



# Texts for Every Reader: accessible format services.

Beck Maguire, University of  
Nottingham

Carol Keddie, De Montfort University



# Accessible Formats



**What are accessible formats**



How do you feel?



## What just happened?

- The student tried to use this e-book via our Library catalogue with no additional support
- The platform has no headings and is therefore difficult to navigate around
- The student could eventually make it read the contents page – the navigation pane on the left, but couldn't make it read the text of the book



- Legally and morally, institutions are obliged to make their information resources accessible to all users.
- Everyone should have the opportunity to participate, to fulfil their potential and become who, and what, they aspire to be.
- Accessible format services enable print disabled students to read texts in their preferred way.
- Making information resources accessible, provides an equitable experience which enables all people to participate
- Facilitating these services requires collaboration with colleagues across our institutions and building relationships with our students

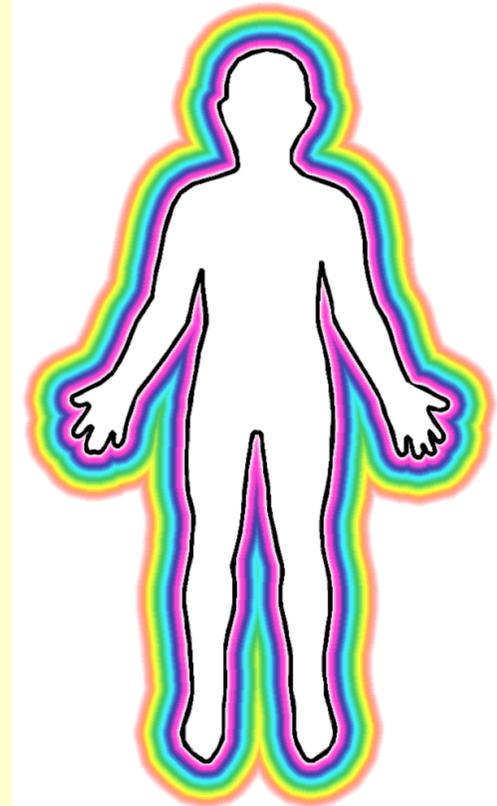
# Accessible Formats



# Introductions

- **Who are you?**
- **Which institution are you from?**
- **Do you have an accessible formats service at your institution?**

- **Wider context to this provision**
- **Service at the University of Nottingham**
- **Service at De Montfort University**
- **What the future holds in this area**





## Medical Model – where we were

- separate/individual issue
- add on
- can be made ‘better’

## Social Model – where we want to be

- inclusive curriculum
- inclusive teaching
- participation
- the environment/society enables
- Universal Design for Learning (DMU) and Transforming Teaching Project (UoN)



**UNIVERSAL  
DESIGN FOR  
LEARNING**



## The Equality Act 2010

- Consolidating and simplifying existing legislation around disability
- Giving clear definitions of disability, discrimination and so on
- Reinforcing the fact that institutions are legally obliged to make reasonable adjustments – this has impacted upon student funding (Disabled Students' Allowance)





- All students should have the opportunity to participate, to fulfil their potential and become who, and what, they aspire to be.

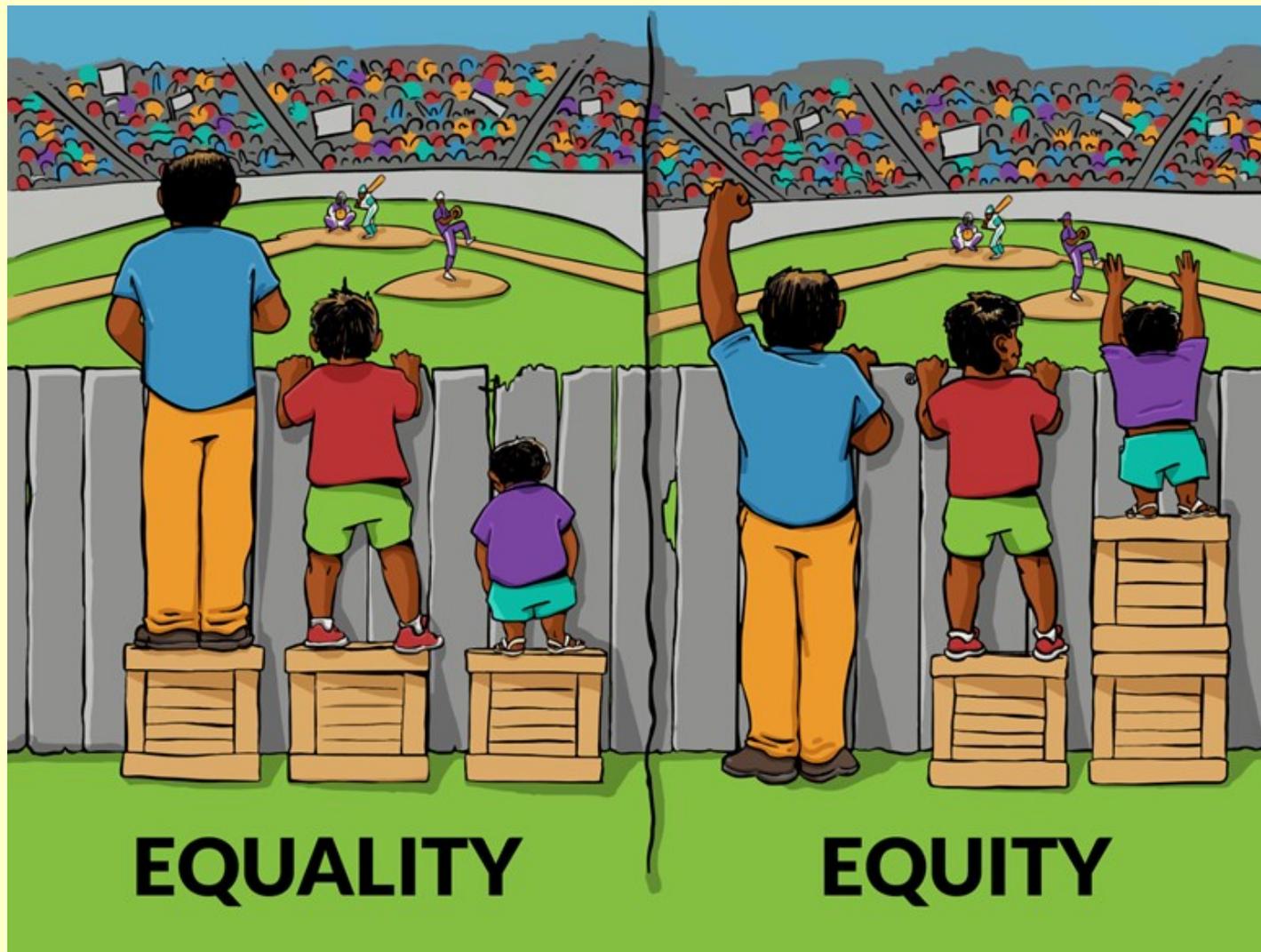


**DMU**freedom

Equality and Diversity Charter 2016-2020



# Moving forwards – what are we aiming for?



Interaction Institute for Social Change (Artist: Angus Maguire [used with permission])



**Accessible materials provide an equitable experience, enabling participation**





# What do we do at the University of Nottingham?

- **Champion good practice to move towards a social model**
- **Provide the Alternative Formats Service to ensure that disabled students have a comparable experience to their peers when accessing resources for their course**



# The Alternative Formats Service

A bespoke service (internally funded) supporting a small number of disabled individuals who cannot access standard text for whatever reason.

They may not be able to:

- See the text
- Hear the audio
- Hold the resource





# Providing accessible resources – the Law

**‘If an authorised body has lawful possession of a copy of the whole or part of a published work, the body may, without infringing copyright, make and supply accessible copies of the work for the personal use of disabled persons.’**

Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988,

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/48/part/II/chapter/III/crossheading/visual-impairment> -

Accessed 22.5.17



## Resources

### Course materials

- School handouts and so on
- Video/AV materials

### Information resources

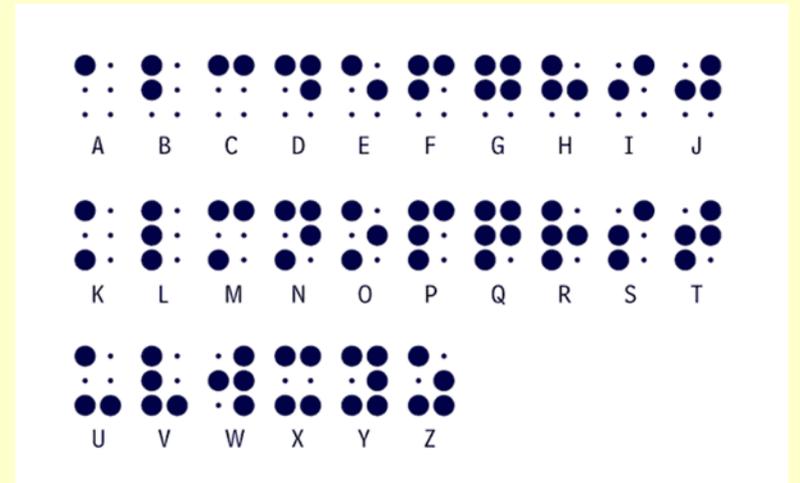
- Journals
- Ebooks
- Print





# What formats can the AFS provide?

- Screen reader compatible files/structured Word docs
- Electronic files
- Braille/tactile diagrams
- Audio
- Large print
- Transcripts for videos





# What if the original is inaccessible?

1. Legally we have to see if an accessible version is out there
2. Possibly obtain an electronic file from the publisher
  - RNIB BookShare or direct request
3. Scan and reformat from hard copy and sometimes electronic materials (DRM/poor quality scans/image only scans)



DE MONTFORT  
UNIVERSITY  
LEICESTER



SPACE  
RESOURCES  
GUIDANCE  
RESEARCH  
LEARNING  
LIBRARIES AND LEARNING



LIBRARIES AND LEARNING

## Accessible Formats Service

We are a service to help students to access course material in ways to suit their requirements.  
We provide:

- Books in **accessible formats** for print disabled learners
- **One-to-one** meetings, including a library tour
- Introduction to **Assistive Technology**
- Ask & Collect Service helping you find or collect books, DVDs/CDs or pamphlets from our shelves

To find out more, contact the Accessible Formats Team at [libaccess@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:libaccess@dmu.ac.uk) or visit:  
<http://libguides.library.dmu.ac.uk/disability>



Assistive Technology

## Assistive Technology

- One-to-one tutorials
- Weekly assistive software workshops
- Weekly drop-in (Mon 2pm-3pm)
- Guides and resources
- Digital magnifiers & other equipment

To find out more, contact AT at [libdis@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:libdis@dmu.ac.uk) or visit:  
<http://libguides.library.dmu.ac.uk/at>



LIBRARIES AND LEARNING

## Library Disability Services

- One-to-ones, including a library tour
- Double the loan-time on books
- Use of private study rooms
- Assistive software on library PCs
- 'Ask and collect' service

To find out more, contact the Library Disability Team at [libdis@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:libdis@dmu.ac.uk) or visit:  
<http://libguides.library.dmu.ac.uk/disability>



Accessible Formats

- Dedicated team of two part-time members of staff
- New service, staff in post since January 2017
- Provide accessible versions of textbooks to students
- Work closely with our assistive technology officer and wider disability team to optimise the student experience



- We work closely with the central Disability Advice and Support service (DAS) and also the Faculty Disability Officers
- Also work with academic staff and library colleagues in the academic liaison team to obtain reading lists and other information
- Meet with the students to discuss their needs and preferences
- Online guide to our services

DMU Library / LibGuides / User / Library Disability Services / Welcome

Library Disability Services: Welcome

Welcome | Library Buildings | Finding and Borrowing Books | Accessible Study Rooms | Assistive Technology | Further Support | Mobile Apps and Resources

Ask and Collect Service | Disability & SLD Related Library Resources | Feedback | Accessible Formats Flyer | IT Induction and support for learning technologies

## Library Disability Services

**The Library Disability Team**

Library staff will help you find the information you need and the skills to use it successfully.

We also offer additional support, including access to equipment, specialist software, and help around the library such as our **Ask and Collect** book service. Please get in touch for a confidential chat about what might be useful for you.

**Useful Books**

Writing your Dissertation



## Acquisitions

- Purchasing accessible platforms where possible
- Put pressure on suppliers



## Ebook audit

### Focus

Key areas of practical user experience to measure basic accessibility functionality (Non-technical checked by a non-specialist)

- change colours
- magnify text
- reflow to fit the page.
- navigate easily and orientate themselves within the context of the content.
- use assistive technologies to read the text out loud with or without being able to see the screen.



## Who took part?

- 33 universities
- 5 suppliers
- 44 platforms tested covering 65 publishers and testing nearly 280 ebooks (education sector as opposed to e.g. popular fiction)

<https://sites.google.com/site/ebookaudit2016/home>



# English and Welsh Consortia

## Joint Consortia agreement for Books and Ebooks

Core accessibility features are included within requirements to evaluate for the Joint Consortia agreement (HE supply, England and Wales, 2017-)

- Basic accessibility checks are included
- This should be available to member organisations from July/August 2017.



# Communication – inclusive practice

- Academics
- Central Services
- Students

Universal Design (DMU)  
Inclusive Curriculum (Nottingham)





- **Be aware!**
  - **Build accessibility into the process**
  - **Accessibility fits with great usability – it adds value!**
  - **Useful for everyone!!**
- 
- **Powerful – ‘The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new’ – Socrates**



- Reading braille
- Looking at built-in accessibility features on I pads and other devices



Thank you for listening – any questions?

