



Topic: Bb Ally and Accessibility

- Content Accessibility
- What is Bb Ally?
- How Does Bb Ally Benefit Students
- Using Bb Ally to Improve Accessibility in Online Course(s)
- Best Practices and Additional Resources

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Online Equal Access: Content Accessibility

How screen readers see...

Tables without captions

Tables
5 columns, 21 rows
2 columns, 8 rows
5 columns, 8 rows
2 columns, 6 rows
6 columns, 13 rows
2 columns, 5 rows

Tables with captions

Tables
Fall 2016 Enrollment 5 columns, 21 rows
University-wide Enrollments by Ethnicity 2 columns, 8 rows
Degrees Conferred 5 columns, 8 rows
Yale College Post-Graduate Plans 2 columns, 6 rows
Faculty Headcounts 6 columns, 13 rows
Staff Headcounts 2 columns, 5 rows

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Universal Design Content Accessibility

- Standard - Online content is accessible to everyone - variety of learning styles, cultural backgrounds, and various environments.
- Benefits
 - Remove any obstacles in meeting learning goals.
 - Provide learning environments that all students can thrive in without the need for special accommodations.



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What is Ally?

- Tool within Blackboard that **automatically** picks up on any existing or new course materials, runs it through the accessibility checklist, and makes the alternative accessible versions available to both the student and the instructor.
- Includes guides to help **fix content** so students have fewer problems viewing in Blackboard.

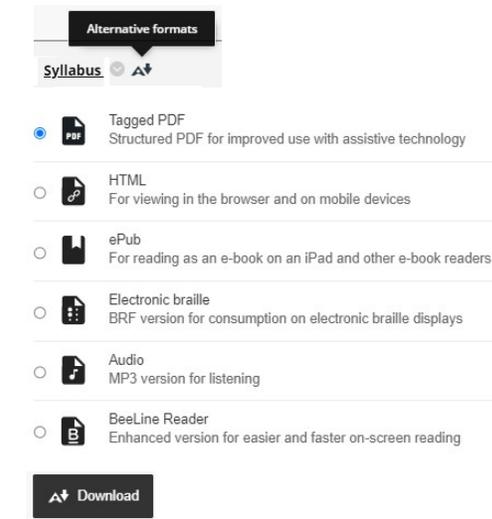


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How Does Ally Benefit Students?

- Ally helps make digital course content more accessible: *automatically* provides alternative formats, such as HTML, audio, ePub, and electronic braille.



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How Does Ally Benefit Students?

- A student can view the list of alternative formats by selecting the “A” icon beside a file attached in your course.
- Then, the student can access the alternative formats to choose from and select download to view.



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Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

- Provides instructor feedback and guidance on fixing accessibility issues.
- Feature Only Visible to Instructors.
- Ally Accessibility Score - Each score is composed of both a numerical indicator, a number, and a colored gauge that reflects that number.
 -  **Low:** File is not accessible and needs immediate attention.
 -  **Medium:** File is somewhat accessible and could use improvement.
 -  **High:** File is accessible but could be improved.
 -  **Perfect:** File is accessible. No improvement needed.

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Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

- Ally identifies issues within the original file such as the following:
 - Images without an appropriate alternative description.
 - Text fragments with insufficient contrast.
 - Documents without Heading(s).
 - Tables without Headings and/or Captions.

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Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

Select the icon to view the accessibility score and open the instructor feedback.

The screenshot shows the Ally interface for navigating instructor feedback. It includes a 'Click to Improve' button, a 'File/Content' upload area, and a 'Navigating Ally Instructor Feedback' section. The feedback process is divided into three stages: 'What's the issue?', 'How can I fix it?', and 'Success'. A dialog box for 'Pluto Presentation.pptx' shows an accessibility score of 32% (Medium) and a list of issues. A second dialog box for 'My Image.jpg' shows a 100% score (Perfect) and a success message: 'You have successfully added a description.' A list of issues is also visible, including 'This document contains images that are missing a description' and 'This document does not have headings'.

Click to Improve

File/Content

Navigating Ally Instructor Feedback

What's the issue? → How can I fix it? → Success

Accessibility score for: Pluto Presentation.pptx

Accessibility Scores:

Low
Medium
High 32%
Perfect

All issues 1

This presentation contains images that are missing an alternative description

What this means

How to add descriptions

Drop file to upload

1 Score shows level of accessibility

2 View all the file's accessibility issues

3 Description of the most important accessibility issue

4 Explains how the issue affects inclusive learning

5 Detailed steps how to fix the issue

6 Add your changes in the dialogue box or upload new files

Accessibility score for: My Image.jpg

100%

Perfect!

You have successfully added a description.

100% means the file has no more issues for you to fix, and your students will have a more accessible version to download Ally alternative formats. Congratulations! You're on your way to a more inclusive learning environment for your students.

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Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

"This document contains images [ALT Text] that are missing a description."



- Review "What This Means."
- Select "How to add descriptions."
- Select "All Issues" to fix item(s).

The screenshot shows the Ally feedback interface for a document with a 27% accessibility score. It includes a 'What this means' button and a 'How to add descriptions' button. A list of issues is visible, including 'This document contains images that are missing a description' and 'This document does not have headings'. Each issue has a 'Fix' button and a note about the potential score increase.

27%

All issues 1

This document contains images that are missing a description

What this means

How to add descriptions

This document contains images that are missing a description
Increase score up to 47%

This document does not have headings
Increase score up to 47%

This document contains tables that are missing headers
Increase score up to 32%

This document contains text with insufficient

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ALT Text Descriptions

- Text equivalent for an image.
- Image being presented is to inform the user of content.
- Ask "If I could not use this image, what would I put in its place?" to determine appropriate alternative text.
- Use 1 – 2 short sentences.
- Do not use "image of ..." or "graphic of ..." to describe the image.



Context: In this painting, the artist Emanuel Leutze used light, color, form, perspective, proportion, and motion to create the composition.

Choose the Best ALT Text for Image:

- A. "George Washington"
- B. "Painting of George Washington"
- C. "Painting of George Washington crossing the Delaware River."

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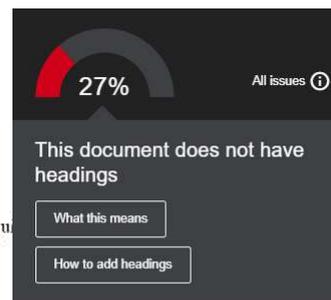
Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

"This document does not have headings."



On Campus Requirements

A statement informing students of any mandatory on-campus requirements.



Upload a version with headings



Drop file to upload
or

Browse

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Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

"This document contains text with insufficient contrast."

The screenshot shows a document viewer interface. On the left, a document titled "Vincent van Gogh" is displayed. The document content includes a section titled "Summary of Van Gogh's life" and a table titled "Some highlights of van Gogh's work". The table has the following data:

Artwork title	Year Created	Location
The potato Eaters	1885	Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam

On the right, an accessibility report is overlaid. It shows an "Accessibility score for: Vincent Van Gogh(82) (7).docx" of 26%. Below the score, it states "This document contains text with insufficient contrast" and provides buttons for "What this means" and "How to fix contrast". At the bottom of the report, there is a section for "Upload a version with sufficient contrast" with a "Browse" button.

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Using Ally to Improve Accessibility

Examples in Bb/Reports

The screenshot shows the Blackboard Ally interface. On the left, a sidebar lists course content categories: "Course Orientation", "Images and ALT Text", "Word Documents", "PowerPoint", "PDFs", "Videos", and "Reports". On the right, the "Administrator Tools" panel is open, displaying an "Ally Report" for course "TRN_01". The report shows "Total content created" as 56 and "Overall accessibility score" as 83.5%. The report also includes a "Back to courses" link and an "Export course" button.

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Best Practices

- Provide ADA Statement (Syllabus).
- Communicate Bb Ally Tool to Students (Course Orientation).
- Review and update course materials:
 - Re-format Scanned Documents
 - Accessibility Checker in MS Word
 - Accessibility Checker in PowerPoint
 - PDFs - Can use PDF but also provide alternative formats.
 - Use Software to create compliant PDFs (Adobe Acrobat Pro DC).
 - Closed Captioning of Videos
 - Transcripts



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Takeaway



- Accessible course content makes it easier for everyone to read and access online course materials and helps improve overall quality and usability.
- Bb Ally Tool helps improve accessibility:
 - Automatically provides alternative accessible downloadable versions of content in Bb Course.
 - Provides built-in guides to help Instructors fix content.



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ADA Office and Instructor Resources

ADA Accommodations Office

www.jeffersonstate.edu/ada

Anne Sherman

205-856-6077

Bb Ally Resources

[Instructor Resources Link](#)

<http://www.jeffersonstate.edu/resources-for-instructors-de/>

[Universal Design Standards;](#)

<https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>

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FAQ's:

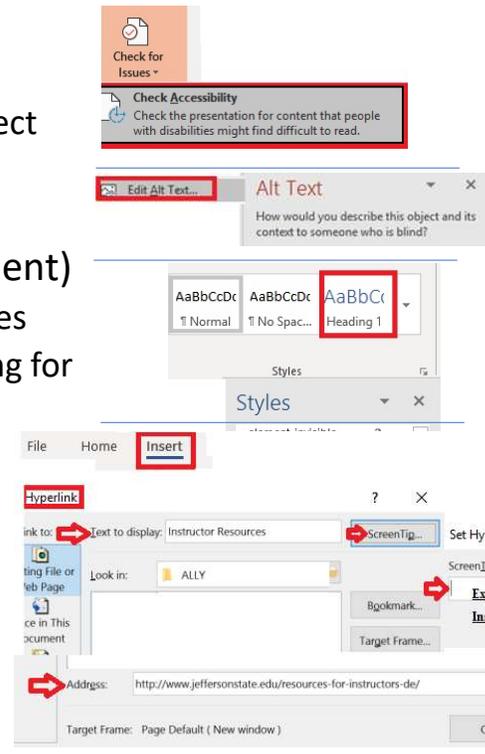
- Word Documents
- PowerPoint
- PDFs
- Untagged PDFs
- How to Save Documents
- Images in Bb

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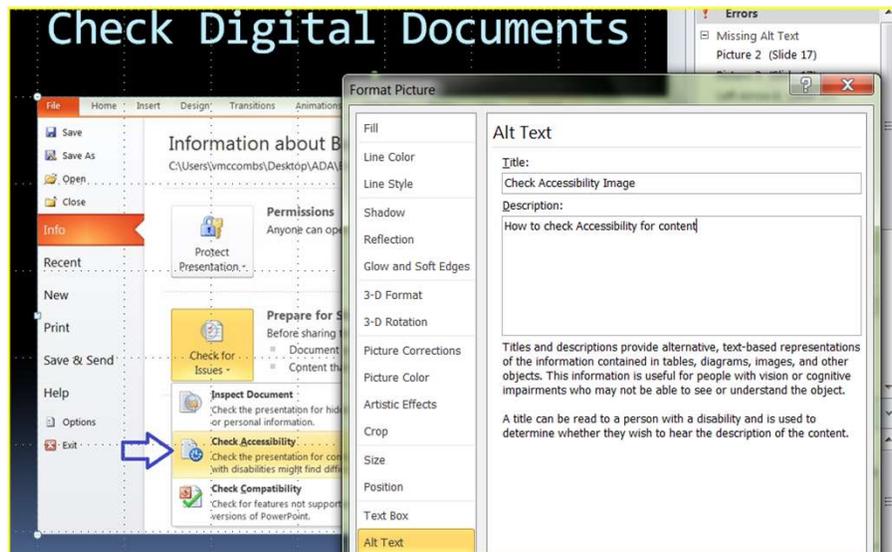
Word Documents

- “ALT” HTML tags on images
 - Right-click on image and select “Edit Alt Text”
 - Use meaningful description
- Headings (Structure Document)
 - Use or modify headings/styles
 - Do not use Bold as formatting for Titles or Headings
- HTML Links
 - Avoid using “Click Here,” “More,” “Read More”
 - Include hyperlink within sentence (Text to Display)
 - Include Screen Tip



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Add “Alt” Text to Image (right click on image)

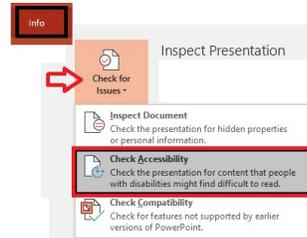


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PowerPoint

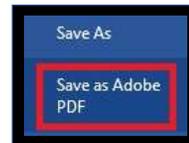
- “ALT” HTML tags on images
 - Right-click on image and select “Format Picture”
 - Use meaningful description
- Slide Titles - A visually impaired person that uses a screen reader relies on the slide titles to know which slide is which.
- Slides - Color and Contrast; Text on solid colored background; Layout (use Standard Text Boxes Placeholder); Avoid repetitive, moving or blinking content
- Slide Transitions (use sparingly) in classroom; remove for digital material
- Handouts (large size font); use Word to create handouts for Headers and Tables



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PDFs

- Screen Reader Issues
 - PDF documents do not interact seamlessly – must be “designed” to be compatible (logical structure and reading order by adding “tags”; no security restrictions; fonts; ALT-text; navigational aids)
- Fix original document/How to save as PDF Handout
 - Documents and PowerPoints that are corrected and re-PDF’d will show as 100% in Ally - doesn't mean that it meets all the legal requirements for accessibility.
 - Can use PDF but also provide alternative formats.
 - Software to create compliant PDFs (Adobe Acrobat Pro DC)
- Scanned images
 - Not accessible by screen readers
 - Open PDF in MS Word and re-format



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Untagged PDFs

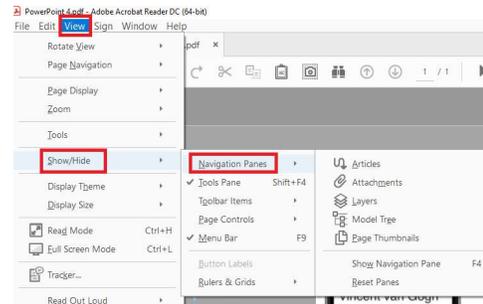
- Most documents are created in a word-processing programs such as Word or PowerPoint before they are converted to a PDF.
- Many programs create PDF files, but few produce structured or tagged PDFs.
- PDF tags are hidden labels that clarify the structure of the document (e.g., table, heading, paragraph, etc.).
- Untagged PDFs do not contain any of this information and can cause the content to be misinterpreted.

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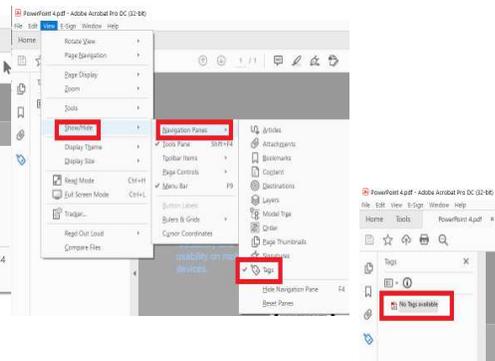
Untagged PDFs

- Adobe Acrobat Reader does not show tags.
- Adobe Acrobat DC Full Version will allow editing and tagging.
- Advanced PDF Accessibility with Adobe Acrobat Pro DC [YouTube Video](#)

Adobe Acrobat DC Reader



Adobe Acrobat DC Full Version



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How To Save Documents

The image shows two sets of screenshots. On the left, a Microsoft Word 'Save' dialog is shown with 'File name: Document' and 'Save as type: Word Document'. Below it, the 'Options' dialog is open, showing 'Page range' set to 'All', 'Publish what' set to 'Document', and 'PDF options' with 'PDF/A compliant' checked. On the right, a Microsoft PowerPoint 'Save' dialog is shown with 'File name: Presentation' and 'Save as type: PowerPoint Presentation'. Below it, the 'Options' dialog is open, showing 'Range' set to 'All', 'Publish what' set to 'Handouts', and 'PDF options' with 'PDF/A compliant' checked. Red arrows point to the 'Options...' and 'More options...' buttons in the save dialogs, and the 'OK' button in the options windows. A blue banner at the bottom reads: 'This file claims compliance with the PDF/A standard and has been opened read-only to prevent modification. Enable Editing'.

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Bb - Add Image with "ALT" text

The image shows the 'Create Image' dialog in Blackboard. It includes a legend: '* Indicates a required field.' The 'SELECT IMAGE FILE' section has fields for 'Name' (Student and Screen Reader), 'Color of Name' (Black), and 'Find File' (Browse My Computer, Browse Course, Browse Mashups). The 'Selected File' section shows 'File Name: Fotolia_52240652_compressed.jpg' and 'File Type: JPG'. The 'Alt Text' field (indicated by a red arrow) contains 'Example of Student and Screen Reader'. There is also a 'Long Description' field.

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