OER & Accessibility

Norah Sinclair
AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center
College of Architecture
Georgia Institute of Technology

www.amacusg.org
AMAC Accessibility

AMAC is as an initiative of the University System of Georgia - Board of Regents to help post-secondary disability services offices provide complete, timely, and efficient accommodations to the print-disabled students they serve.
Products and Services

- **Braille Services** produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics only using cutting-edge technology.

- **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML, MathML.

- **Captioning Services – including Remote Captioning, Captioned Media, and Audio Description** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.

- **Certified Assistive Technology team** provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

- **Accessibility Compliance** focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility.
How does AMAC work for Students?

What is AMAC?
AMAC works with colleges and universities to provide students with textbooks in formats that best meet their needs, including:
E-Text, Audiobooks, and Braille.

How does AMAC work?
Students meet with their disability services office to place an order for their textbooks in the preferred format.
AccessGA Initiative

AccessGA
A joint initiative of the Georgia ADA Coordinator’s Office, AMAC, and GTA. The objective is to support Georgia’s state agencies with ICT accessibility, and promote equal and timely access for employees and customers with a wide range of disabilities.

- Webinar
- Technical Assistance and Hands-On Training
- Monthly Newsletters
- Up-to-Date Wiki of ICT Accessibility Resources and Information
- Web Accessibility Audits
- Procurement and VPATs
- www.accessga.org
Laws and Regulations

**ADA The Americans with Disabilities Act** of 1990 protects qualified persons with disabilities from discrimination including in postsecondary education.

- **Postsecondary institutions must make reasonable accommodations** in order to provide students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in courses, programs, and activities.

- Accommodations can include aids and services such as qualified sign language interpreters, note takers, readers, braille, large print, and **electronic formats of print materials**, and adaptive equipment.

US Department of Education Disability Discrimination: Overview of the Laws
Section 504

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education (ED). Section 504 provides: "No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in the United States . . . shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance . . . ."

Higher Education's Obligations Under Section 504 and Title II of the ADA
Qualified Individuals

Students must self-identify to receive accommodations.
Who is included?

**Individuals with print-related disabilities:**

- Blind or visually impaired
- Motor disabilities
- *Learning disabilities – largest group of students served in GA*
- Deaf or hard of hearing and require multimedia to be captioned
- Secondary group that can benefit – English language learners
Is Your Textbook Accessible?

Accessibility / Accessible

Making your content available to all users, including users of assistive technology.
What Makes a Textbook Accessible?

Key Ideas

• Works with Assistive Technology
• Benefits all users
• Incorporates standards
  • Section 508 and WCAG 2.0
Screen Reading/Text-to-Speech Solutions

– JAWS, NVDA, Window-Eyes
– Built-in Solutions: Narrator, VoiceOver
– ClaroRead, Kurzweil 3000
– Kindle App and Devices
– VoiceOver
– TalkBack
– ClaroSpeak, Voice Dream - apps
What is an Accessible Textbook?

- **Text** – selected, reformatted, resized, accessed with Assistive Technology
- **Digital** – not hard copy printed
- Include [Document Structure](#) and [Navigation](#) – [Headings](#) and Table of Contents
- **Alternative Text Descriptions**
- **Labels** for tables and forms
- Multimedia includes [captions](#)
- Works for most users
- Improved [Accessibility](#) leads to improved [Usability](#)
Accessible Documents Features

Semantic Markup, Document Structure, and Navigation

- **Headings** for structure and navigation
- **Alternative text descriptions**
- **Meaningful hyperlinks** (not click here or read more)
- **Logical reading order**
- **Color** and **Contrast**
- **Lists** and **tables**
Tips for a More Accessible MS Word Doc

Documents that are designed using accessibility standards and guidelines are beneficial for all users. Accessibility considerations include: document structure and navigation, alternative text descriptions, accurate reading order, and appropriate color and contrast. Digital content accessibility guidelines are very similar to the guidelines and standards for ensuring web content is accessible, however the techniques to achieve accessibility will vary depending on the format of the document. A key technique for creating more accessible Microsoft Word documents is to create document structure and navigation by using Styles to format Headings.

Use Styles and Headings to add document structure

Adding headings and subheadings (Heading 1, Heading 2, Heading 3, etc.) in a logical order will assist all users in navigating and finding information. Headings will be visibly identified in the body of the document by their formatting, but are also viewable and can aid navigation in the Navigation pane.

To View the Navigation Pane:

In Word 2010, on the Word Ribbon, go to View tab and click the checkbox by Navigation Pane in the Show group. (In Word 2007 click, show Document Map)
Alternative Text Descriptions

Images and other non-text content require text “equivalents” in order for screen reader users to have access to the same information that is conveyed visually to sighted users.

A person taps iPad screen with finger, highlighted text is displayed.
Writing Alt Text Descriptions

Image Purpose
To determine the alt text to add, determine the purpose and meaning of the image and write a short, to-the-point text equivalent. In most cases the alt text conveys the meaning of the image, rather than a visual description of the image.
Accessible Digital Content

**Formats**
- Microsoft Word documents
- PowerPoint presentations
- Accessible PDFs from accessible source documents
Use the built in tools of your authoring software

- Headings
- Lists and tables
- Alternative text descriptions
- Meaningful hyperlinks
Accessibility Checker

Use the built in tools of your authoring software

• What is it?
  – A tool available in Microsoft Office 2010 and 2013 for Word, PowerPoint, and Excel that identifies areas within documents that may be problematic for users with disabilities to view or use.
Who does it do?

- Inspects the document and scans for issues that could pose problems.
- Generates a report showing the inspection results.
- Flags three different categories of issues: errors, warnings, and tips.
Additional Inspection Information

• What else does it do?
  – Why Fix: Provides additional information detailing why the issue should be fixed.
  – How To Fix: Provides instructions for fixing the problems.
Use the Accessibility Checker

To access the Accessibility Checker, go to File > Prepare for Sharing and click Check for Issues

From the context menu, choose Check Accessibility
Formats

Use same standards and general techniques across formats

• MS Word Doc
• PDF
• EPUB
• Html
• xhtml
• xml

• Accessible source documents can be exported to other formats.
MS Word Demonstration

Tips for More Accessible Microsoft Word Doc
PDFs

- Create Accessible PDFs from accessible source files.
- Export tagged PDFs.
Remediating PDFs

- Adobe Acrobat Professional
- Auto-tag
Supplementary Materials

PowerPoint Slides
- Templates
- Unique titles
- Reading order
- Outline view
- Export to PDF

Multimedia and Video
- Closed Captioned
Video demonstration how to format PowerPoint for improved accessibility
Universal Design

Design for all users / Build it in from the start

• Build accessibility into source documents.
• Make accessibility part of your workflow.
• Documents designed using accessibility standards translate to mobile and other platforms more easily.
Demonstration of JAWS on the Web

Demonstration of JAWS by a student who is blind accessing the Internet

Video of JAWS User Accessing the Internet
Access to Success

Finding the right tools leads to success

Annzie Hine Success Story
Contact

Norah Sinclair
norah.sinclair@amac.gatech.edu

AccessGA
www.accessga.org

AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center
www.amacusg.org
404-894-8000
Resources

- Creating Accessible MS Word Documents
- Adobe Indesign Character and Paragraph Styles
- PDF Accessibility Standards
- NCAM Image Description Resources
- WCAG 2.0 Guidelines Overview