



Digital Libraries and Accessibility

Texas Library Association Annual Conference
April 27, 2022



Introductions

Alexa Hight, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Laura Waugh, Texas State University

Amanda Zerangue, Texas Woman's University



Electronic Theses and Dissertations (ETDs)

- Updating information and resources on accessibility
- Increase in audio and visual components for ETDs
 - Challenges for copyright, licensing, and accessibility
- Need updated policies, templates, instruction, and tools to help



ETDs: Example

<https://www.montana.edu/etd/>

Accessibility

In order to help make your ETD accessible to everyone, we ask that you do your best to address accessibility issues when formatting your ETD.

Please review our [accessibility](#) information and check our [Formatting FAQ](#) for help with questions about formatting.

Templates:

Microsoft Word and LaTeX are the most commonly used document preparation software, though students may use which ever program with which they feel comfortable. The Graduate School does not provide technical support for document preparation. Templates for Word and LaTeX are linked to below:

Microsoft Word

The Graduate School provides templates for front matter (title page, copyright page, etc.) in .docx format:

- [Master's Degree Template \(.docx\)](#)
- [Doctoral Degree Template \(.docx\)](#)
- [DNP Template \(.docx\)](#)



ETDs: Tips and Work in Progress

- Have conversations with students BEFORE they start
- Partner with Graduate School to ensure accessibility in ETDs
- Include copyright and licensing in graduate school curriculum
- Provide tools and resources for accessibility of content



ETDs: Challenges

- Captioning and transcripts: Who will pay for that?
 - Professional captioning is ~\$1.25 per minute
- Policies and requirements need collaboration
 - Graduate School and Libraries must agree and implement
- Faculty advisors (internal and external) need to know this, too



Accessibility in Institutional Repositories

- Colleen Lyon, University of Texas at Austin
- Abigail Shelton, University of Notre Dame
- Kristi Park, Texas Digital Library
- William Hicks, University of North Texas
- Nerissa Lindsey, San Diego State University
- Laura Waugh, Texas State University

<https://digital.library.txstate.edu/handle/10877/12389>



Purpose of the study

1. Understand the current landscape of accessibility practices in institutional repositories in academic libraries
2. Identify the average level of content accessibility implemented in institutional repositories in academic libraries

<https://digital.library.txstate.edu/handle/10877/12389>



Key Findings: Most universities

- Have *NOT* achieved a compliant level of accessibility for materials in their IR
- Accessibility measures for IR content is largely a personal commitment rather than library or institutional prioritization
- There is a strong desire by IR managers to do better



Key Findings: Most cited obstacles

- Staffing
- Finances
- Lack of expertise
- Amount of content
- Self-deposit model



Key Findings: Most cited obstacles

“At my mid-sized institution, limited staffing and resources means that it’s up to me alone to educate myself and others about accessibility. I do what I can as I have to juggle other non-IR responsibilities (e.g., collection management, instruction, research, committee service, reference).”



Key Findings: Most cited obstacles

“It’s up to the faculty who submit to make their work accessible when they publish it. It’s hard enough to get them to submit without having to require them to do a lot of work to the file. We don’t edit the files afterward because of trust. We want faculty to trust that we won’t edit their work.”



What can we do?

- We MUST do better!
- Push our institutions to make accessibility a top priority
- Collaborate and share resources and tools
- Implement policies, test our platforms, and commit
- Grow our conversations on this into actions



Q&A

Alexa Hight, alexa.hight@tamucc.edu

Laura Waugh, lwaugh@txstate.edu

Amanda Zerangue, azerangue@twu.edu