

Accessibility is about progress, not perfection.



The Aiming for ALL Collection
bit.ly/AimingForALL-Collection

2 Foundations

Learn how accessibility honours our human rights.

By Beth Stark, M.S.Ed., CPACC, Educator and Consultant, Inclusive Learning Systems, UDL, Accessibility



Activity: POUR Barrier Sort

An activity to identify barriers, sort them by the four POUR principles, and find ways to reduce them. Find it in the online collection: bit.ly/AimingForALL-Collection.

Accessibility is a big topic and there is a lot more to explore beyond what is here. Focusing solely on technical checklists may be helpful for fixes, but centring accessibility as a human right is what will make learning about it meaningful and (hopefully) ongoing.

Foundations Resources

A. Redefining Accessibility Advocacy: Progress Over Perfection

A blog post by Meryl K. Evans, a CPACC-certified accessibility consultant and TEDx speaker who was born profoundly deaf. Meryl makes the case that accessibility does not have to be all or nothing. The progress over perfection approach encourages people to take small, consistent steps toward inclusion rather than waiting until everything is perfect. A warm, practical, and encouraging read for anyone just getting started or feeling overwhelmed.

Link <https://meryl.net/accessibility-progress-over-perfection-communication/>

B. Article 9 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The full text of Article 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which sets out the legal right to accessibility for people with disabilities worldwide. It covers access to the physical environment, transport, information, communications technology, and public services. This is a foundational document for understanding accessibility as a human right, not just a technical requirement.

What about UDL? Article 24 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities establishes the right of all people with disabilities to inclusive education at every level. The Committee's General Comment on Article 24 identifies Universal Design for Learning as a core approach to making education accessible and adaptable for all students.

Link <https://social.desa.un.org/issues/disability/crpd/article-9-accessibility>

C. Web Accessibility Perspectives Videos (W3C WAI)

A series of short videos from the W3C Web Accessibility Initiative showing real people using the web with different access needs. Each video focuses on one accessibility feature, such as captions, keyboard navigation, or colour contrast, and shows both why it matters and who it helps. A great resource for building empathy and understanding before getting into technical detail. All videos include captions and audio descriptions.

Link <https://www.w3.org/WAI/perspective-videos/>

D. WeCo Accessibility Resources: Free and Low Cost

A library of no-cost and low-cost accessibility resources from WeCo, a disability-owned digital accessibility company based in Minnesota. The library brings together third-party resources, articles, and guides on web accessibility, document accessibility, mobile accessibility, and assistive technology. Written and maintained by accessibility specialists who live with disabilities themselves.

Link <https://theweco.com/resources/>

E. Accessibility Basics (NCADEMI)

This resource covers nine core skills for creating accessible digital content. Each skill has its own dedicated page with clear, plain-language guidance. The nine areas covered are alt text for images, captions, clear writing, colour use, headings, links, lists, tables, and text contrast. A great hands-on starting point for educators and content creators who want to know exactly what to do and why it matters.

Link <https://ncademi.org/create/basics/>

F. Is It Accessible? Questions to Ask Before Selecting Educational Materials (PDF)

This short, "go-to" guide from CAST explains the four POUR principles. POUR stands for Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, and Robust. This opens as a PDF.

Link

<https://aem.cast.org/binaries/content/assets/aem/create/aem-pour-onepager-202307-a11y.pdf>

G. Glossary of Terms

This plain-language glossary from Make Things Accessible covers the most common terms, acronyms, and abbreviations used in digital accessibility. It is useful for anyone who wants to understand the language before diving into more technical resources.

Link <https://www.makethingsaccessible.com/glossary/>

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