Accessibility in design of learning resources

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Adding ALT text to images

• Right click on image
• Choose Format Picture
• Size & Properties
• Fill in Description + Title if long description
• How much description?

• Quick Access Toolbar
What do you think are three key actions to improve accessibility?
Institutional context

• The Equality Act 2010
• The Disabled Students’ Allowances (DSA)
• Institutional obligations and duties
• Disabilities and specific learning difficulties
• International students (EAL)
Making documents readable

• Signposting and scanning
• Structure and space
• Headings (Styles)
  – bullet lists
• Formatting
  – **bold** instead of *underline*
  – avoid ALL CAPS
• Charts, diagrams and graphs
  – ALT text
File formats

- Word, PPT, PDF
- Apple (or Linux) friendly?
- Mobile (iOS and Android) friendly?
The right type?

Times New Roman
Palatino
Georgia
Arial
Verdana
Calibri
Comic Sans
Papyrus
Viner Hand

Serif

Sans Serif

Display
The right type?

I quickly explained that many **big jobs** involve **few hazards**. 1234567890

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How (not) to do it


**Accessibility**

We have tried to ensure that we have followed our own advice! The printed version of this guide, kindly donated by Lightning Source, is printed on off-white paper, which is low glare. During testing, visually impaired readers preferred off-white paper to cream.

We have used two new dyslexia friendly fonts, Genius and Word. These were developed by the Hidden Differences Group, with the help of two young designers from Zeta Commerce, Henry and Rowena, who both happen to be dyslexic!

Open Dyslexic

OpenDyslexic is a new open source font created to increase readability for readers with dyslexia. The typeface includes regular, bold, italic, and bold-italic styles. It is being updated continually and improved based on input from dyslexic users. OpenDyslexic is free for Commercial and Personal use.
Recommendations

• Font: Sans Serif (or Serif)
• Body text: at least 11 point
• Align left, ragged right margin
• Line spacing: 2 points
• Paragraph spacing: 6 points
• Page margins: at least 20mm
Lectures
Lectures

• Slides and lecture notes
• Visual aids
  – Structure and space
  – Colours and contrast
  – Accessible templates: http://www.edshare.soton.ac.uk/3081/
• Thinking time
• Students with hearing impairments
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Timing

• In advance
• Overviews?
• Skeleton notes?
• Impact on attendance?
Lecture capture

• Students recording lectures
• Student demand
• Pros and cons
• When is it the answer?
• Policies

1400 student responses
Did students want all of their lectures to be recorded?
YES = 95% of students
97% of international students
What is possible?

• Screen + audio
• Video: lecturer, whiteboard, webcam
• Upload video file (e.g. from phone)
• Simple editing
• Viewers:
  – Navigation
  – Speed control
  – Transcript (Synote)
Assistive technologies

• AT bar – a quick demo

• Other student-facing tools:
  – Dragon Naturally Speaking (speech > text)
  – ClaroRead (text > speech)
  – Mind-mapping tools
  – Online dictionary
  – Adobe Reader (text > speech)
What three actions will you take to improve accessibility?
Further reading/links

• JISC initiatives
  – https://www.jisc.ac.uk/guides/getting-started-with-accessibility-and-inclusion
  – https://elevator.jisc.ac.uk/e/accessiblebydesign
  – http://www.lexdis.org.uk/