Checking In
OER Accessibility as a Journey, Not a Destination

Jessica McClean
Director of Open Educational Resources, UTA Libraries
UTA OER Program began in 2017
First Mavs Open Press publication released in 2018 (our 5th anniversary!)
26 OER published so far
2021: Library Publishing Coalition’s Publishing Practice Award for accessibility

Mavs Open Press Recognized for Accessibility by the Library Publishing Coalition

Related Topics: academic libraries, accessibility, awards, library, Library Publishing Coalition, OER, Open Access, Open Educational Resources, open publishing.

The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Mavs Open Press has won the award for Accessibility from the Library Publishing Coalition (LPC) for their publication, Applied Fluid Mechanics Lab Manual.

LPC evaluated applications for its Publishing Practice Awards in a competitive selection process, and the application from Mavs Open Press, "demonstrated exemplary practices in the process of publishing a piece of work that foregrounded important publishing principles."
Mavs Open Press Publishing Process

1. Setup
2. Content creation
3. Pilot semester
4. Pre-pilot accessibility check
5. Pre-publication accessibility check
6. Publication
Pre-pilot accessibility check

- Overview of issues to be fixed in the future
- Uses WAVE tool
- Word document listing recurring issues (example at right)

Accessibility issue: Skipped heading level
Explanation: A heading level is skipped (e.g., an `<h1>` is followed by an `<h3>`, with no intermediate `<h2>`). Note that an `<h1>` is not required to be the first heading within the document.
Priority: Required correction
How to correct: Restructure the document headings to ensure that heading levels are not skipped.

Issue found in:
- Chapter 1
- Chapter 3
WAVE Tool

### Hyperlink

- Hyperlinks throughout the chapter connect to an outside web-page or a location.
- Visible and accessible to students using screen readers.
- Link can connect to:
  - page
  - chapter
  - image
  - table
  - videos

- Descriptive links distinct from body text.
  - **Underlined and different color**
  - Click [here](#)
  - Go to this link: [https://pressbooks.com/](https://pressbooks.com/)

### Multimedia
Pre-publication accessibility check

- Check all chapters for accessibility issues using WAVE tool
- Check all hyperlinks for broken links and opening in same window
- Issues collected in a spreadsheet
- Corrections
  - Formatting – corrections completed by GRAs
  - Content – corrections completed by author
Accessibility rubric

1. Accessibility Documentation
2. Content Organization
3. Images
4. Tables
5. Hyperlinks
6. Multimedia
7. STEM Content
8. Font

Interactive Elements
SitelImprove

Accessibility
Site: Libraries - OER - Mavs Open Press - Pressbooks
Score: 84.8 / 100
-1.4
Fix this issue and reach 85.8 points: Table cell missing context

Misspellings
Site: Libraries - OER - Mavs Open Press - Pressbooks
Misspellings: 103
162 pages affected
Pages with misspellings

Broken links
Site: Libraries - OER - Mavs Open Press - Pressbooks
Broken links: 824
106 confirmed broken, 718 to review
Pages with broken links
The problems

1. Sitewide accessibility issues in Pressbooks
2. Updates to WCAG standards
3. Link rot
4. OER as a living document

Accessibility is never "finished"
Annual Check-Ins

- Each summer – check with authors for plans to update text
  - No plans to update – check in May
  - Plans to update – check in August
- Pull report from SiteImprove for accessibility issues, misspellings, broken links
- GRAs will correct all accessibility issues
- Authors will receive a spreadsheet of misspellings and broken links
  - They send back spreadsheet with corrections
  - GRAs make corrections
- How to incentivize prompt participation?
Scalability Issues

▪ How to manage workload on top of new publications?
▪ Fewer accessibility issues after each iteration
▪ Monitor SiteImprove throughout the year for sitewide issues
▪ More education for authors
▪ Hire more staff
Thank you!

Jessica McClean
oer@uta.edu

Open positions coming soon:
- OER Librarian
- OER Coordinator