

Writing Accessibility Statements for OERs

WRITING ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENTS FOR OERS

KYLE MACKIE



Writing Accessibility Statements for OERs Copyright © 2024 by Kyle Mackie is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), except where otherwise noted.

CONTENTS

About this Resource	vii
Accessibility Statement	viii
<u>Main Body</u>	
What is an Accessibility Statement?	1
Accessibility Statements are Important	2
Who are Accessibility Statements for?	3
Examples	4
Effective Practices	5
Generate an Accessibility Statement	6

ABOUT THIS RESOURCE

This Pressbook was created as a compendium resource for the “Writing Accessibility Statements for OERs” webinar, facilitated by [Kyle Mackie](#) and hosted by [eCampusOntario](#) on Tuesday March 26, 2024.

This resource is designed to provide practical, actionable guidance. Whether you’re refining existing skills or starting from scratch, we hope that you will find the examples and tools you need to help you create more inclusive digital learning environments.

Highlights

- Recognizing the Importance of Accessibility Statements: Exploring how accessibility statements benefit users.
- Identifying Key Elements: Recognize critical components that should be included in every accessibility statement.
- Crafting Clear Accessibility Statements: Write statements that clearly communicate accessibility features of digital content, aligning with legal regulations and Universal Instructional Design.
- Structuring for Clarity: Organize statements for ease of understanding and effectiveness.
- Utilizing eCampusOntario’s Tools: Discover how to use tools from eCampusOntario for creating accessible educational materials.
- Analyzing Real Examples: Examine effective accessibility statements to identify best practices.
- Hands-on Practice: Engage in an activity to draft your own accessibility statement, with feedback and discussion.

Acknowledgments



This resource funded by the Government of Ontario. The views expressed in this publication are the views of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Government of Ontario.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

Commitment to Accessibility

- We are dedicated to ensuring the content of this resource is accessible and inclusive for all users.

Adherence to Standards

- This resource strives to comply with the [Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act \(AODA\)](#) and the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.1 Level AA](#).

Features for Accessibility

- This guide includes alternative text for images where appropriate, keyboard navigation compatibility, and compatibility with screen readers.
- This resource was created using best practices for [Pressbooks accessibility](#) and [H5P accessibility](#).

Feedback and Accommodations

- We welcome feedback on the accessibility of this resource. Please contact us at hello@kylemackie.ca for any comments or suggestions.

Continuous Improvement

- Our commitment includes ongoing efforts to improve the accessibility of this guide, ensuring it is updated and aligned with current best practices and regulations.

WHAT IS AN ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT?

Creating an accessible OER takes work and is a significant accomplishment. To enhance the usefulness of the resource, consider adding an accessibility statement. Although it's not required, an accessibility statement serves can be a useful addition to your resource. In this Pressbook, we'll provide guidance and suggestions on creating an effective accessibility statement, focusing on its what to include and how to put it together.

What is an accessibility statement?

An accessibility statement is a resource or point of reference for people who have questions about the accessibility of your resource.

A brief (and incomplete) history of accessibility statements



An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:

<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/accessibilitystatements/?p=33#h5p-4>

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENTS ARE IMPORTANT



An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:

<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/accessibilitystatements/?p=36#h5p-2>

WHO ARE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENTS FOR?



An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:

<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/accessibilitystatements/?p=44#h5p-6>

Before going much further:

Hassell Inclusion’s blog post on “[How to write an effective Accessibility Statement](#)” suggests that many existing accessibility statements focus more on showcasing an organization’s dedication to accessibility and are frequently filled with technical and legal jargon and accessibility legislation.

Rather than acting as a helpful resource for people with disabilities, this type of accessibility statement “read[s] like a combination of a sales pitch on how socially responsible the organization is, a technology manual, and some legal small print.”

Let’s consider:

Typically, a person will seek out an accessibility statement when facing difficulties in navigating a resource accessing content. This moment of need is crucial. Your statement should provide clear, useful information without requiring the reader to wade through irrelevant information or technical details.

The takeaway is clear:

Accessibility statements should be written with their actual users in mind. They should address the real and immediate needs of individuals with disabilities, providing straightforward, relevant information without unnecessary complexity or self-congratulation.

EXAMPLES

- [BCCampus Accessibility Toolkit \(2nd Edition\)](#)
- [Government of Canada Accessibility Statement](#)
- [Hassell Inclusion](#)
- [The Curious Educator's Guide to AI](#)
- [Accessibility Statement for WAI Website](#)



An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:

<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/accessibilitystatements/?p=54#h5p-12>

EFFECTIVE PRACTICES

When creating effective accessibility statements, it's important to work with some best practices. Here are 16 sets of “Do’s” and “Don’ts”:



An interactive H5P element has been excluded from this version of the text. You can view it online here:

<https://ecampusontario.pressbooks.pub/accessibilitystatements/?p=62#h5p-10>

GENERATE AN ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

[W3C Web Accessibility Initiative Accessibility Statement Generator Tool](#)

The screenshot shows the W3C Web Accessibility Initiative Accessibility Statement Generator Tool interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the W3C logo and the text "Web Accessibility Initiative WAI". To the right of the logo, it says "Strategies, standards, resources to make the Web accessible to people with disabilities". Further right, there are links for "Get Involved" and "About W3C WAI", and a search box with the text "Search". Below the navigation bar, there is a horizontal menu with the following items: "Accessibility Fundamentals", "Planning & Policies", "Design & Develop", "Test & Evaluate", "Teach & Advocate", and "Standards/Guidelines". Below the menu, there is a breadcrumb trail: "Home / Planning & Policies / Developing an Accessibility Statement / Generator Tool". The main content area is titled "Generate an Accessibility Statement". On the left side, there is a vertical sidebar with the following items: "Planning & Policies", "Approaches for Interim Repairs", "Planning and Managing Accessibility", "Developing an Organizational Policy", "Developing an Accessibility Statement", "Generator Tool", "Minimal Example", "Complete Example", "Involving Users for Better Accessibility", and "International Laws & Policies". The "Generator Tool" item is highlighted. The main content area contains the following sections: "How to use this generator tool" (with a sub-header and a paragraph explaining the tool's purpose), "Page Contents" (with a list of links: "Basic information", "Your efforts", "Technical information", and "Approval and complaints process"), and "Basic information" (with a sub-header and a paragraph explaining the section's purpose). At the bottom of the "Basic information" section, there is a sub-section titled "About your statement" with a "Show Info" link and a plus icon. Below this, there is a text input field for "Name of your organization" with the example text "(Example: 'Example Inc.')."