We are excited to announce that Ally -- our newest accessibility platform for Moodle -- is now available campus-wide. Accordingly, we have provided this digest to assist you with the latest updates to the Ally platform and our installation on campus. If you have questions about Ally, please see our Ally Resources page or reach out to our Ally administrator.

What's New!

Fixing Table Headers

Using tables in your documents can be a great way to help organize complex information for students. To make sure your tables are effective and accessible, however, you should only use them for data, and not for visual layouts. Adding headers to your tables improves how your students navigate tables, especially if they use a screen reader.

If your document data table is missing headers, the file gets a low accessibility score indicator.

Ally will identify the headers in question and elucidate issues in live preview. To fix noted heading issues, review the text in the first row of the table. It should make a good header. Select the first row of the table. Select Table Design. Select Header Row. Right-click the first row of the table and select Table Properties. Select Row and Repeat as header row at the top of each page. Select OK.

Why are Table Headers Important?

- Table headers are in the WCAG 2.1 guidelines.
- Sighted users can scan the table and understand the meaning of the information.
- Screen readers read one cell at a time and reference the associate header. This means users don't lose context as they navigate through the table.

Fixing Image Alt Tags

Ally provides users with a streamlined method for identifying and fixing accessibility issues with images in Moodle. To learn how to use Ally to fix direct alt texts for images in Ally, follow the steps below.

1. Click on the gauge icon next to the image file in Moodle.
2. Ally will show a live preview of the image along with a gauge on the right-side of the screen showing an accessibility score and text box to add an image description.

3. Using the text box, input a description of the image. Click the add button to add the alt text to the image. If you addressed the accessibility issue, the accessibility score for the image will now be 100%! Tip: do not begin the description of ‘an image of’ or ‘a picture of’ as these are unnecessary additions to the alt text.
We are also excited to announce that ITS is now accepting requests for Office 2019 upgrades to faculty and staff computers. Office 2019 provides automatic alt text functionality that will better assist you when creating accessible documents. We encourage you to learn more about this feature by following this link.

If you require assistance with adding Alt Tags, or anything accessibility related, please reach out to our Ally Administrator or the Coastal Office of Online Learning.

Tell your colleagues about Ally and ask them sign-up for the Ally Weekly Digest »