

Writing Accessibility Statements for OERs

WRITING ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENTS FOR OERS

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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



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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 HSP 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



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

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENTS ARE IMPORTANT



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WHO ARE ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENTS FOR?



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<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



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<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”:



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

GENERATE AN ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

W3C Web Accessibility Initiative Accessibility Statement Generator Tool

Skip to Content | Change Text Size or Colors | All Translations

W3C Web Accessibility Initiative WAI | Strategies, standards, resources to make the Web accessible to people with disabilities | Get Involved | About W3C WAI | Search

Accessibility Fundamentals | Planning & Policies | Design & Develop | Test & Evaluate | Teach & Advocate | Standards/Guidelines

[Home](#) / [Planning & Policies](#) / [Developing an Accessibility Statement](#) / [Generator Tool](#)

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
 - International Laws & Policies

Generate an Accessibility Statement

How to use this generator tool

The information that you provide below will generate an accessibility statement that you can download and further refine. None of the fields are required. None of the information you enter is stored outside your web browser.

Page Contents

- [Basic information](#)
- [Your efforts](#)
- [Technical information](#)
- [Approval and complaints process](#)

[+ Expand All Sections](#) | [- Collapse All Sections](#) | [Show all additional information](#)

- Basic information

In this section you can provide the minimal set of information recommended for your accessibility statement. This includes information about your organization, the accessibility standards you applied, and your contact information for feedback.

About your statement [Show Info](#)

Name of your organization
(Example: "Example Inc.")