



Ally Features Overview

Training Session

Workflow

Instructor adds course content to course site

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Brightspace course site for 'Module 2 - bb-2905-nico'. The URL is <https://allyrelease0521.dev/ms.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/123077/Home>. The page header includes the D2L Brightspace logo, the course ID 'bb-2905-nico', and navigation icons for a grid, email, chat, and notifications. A user profile for 'ally instructor' is visible in the top right.

The main navigation bar contains links to Calendar, Classlist, ePortfolio, Content, Course Admin, Competencies, Discussions, Assignments, Grades, Quizzes, and a 'More' dropdown. The left sidebar features a 'Search Topics' search bar and a list of navigation options: Overview, Bookmarks, Course Schedule, Table of Contents (with a count of 10), Module 1 (count 4), and Module 2 (count 6, which is highlighted). Below these is an 'Add a module...' button.

The main content area is titled 'Module 2' and includes 'Print' and 'Settings' icons. It contains sections for 'Add dates and restrictions...' (with a 'Published' dropdown), 'Add a description...', and buttons for 'Upload / Create', 'Existing Activities', and 'Bulk Edit'. A list of course items is displayed, each with a title, a file icon, a description, and action icons (move, delete, and a checkmark):

- Ally - One Pager - Higher Ed - General** (PDF document)
- Brown Et Al - Project Planning - Poor Quality** (PDF document)
- Cern higgs boson** (Image)
- DemoContent** (Zip Compressed File)
- 3. Headings + alt tags** (Word Document)

The description for the 'Cern higgs boson' item is 'The whole universe was in a hot dense state'.



Automated Accessibility Checklist

- Run content through automated accessibility checklist based on content type
 - Full checklist available at:
https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Administrator/Institution_Report/Accessibility_Checklist
- Based on WCAG 2.1 AA



Accessibility Score

- Every item is assigned accessibility score
- Percentage score (0% – 100%)
- Weighted average of results from different accessibility checks
- Based on research done by W3C
- Reflects how accessible item is, how many students it affects and how severely it affects them





Alternative Formats

Alternative Formats

- Provide immediate more accessible starting point. No action required by instructor
- Provide multiple ways in which content can be consumed
- Additional option is shown next to content name
- Available to students and instructors
- Doesn't change or interrupt any existing workflows
- Alternative format will be generated when it is requested for the first time. Will be cached after that
- More information at
https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Student/Alternative_Formats



Table of Contents - bb-2905-nico

← → ↻ 🔒 https://allyrelease0521.devlms.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/123077/Home

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bb-2905-nico

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Calendar

Classlist

ePortfolio

Content

Competencies

Discussions

Assignments

Grades

Quizzes

Class Progress

More ▾

Search Topics 🔍

📋 Overview

🔖 Bookmarks

📅 Course Schedule

Table of Contents 10

Module 1 4

Module 2 6

Table of Contents ▾

🖨️ Print

📄 Download

Expand All | Collapse All

0 % 0 of 10 topics complete

Module 1 ▾

Ch 01 Managerial Economics 9780618988624 ▾

📄 Word Document

⬇️ ⬆️

Ch 01 Managerial Economics ▾

🌐 Web Page

⬇️ ⬆️

Managerial Economics 2e light ▾

📄 PDF document

⬇️ ⬆️

Managerial Economics 2e ▾

📄 PDF document

⬇️ ⬆️

https://allyrelease0521.devlms.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/123077/Home#



Ch 01 Managerial Economics 9 x +

https://allyrelease0521.devims.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/123077/viewContent/97898/View



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View as Text Download

Reflect in ePortfolio Download Print Alternative formats

Activity Details

- Task: View this topic

A description with plenty of contrast errors

Table of Contents - bb-2905-n x

https://allyrelease0521.devlms.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/123077/Home

Download alternative formats

- ☒ Tagged PDF
Structured PDF for improved use with assistive technology
- ☐ HTML
For viewing in the browser and on mobile devices
- ☐ ePub
For reading as an e-book on an iPad and other e-book readers
- ☐ Electronic braille
BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays
- ☐ Audio
MP3 version for listening
- ☐ Translated version
A machine translated version of the original document

[? Help](#)

By downloading an alternative format, you agree with the [Terms of Use](#)

[Download](#) [Cancel](#)

Overview

Bookmarks

Course Schedule

Table of Contents 15

Blackboard Ally 5

Module 1 4

Module 2 6

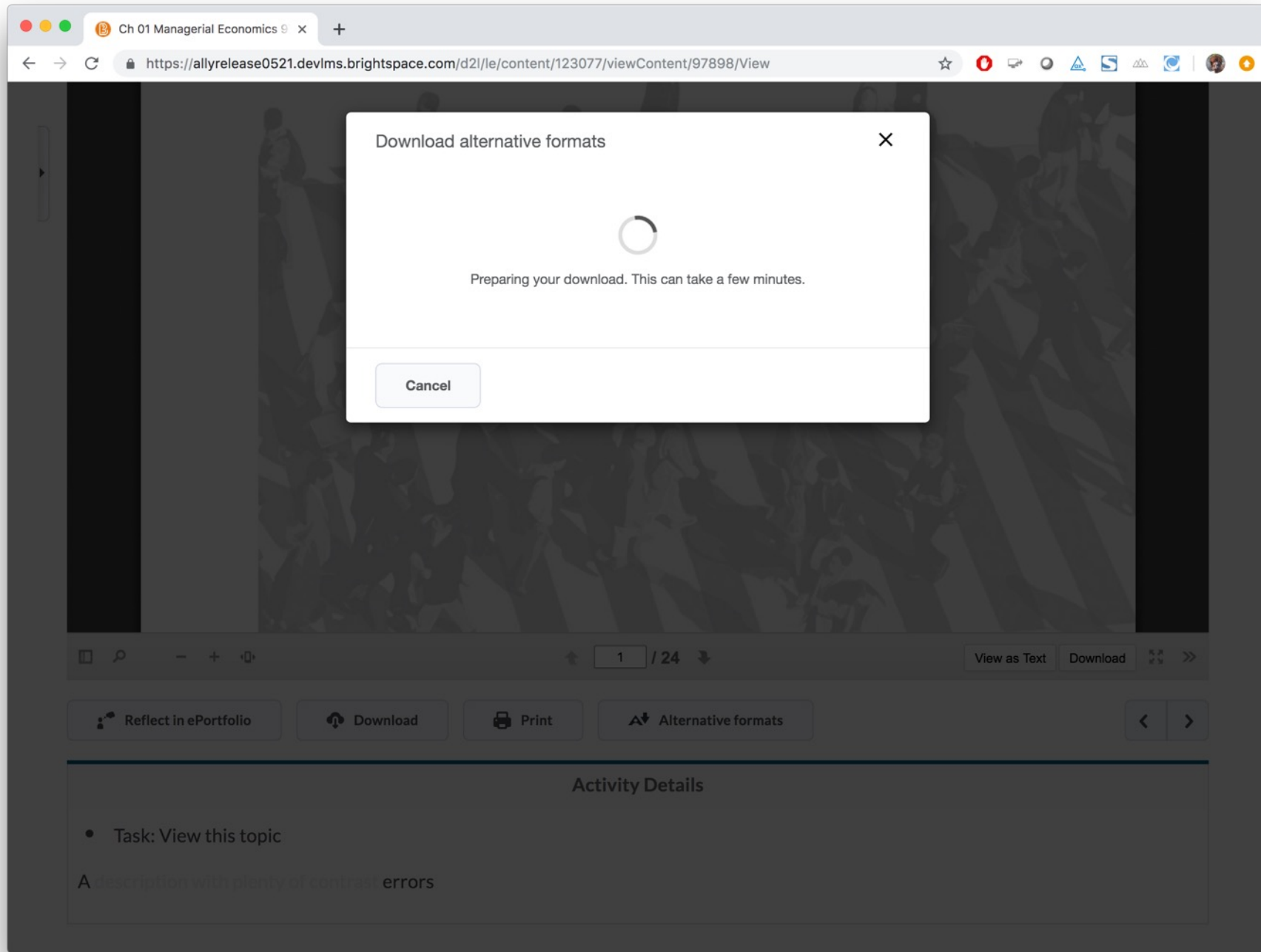
Add a module...

Vincent Van Gogh Word Document

Vincent Van Gogh PowerPoint Presentation

Module 1





OCRd PDF

- Optical Character Recognition
 - Extract text from pages
 - Select text
 - Copy and paste text
 - Search text
 - Quality is dependent on scan quality
 - Uses ABBYY FineReader behind the scenes
-
- Available for scanned PDF documents



Tagged PDF

- Accessible PDF with semantic information included
- Frequently used on mobile devices as these can natively render PDFs
- Available for Word documents and PowerPoint presentations



HTML

- Responsive and mobile-friendly HTML version
 - Removes need for zooming and pinching on mobile device
 - Great for offline use
 - Works best with existing assistive technology
-
- Available for PDF documents, Word documents and PowerPoint presentations



ePub

- E-book readers
 - Customize
 - Font and size
 - Text and background colors
 - Annotations
 - Other built-in features
-
- Available for PDF documents, Word documents, PowerPoint presentations and HTML files



Audio

- Text-to-speech version
- Easy listening on mobile device, during commute, etc.
- Inject semantic information into speech
- Automatically changes voice and pronunciation based on language of original
- Current 200,000 character limitation
(~ 5 hours) per document
- Available for PDF documents, Word documents, PowerPoint presentations and HTML files



Electronic Braille

- BRF (Braille Ready File) format
- Used with electronic braille display or refreshable braille display
- Grade 2 Unified English Braille (contracted) for English documents
- Additional information at <https://aimva.org/about-us/formats/braille-ready-file>
- Available for PDF documents, Word documents, PowerPoint presentations and HTML files



BeeLine Reader

- Aimed at improving on-screen reading experience
 - Originally designed for speedreading
 - Very helpful for dyslexia, ADHD, etc.
 - Uses color gradient to guide eye through text
 - Enabled by default
 - Can be disabled through the Configuration UI
-
- Available for PDF documents, Word documents, PowerPoint presentations and HTML files



Translated Version

- Machine-translated version of instructor's original in 50 different languages
- Support for second language students
- Opt-in alternative format. Can be enabled at institutional level
- More information at https://help.blackboard.com/Ally/Ally_for_LMS/Student/Alternative_Formats#translated-version-alternative-format_OTP-8
- Available for PDF documents, Word documents, PowerPoint presentations and HTML files



Immersive Reader

- Change font size, text spacing, contrast between the text and the background color.
- Learn spelling and grammar by splitting words into syllables.
- Highlight verbs, nouns, adjectives, and sub-clauses.
- View a picture dictionary.
- Increase reading speed with line focus.
- Convert text-to-speech (both male and female voices).
- Translate content in real time.(optional)



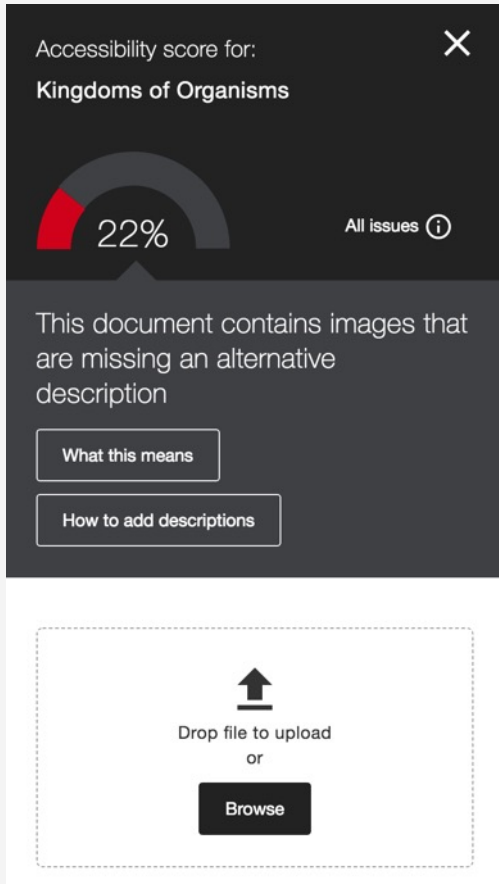
- Available for PDF documents, Word documents, PowerPoint presentations and HTML files





Instructor Feedback

Instructor Feedback



- Provides feedback to instructors about accessibility of their course content
- Provides guidance on how to fix accessibility issues
- Aims to generate change in behavior over time

Instructor Feedback



- Low (0 - 33%)
Needs help! There are severe accessibility issues.



- Medium (34 - 66%)
A little better. The file is somewhat accessible and needs improvement.



- High (67-99%)
Almost there. The file is accessible but more improvements are possible.



- Perfect (100%)
Ally didn't identify any accessibility issues but further improvements may still be possible.
- Accessibility indicator is never visible to students

Module 2 - bb-2905-nico

https://allyrelease0521.devlms.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/123077/Home

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bb-2905-nico

AI ally instructor

CalendarClasslistePortfoliocontentCourse AdminCompetenciesDiscussionsAssignmentsGradesQuizzesMore

Search Topics

Overview

Bookmarks

Course Schedule

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10

Module 1

4

Module 2

6

Add a module...

Module 2

PrintSettings

Add dates and restrictions...Published

Add a description...

Upload / Create

Existing Activities

Bulk Edit

Ally - One Pager - Higher Ed - General

PDF document

Brown Et Al - Project Planning - Poor Quality

PDF document

Cern higgs boson

Image

The whole universe was in a hot dense state

DemoContent

Zip Compressed File

3. Headings + alt tags

Word Document



Brown Et Al - Project Planning

https://allyrelease0521.devlms.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/123077/viewContent/97904/View

D2L | Brightspace bb-2905-nico

ally instructor

Calendar Classlist ePortfolio Content Course Admin Competencies Discussions Assignments Grades Quizzes More

Table of Contents > Module 2 > Brown Et Al - Project Planning - Poor Quality

Accessibility score: Low
Click to improve

Brown Et Al - Project Planning - Poor Quality

Managing
Virtual Teams:
Getting the Most From
Wikis, Blogs, and Other
Collaborative Tools

M. Katherine Brown
Brenda Huettnner
Char James-Tanny

https://allyrelease0521.devlms.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/123077/viewContent/97904/View#



Intro to Chemistry A - Introduc

ally.d2l-partners.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/6721/Home

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Introduction to Chemistry

AI

Ally Instructor

Course Home

Content

Grades

Class Progress

Course Tools

Help

Ally Course Report

Search Topics

Overview

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Course Schedule

Table of Contents

Intro to Chemistry A

Discussions

Intro to Chemistry B

Additional Reading

Materials C

Intro to Chemistry A

Print

Settings

Add dates and restrictions...

Heading 1

B

I

U

A

Welcome to Chemistry 230

In this course, we will explore how scientists study migration patterns of various insects and animals. Why migrate? The simple fact is resources on Earth fluctuates over time and animals seek food, more hospitable climate, or places to breed. There is incredible diversity in the animal kingdom, and while scientists have discovered certain reasons, much about migration is a mystery.

Four Benefits of Alternative Formats

Update

Cancel

Upload / Create

Existing Activities

Bulk Edit

68%

Expand All

Collapse All



Instructor Feedback

- Recognize that instructors have limited time
- Primarily focuses on issues that can be solved without requiring a lot of additional time
- Easy for instructors to reach out for help
- Doesn't change or interrupt any existing workflows



Instructor Feedback

- Clicking on indicator opens up feedback with previews
- Usual workflow:
- Enter additional metadata
- Upload improved version
- Detailed and contextual guidance is provided
- Actions are dependent on content type and identified issues
- Available for Files and WYSIWYG editor



Issue highlight

In-browser preview

Table of Contents - bb-2905-... x

https://allyrelease0521.devlms.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/123077/Home?itemIdentifier=TOC

Page 1 of 7

15 Text fragments with insufficient contrast

Vincent van Gogh

1 / 15

Summary of Van Gogh's life

Vincent van Gogh (30 March 1853 - 29 July 1890) was a Dutch Post-Impressionist painter who is among the most famous and influential figures in the history of Western art. In just over a decade he created about 2,100 artworks, including around 860 oil paintings. They include landscapes, still lifes, portraits and self-portraits, and are characterized by bold colors and dramatic, impulsive and expressive brushwork that contributed to the foundations of modern art. His suicide at 37 followed years of mental illness and poverty.

Van Gogh was unsuccessful during his lifetime, and was considered a madman and a failure. He became famous after his suicide, and exists in the public imagination as the quintessential misunderstood genius, the artist "where discourses on madness and creativity converge". His reputation began to grow in the early 20th century as elements of his painting style came to be incorporated by the Fauves and the German Expressionists. He attained widespread critical, commercial and popular success over the ensuing decades, and is remembered as an important but tragic painter, whose troubled personality typifies the romantic ideal of the tortured artist.

Some highlights of van Gogh's work

Artwork title	Year Created	Location
The potato Eaters	1885	Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam

Accessibility score for: Vincent Van Gogh

22%

All issues ⓘ

This document contains text with insufficient contrast

What this means

How to fix contrast

Upload a version with sufficient contrast

Drop file to upload or

Browse

Accessibility score

View all identified issues

Most impactful change

Documentation

Step-by-step guidance

Upload improved version



Table of Contents - bb-2905-n

https://allyrelease0521.devlms.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/123077/Home?itemIdentifier=TOC

Accessibility score for:
Cern higgs boson

25%

This image is missing a description

What this means

How to write a good description

Add image description

Enter a description for this image

Add

Or

Indicate image is decorative

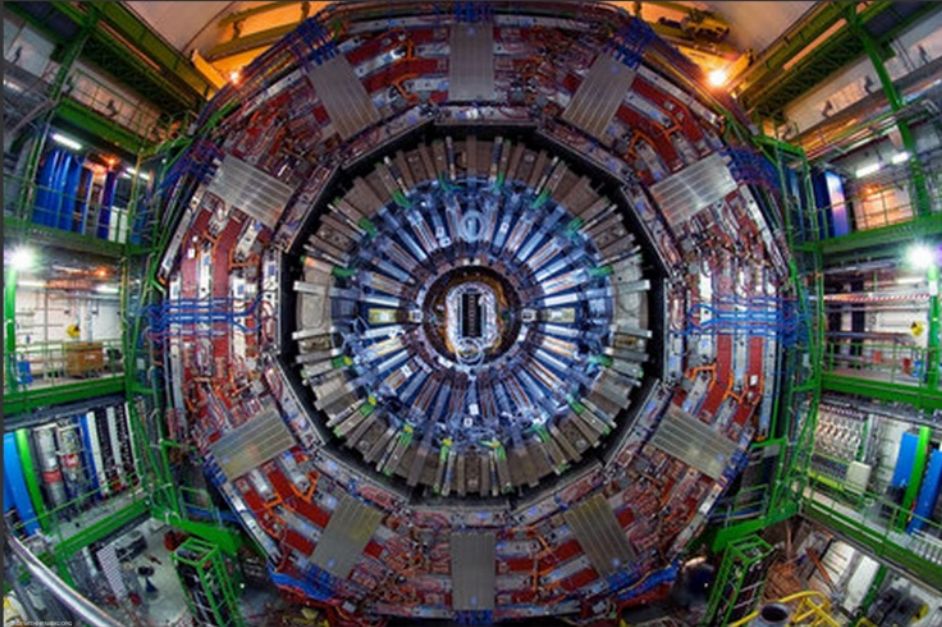
This image is used for decoration only and a description is not needed

Help

Web Page

Managerial Economics 2e light
PDF document

Managerial Economics 2e
PDF document



DemoContent
Zip Compressed File

3. Headings + alt tags
Word Document

Managing Virtual Teams

Intro to Chemistry A - Introduc

ally.d2l-partners.brightspace.com/d2l/le/content/6721/Home

2

Text fragments with insufficient contrast

Accessibility score: 68%

Heading 1

B I U A

Text fragments with insufficient contrast

Lato (Recom...

38px

1 / 2

Four Benefits of Alternative Formats

In this course, we will explore how scientists study migration patterns of various insects and animals. Why migrate? The simple fact is resources on Earth fluctuates over time and animals seek food, more hospitable climate, or places to breed. There is incredible diversity in the animal kingdom, and while scientists have discovered certain reasons, much about migration is a mystery.

Chemistry 1 - Atoms.docx

This item contains text with insufficient contrast

What this means

Try one of these colors instead:

☐ Apply to all 2 occurrences

Apply

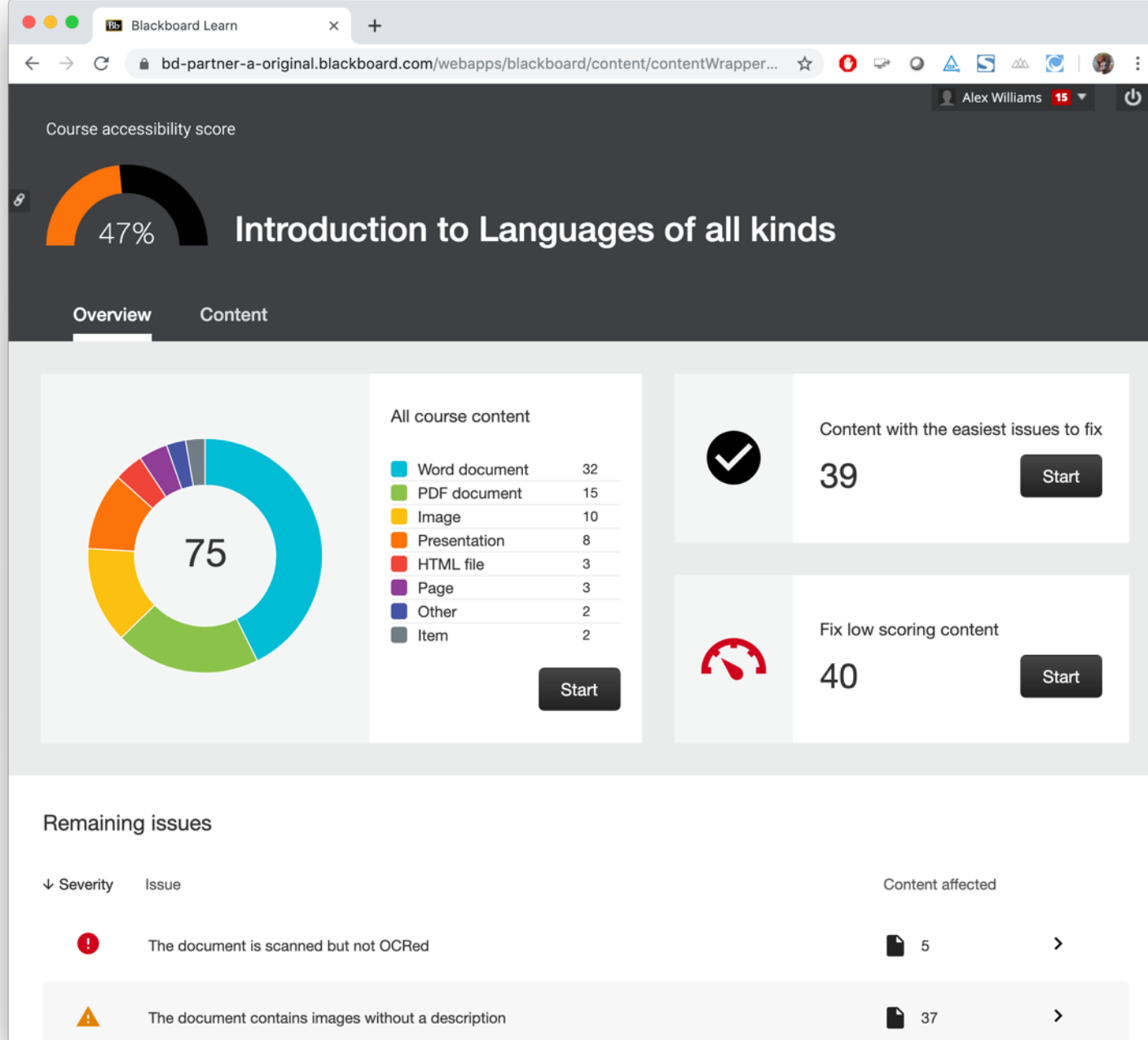
Help



Course Accessibility Report

- Instructor-facing course accessibility report
- Accessibility summary at the course level
- Complements the in-context accessibility indicators
- Helps with prioritization
- Helps instructor work through remediation more quickly
- Instructor feedback can be triggered from the course accessibility report
- Course accessibility report is never visible to students





Blackboard Learn

bd-partner-a-original.blackboard.com/webapps/blackboard/content/contentWrapper...

Alex Williams 15

Course accessibility score

47%

Introduction to Languages of all kinds

[← Back to overview](#)

Name	Issues	↑ Score
 elements_compounds_mixtures(1).ppt Presentation	2	 7%
 elements_compounds_mixtures.ppt Presentation	2	 7%
 elements_compounds_mixtures.ppt Presentation	2	 7%
 1 - Vincent Van Gogh(1)(1).docx Word document	5	 22%
 1 - Vincent Van Gogh(1)(2).docx Word document	5	 22%
 1 - Vincent Van Gogh(1)(3).docx Word document	5	 22%
 1 - Vincent Van Gogh(1)(4).docx Word document	5	 22%
 1 - Vincent Van Gogh(1)(5).docx	5	 22%



The document contains images without a description

37 out of 73



Blackboard Learn

bd-partner-a-original.blackboard.com/webapps/blackboard/content/contentWrapper...

Alex Williams 15

Course accessibility score

8

47%

Introduction to Languages of all kinds

← Back to overview

Name	Issues	↑ Score
 Vincent Van Gogh(4).pptx Presentation	1	 5%
 elements_compounds_mixtures(1).ppt Presentation	2	 7%
 elements_compounds_mixtures.ppt Presentation	2	 7%
 elements_compounds_mixtures.ppt Presentation	2	 7%
 1 - Vincent Van Gogh(1)(1).docx Word document	5	 22%
 1 - Vincent Van Gogh(1)(2).docx Word document	5	 22%
 1 - Vincent Van Gogh(1)(3).docx Word document	5	 22%
 1 - Vincent Van Gogh(1)(4).docx	5	 22%



Content with the easiest
issues to fix

39 out of 73



Blackboard Learn

bd-partner-a-original.blackboard.com/webapps/blackboard/content/contentWrapper...

Alex Williams 15

Course accessibility score

47%

Introduction to Languages of all kinds

Overview Content

Name	Issues	Score
 Captura de pantalla 2018-03-13 a la(s) 10.40.20 AM.png Image	2	 100%
 BrownEtAl_ProjectPlanning.pdf PDF document	1	 100%
 Module 1 Page	1	 100%
 Ally - One Pager - Higher Ed - General(8).pdf PDF document	0	 100%
 Atoms + Compounds Page	0	 100%
 Cern higgs boson(9).jpg Image	0	 100%
 Cern higgs boson.jpg Image	0	 100%
 Chrysanthemum.jpg Image	0	 100%

<https://qa.ally.ac/ir>



Blackboard Learn x Introduction to Languages of a x +

qa.ally.ac/launchinstructorfeedback/?fromPageUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fqa.ally.ac%2Ffir... ☆

Page 1 of 7 15

Accessibility score for:
Vincent Van Gogh(62) (7).docx

26% All issues ⓘ

This document contains text with insufficient contrast

What this means

How to fix contrast

Upload a version with sufficient contrast

Drop file to upload
or
Browse

Vincent van Gogh

1 / 15

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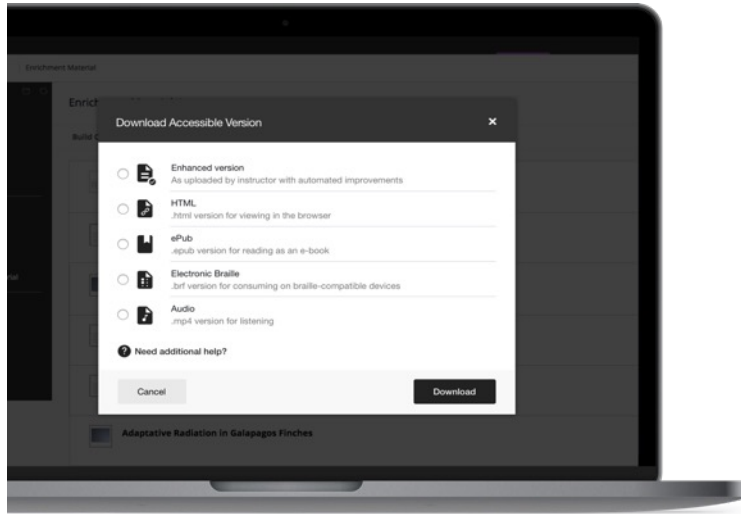
Course Accessibility Report Prioritization

- Prioritization suggestions are included as part of course accessibility report
- Following prioritization order is used:
- Content with easiest issues to fix



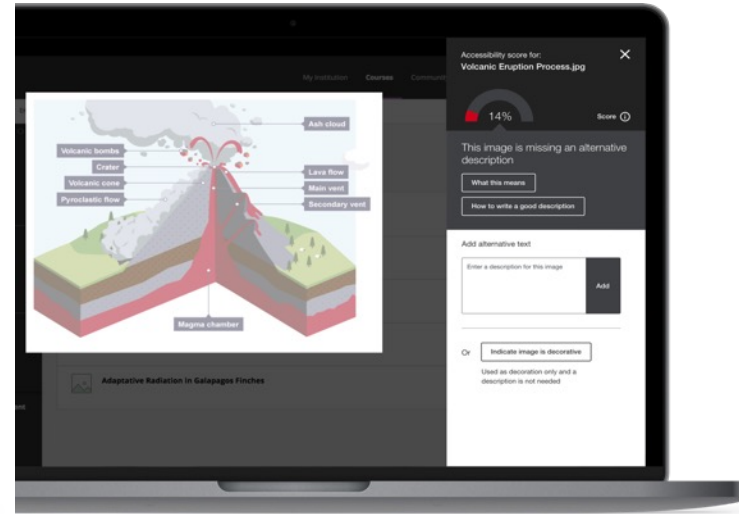


Summary



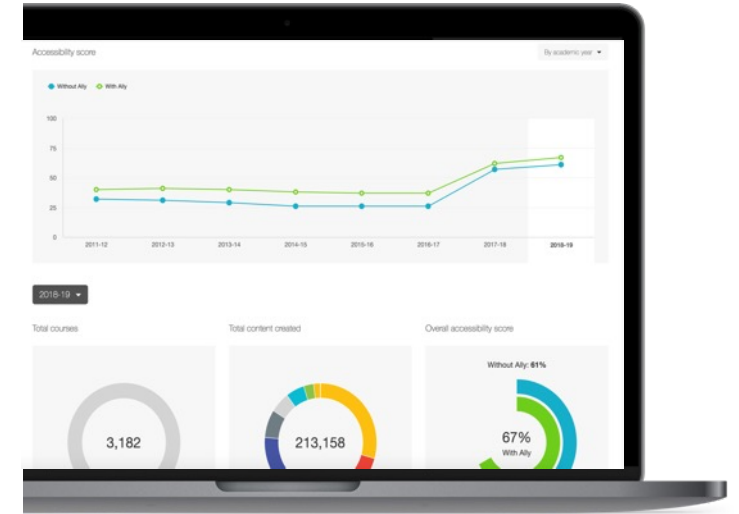
Alternative Formats

Automatically checks for accessibility issues and generates a range of alternative formats.



Instructor Feedback

Guides instructors and content creators on how to improve the accessibility of their content and alters future behavior.



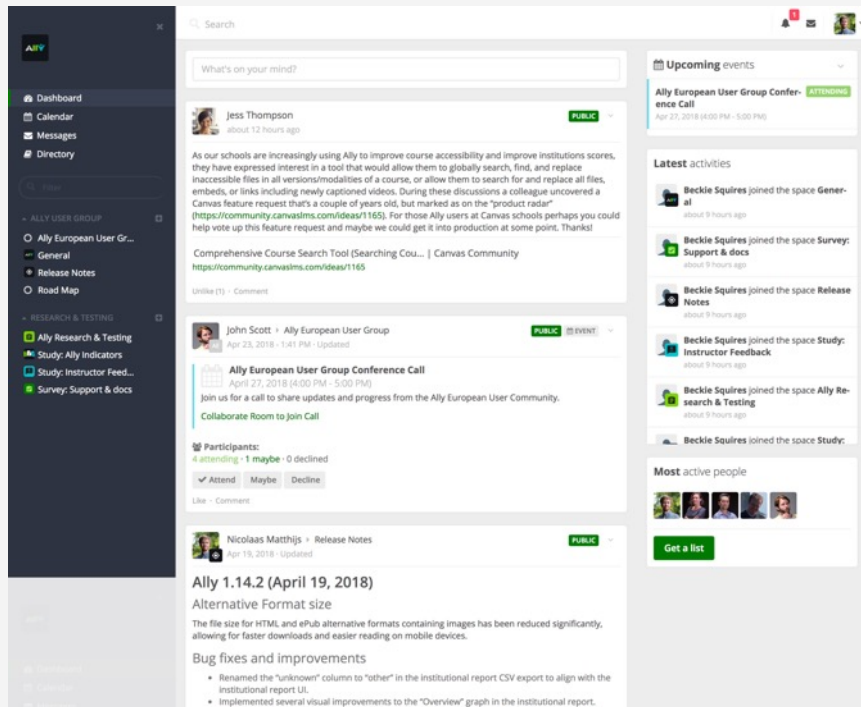
Institutional Report

Provides detailed data and insights to help further improve course content accessibility at the institution.



Useful Resources

Ally User Group



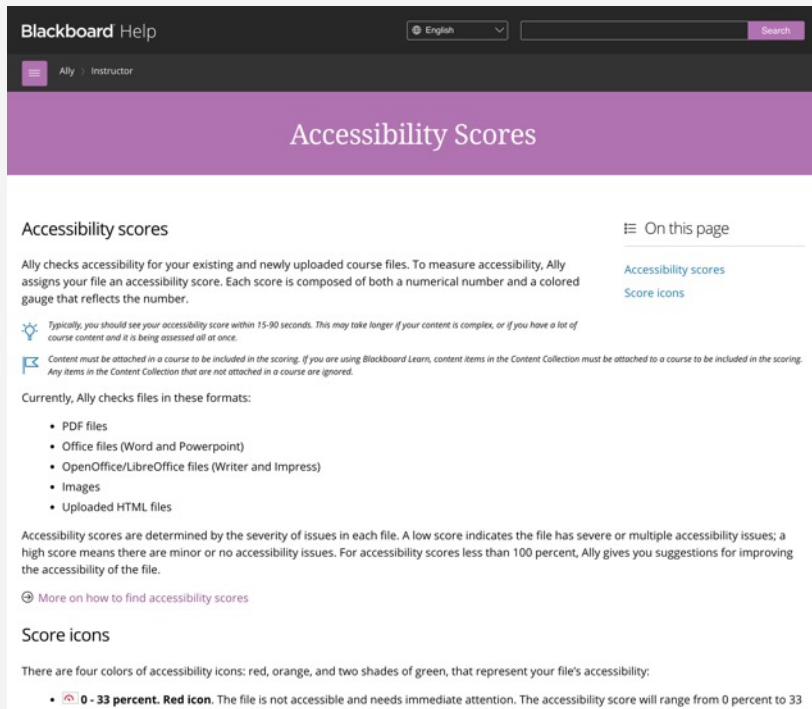
- Receive updates about Blackboard Ally
- Participate in UX research, usability testing, early access, etc.
- Read institutional stories and case studies

Sign up at:
<https://usergroup.ally.ac>



Useful Resources

Ally Documentation



- End-user documentation
- Communication & Adoption toolkit
- Ally release notes

<https://help.blackboard.com/Ally>





anthology

Advancing Knowledge