

TLC Europe Online: Client Presentations

Topic: Fostering Inclusive Education and Accessibility

Date: Thursday, May 21

Time: 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm BST

Making a Statement about Accessibility

Sandra Stevenson-Revill, University of Derby

In this session, we will talk about how the University of Derby has been able to take steps in meeting the 2018 Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications Accessibility Regulations 2018) Act. the session will look at meeting the requirement for systems to have an accessibility statement.

The Bluffer's Guide to Blackboard Theme Accessibility

Matthew Deeprise, University of Southampton

With the rapid move to online teaching, ensuring equitable access to our learning environment has never been more important. Recent legislation has brought an accessibility requirement for public sector organisations such as Universities. How can we ensure that our Blackboard environment reflects our institutional brand whilst following accessibility guidelines?

Customising the Blackboard Responsive theme for the Learn Original Experience continues to be a hot topic on the Blackboard Community site. We customise the theme both to improve the user experience, and to brand our environment with our institutional colours.

In this session I will put recent legislative and regulatory changes that relate to accessibility into a global context and explain how they impact University platforms such as Blackboard.

Using examples and developments from my own experience at the University of Southampton, I will provide practical advice and tips on what we should be doing when we customise our Blackboard theme. We all want our Blackboard environments to look great and appear congruent when viewed alongside our other institutional platforms. We also want to ensure changes we make are inclusive to our whole user community.

I will demonstrate how you may check the accessibility of your own custom Blackboard theme and illustrate the application of a number of the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines to Blackboard theme customisation. I will also discuss how the work we do in this area can inform the accessibility statements we are required to create for our Virtual Learning Environment.

Shifting Digital Accessibility Practice

Lilian Soon, University of York

Universities and Colleges in the UK are working to comply with the 2018 regulations for digital accessibility. From discussions on mailing lists and webinars, it is clear that each institution is approaching this in their own unique way. This interactive session provides the opportunity to collate and compare where ownership of digital accessibility lies in each institution and the various approaches to awareness raising, student partnerships, skills development, and support for departments to embed digital accessibility practice. The approach taken by the University of York will be presented as a case study, using Kotter's (1996) eight-stage change process for discussion. Delegates will have the opportunity to reflect on and compare their progress and share the list of tools, technologies and resources created or adopted by their institutions. They will come away with a crowd-sourced document that will help to inform and inspire further work on digital accessibility at their own organisation.

An Impact on Inclusive Education Across the United Kingdom: Accessibility Trends and Ally Usage

John Scott, Blackboard

Analysing data collected from the Blackboard Ally software, this paper focuses on content accessibility and Ally tool usage from across Europe and specifically by students and instructors at 33 universities across the U.K.

In this first part of the presentation, we explore trends in overall accessibility and critical issues through data mined from the Ally Institutional Report. Findings demonstrate accelerated gains in overall files score accessibility as well as on specific accessibility issues.

The second section analyses Alternative Format downloads by students. Findings include the number of downloads per student, a breakdown of the types of formats downloaded, and week-to-week trends in Alternative Format engagement over two terms.

The third section examines engagement with the Instructor Feedback and Course Accessibility Report. We present findings on academic engagement with the feedback across different file types, the average number of files improved over nine months by institution size, and engagement trends among courses with the highest number of files.

TLC Europe Office Hours

Date: Thursday, May 21

Time: 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm BST

Blackboard office hours is the place to meet your peers and Blackboard experts. Join these open sessions in a number of Collaborate breakout rooms where experts will be on hand to answer questions and give guidance about using our solutions and services, and offer advice on teaching remotely, during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond.