welcome and instructions for navigating the course.

More Info

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Selected file:



The Importance of Nutrition in Aiding Substance Use Recovery - Dr...



OCRed PDF

Automatically extracted text for improved reading and searching



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



BeeLine Reader

Enhanced version for easier and faster on-screen reading



Translated version

A machine translated version of the original document





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Ally for Faculty

Content accessibility indicators

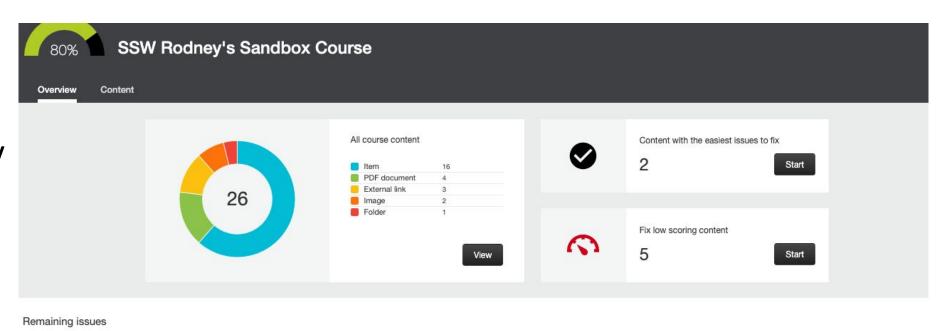




Ally for Faculty

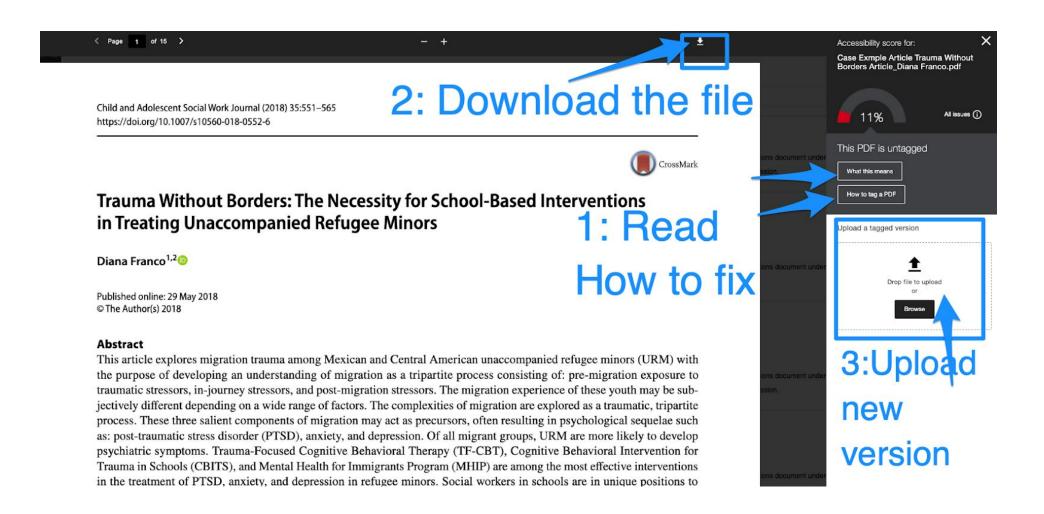
Overall accessibility score

Fix severity/tips





Ally for Faculty



UMB Stats (via CITS)

There are now 1,181 courses enabled for ALLY.

The Fall 2022 Overall accessibility score 70.8% mostly due to the 24,499 PDFs that are not OCRed.

OCR = Optical Character Recognition

Is your PDF a bunch of images or a bunch of highlightable text? If it is images (scanned/not OCRd) - screen reader software cannot read them.

You can use <u>docdrop.org</u> to OCR PDFs, or use Adobe Acrobat Pro.

"Scanned PDFs: An Enemy of Accessibility"

https://help.blackboard.com/sites/default/files/documents/2 020-09/ScannedPDFs 2020.pdf

SSW Stats



December 2021

532 downloads

147 students helped

47 courses w/downloads

43 instructor feedback launches

4 content fixes

3 courses with fixes

December 2022

2211 downloads

381 students helped

154 courses w/downloads

566 inst. feedback launches

268 content fixes

25 courses with fixes

Resources

BB Ally for Students in IDEA "Now That's a Great IDEA" ezine, October, 2021

Bb Ally for Faculty in IDEA "Now That's a Great IDEA" ezine, November 2021

Accessible Powerpoints "Now That's a Great IDEA" ezine, January, 2022

Ally for Students

Ally for Faculty

UDL Guidelines

UMB ESDS For Faculty

Resources

Accessibility Checklist for Online Course Development (UMB)

Ally Help Links:

Release Notes

https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally for LMS/Administrator/Release Notes

WYSIWYG Accessibility

https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally for LMS/Instructor/WYSIWYG

Instructor Feedback Panel

https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally for LMS/Administrator/Improve Accessibility/Instructor Feedback Panel

Once a course is Enabled for Ally, Instructors can access the Accessibility Report from Course Tools.

https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally for LMS/Instructor/Course Accessibility Report

Instructor package: Resources and Support

https://help.blackboard.com/sites/default/files/documents/2020-09/Learn 2020.pdf

Accessibility Checklist

https://help.blackboard.com/sites/default/files/documents/2018-08/AccessibilityChecklist BestPractices.pdf

Accessibility Indicators

https://help.blackboard.com/sites/default/files/documents/2020-09/AllyIndicators_2020.pdf