Through My Lens:

Real Experiences and Real Solutions for Accessible Educational Materials

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Introduction to the **Team**

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Objectives

1. Identify common accessibility barriers
2. Analyze real-world experiences of an AT user
3. Apply practical document-remediation techniques

Digital Resource

States and School Districts

Requirement to provide educational materials that are accessible to all students

Legal Requirements

IDEA 2004: States and School Districts must provide accessible formats, in a timely manner to students with disabilities

ADA 2027 Title II: State and Local Governmental Agencies must adhere to web content accessibility guidelines

What types of educational materials are applicable to the law?

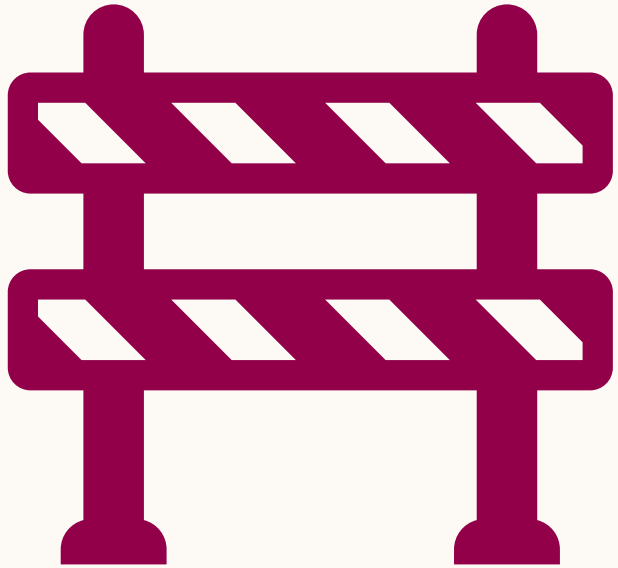
IDEA:

- “Print instructional materials” are defined by IDEA as “printed textbooks and related printed core materials that are… used by students in the classroom”.

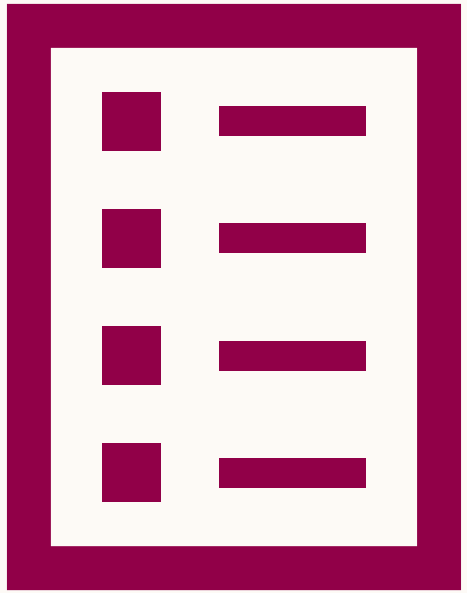
ADA Title II:

- Web content and mobile applications, such as websites, digital textbooks, learning management systems, apps, videos, digital documents, and social media.

Common Barriers to Access



Through My Lens: Headings



When formatted incorrectly digital documents can create barriers for AT users.

Headings are essential because they make digital documents:

- ❑ Perceivable
- ❑ Operable
- ❑ Usable
- ❑ Robust

Headings
Demonstration

Practice Document

Through My Lens: Alternative Text

Images often lack alt text which excludes people who cannot perceive visual images.

Alternative text (alt text) is crucial for digital accessibility to ensure that visual content is understandable to everyone.

- ❑ Equal Access
- ❑ Usability
- ❑ Inclusive

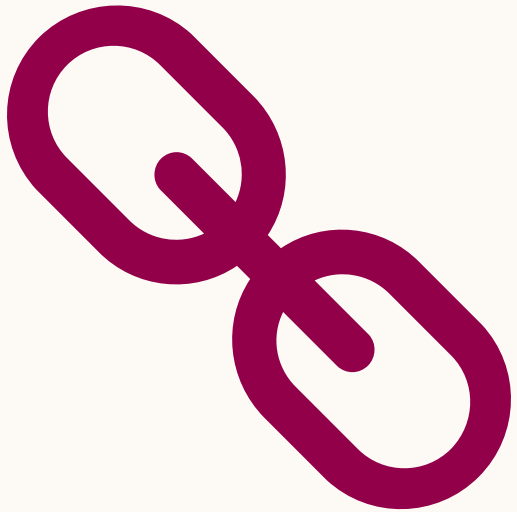
Tips for Creating Alt Text

- ❑ Consider the purpose or meaning of the image in the context it is used to provide the student an equivalent experience.
- ❑ Keep the alt text simple and precise.
- ❑ Mark the image as decorative if it isn’t used as a link or doesn’t have any meaning.
- ❑ Include important text from the image in the alt text.
- ❑ Leave out words like “image of” or “picture of” in your alt text.

Alt Text

Demonstration

Through My Lens: Links



Hyperlinks are commonly used in digital documents but can be confusing and unclear.

Accessible links are important in digital documents because they ensure everyone can understand, navigate, and interact with linked content, including people who use assistive technologies.

- ❑ Usability
- ❑ Provide Context
- ❑ Inclusive

Tips for Creating Accessible Links

- Use clear, concise link text that accurately conveys the link's purpose or destination.
- Underline link text and use a different color from the surrounding text. This makes links easier to recognize.
- Avoid use of vague or extra link text such as "click here," "read more," or "link to."
- Don't insert long URLs as link text. If the URL must be displayed, consider using a link shortener.
- Be very cautious when utilizing AI generated Alt Text

Links

Demonstration

Keep the Learning Going

- ❑ Accessibility Basics - National Center on Accessible Digital Educational Materials & Instruction
- ❑ Learning Modules - National Center on Accessible Digital Educational Materials & Instruction

ADE/ESS Resources

ADE/ESS Assistive Technology Website

Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) | Arizona Department of Education

ADE Assistive Technology Short-term Loan Library

Diverse Ability Incorporated

Diverse Ability Incorporated is a youth-driven nonprofit dedicated to empowering youth and young adults who have disabilities to lead confident, independent lives. Through peer-based programs and services, we create opportunities for leadership, self-advocacy, and community engagement.

Diverse Ability Incorporated

Thank you!

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