

Digital Accessibility Video Transcript

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Here at the University of Sussex, we have an incredibly diverse staff and student body. When it comes to accessing digital content, we may find that the way in which we've presented our digital material creates barriers for our diverse population. Students may have Specific Learning Difficulties such as dyslexia or dyspraxia, they may have Autism or Aspergers. Students may also have short or long term medical conditions that affect their ability to access digital content such as mental health conditions or surgery.

Dan Axson

For some of these groups of people they may already be using assistive technology to help them access digital content. For example a student who is blind may use a screen reader to read aloud the content on a web page. Or someone who has dyslexia, may require alternative background and text colours to be able to read text.

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For every student who has a registered disability there are many more who either choose not to declare them and others who may not realise they would benefit from using assistive and inclusive technologies and accessible digital content.

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So what is Digital Accessibility? Digital Accessibility is the process of making your materials and our digital provision available and accessible to everyone. What's more, it is a legal obligation that any digital content whether that be web sites, apps or module content should be made digitally accessible.

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What do you need to do and how are we going to help you?
All your module content and any web content must meet the requirements as set out by

None of this means that you can not continue to use rich media such as video and audio, or interactive web sites. What it means is you need to be aware of the barriers they may pose and how to mitigate these.

DA

To do this we have provided a range of materials and guidance on how to check your existing content and to help you when creating new content. We'll also be arranging a whole series of webinars and workshops to get you up to speed with digital accessibility.

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You may be wondering where to start or think this sounds like a lot of work. To help you we have ensured that all your module templates are accessible by design, meaning that if, as we recommend, you use your school Canvas template, you will have a lot less work to do. But do not worry if you're not using a template, you can use these pages to help.

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Digital Accessibility is more than making alternate versions of content, it's about ensuring that all your students have equal opportunity to engage in your subject regardless of what barriers they may previously have encountered. For most students and staff with a disability that affects their learning, it is the material and learning design that disables them, not their medical diagnosis. It is up to us all to make the changes.