

Digital Accessibility

Digital accessibility is the process of ensuring that digital content, resources and services can be accessed, understood and used by the widest possible range of people, regardless of any impairments, disabilities, circumstances or technologies that they may use. The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) defines digital accessibility as providing all users with equal access to the same information and functionality, recognising that barriers can arise when content has not been designed with diverse user needs in mind. When developing teaching materials and learning activities, it is important to consider accessibility from the outset rather than attempting to address issues retrospectively, as early consideration helps to ensure that all students can engage effectively with learning resources while also improving the overall usability and quality of the learning experience. As you work through this module and consider your pedagogic approach, the activities you may ask students to undertake and the resources you may provide, you should reflect on how accessibility considerations can be incorporated into your design decisions. Comprehensive guidance on digital accessibility is available through the iPark website and should be consulted alongside this module. However, the key principles outlined below provide a useful starting point for understanding some of the most important factors to consider when creating accessible digital content and learning materials.



Ally

Ally is a tool which is integrated into Brightspace that helps you check if your learning content is accessible, offers suggestions of how to fix things if they need some adjustments and provides contents in alternative formats for students. Ally is covered more in Chapter 2 where we introduce Brightspace in more detail.

SCULPT Model



Use the checklist below as a starting point for checking if your digital content is accessible.

https://hudac.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/T2213-EXT-iParkResources/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B3D7735EB-845C-4A95-A8D3-21BB2F1E16E9%7D&file=UoH%20Digital%20Accessibility%20Quick%20Checklist_0_0%252