

When it comes to accessibility, Pressbooks has earned a strong reputation on two important counts:

1. Making it easy to create accessible learning materials, and
2. Providing tools that can readily be used by people with disabilities.

Pressbooks' definition of accessibility in education

Accessibility in education means giving all people, including those with disabilities, the same level of access, knowledge, and benefit from learning materials and technologies.

Pressbooks' commitments to accessibility

As a team, we make the following commitments around accessibility:

- We strive to develop technology and services that provide equitable access to information for all people.
- We create solutions that empower users comply with the accessibility laws that exist in most countries, including the US and Canada.
- We continually improve our platform and tools so that all humans can have a productive experience
- We advocate for and empower the creation of accessible learning material
- We take a human approach, leading our design processes with empathy and consultation.
- We are transparent about our accessibility commitments and progress. Accessibility documents, including our Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT®), are available on our website. Visit pressbooks.com/accessibility/ to learn more.

What does accessibility in educational content mean?

When we look at how learning content has evolved (from hard copy textbook to digital course materials), we see many more ways to accommodate learners with different learning styles, different disabilities, and different backgrounds. While print books have their own problems of accessibility, digital materials come with more complexities to consider. Text and formatting need to be readable by assistive technologies, content needs to be understandable in many contexts, and multimedia and interactive components need to be usable by learners with diverse needs. Making accessible educational content means taking all these factors into account and continuing to evolve as the educational community learns more about the needs of all learners.

Why is accessibility in education important?

We're all humans!

All humans deserve dignity, respect, and the opportunity to benefit from education. When we make information, technologies, and learning materials accessible for all, we demonstrate a commitment to these values.

It's the law!

To date, over 150 countries have ratified the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Depending on where you are, the specific laws pertaining to the accessibility of educational materials will be different, but there is likely a standard outlined in a law that your organization is required to follow.

How does Pressbooks approach accessibility?

Designing for accessibility first

Rather than releasing the Pressbooks platform and then reviewing the product for accessibility later, our developers put time and care into ensuring accessibility is baked into the platform from the beginning. Accessibility is never an afterthought at Pressbooks, but a guiding set of principles and practices that we consider everyday and proactively design into our products.

"If it's a platform that's meant to foster human creativity, let's make sure the humans have a positive experience." - Steel Wagstaff, Pressbooks Product Manager

Empowering users to make content accessible

We empower users to make their learning materials accessible in two important ways. First, we design a user experience that makes it easy to follow accessibility best practices (ex. color contrasting, alt text, header structure, formatting, etc.). Second, we provide clear guidance and documentation about how to use Pressbooks accessibly. Equipped with support from Pressbooks, most users can easily achieve their accessibility goals and make learning environments more inclusive.

How can I verify Pressbooks' accessibility commitments?

We continually review our products and make the latest Voluntary Product Accessibility Template [VPAT®] documents available on our website. We engage credible third-party experts to assess our software and compile VPATs that document our performance against defined targets.

Contact sales@pressbooks.com for more information.