Accessibility support for E-content

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The aim of this session is to introduce you to:

- The support we offer to disabled users
- What accessibility testing we do at the library
- How we work with suppliers
• One of the largest universities in Europe with 168,000+ students

• 23% of OU UK undergraduates live in the 25% most deprived areas

• 32% of students had one A level or a lower qualification at entry

• 27,800+ students with disabilities and 1,400 students in secure environments studied with us in 2018/19

Image source: The Open University

www.open.ac.uk/about/main/strategy-and-policies/facts-and-figures
http://www2.open.ac.uk/about/annual-report-2018-19/#int-content
Disabled student numbers and disabilities

Disabled student numbers: 27800+ students

- Mental health, 15462, 30%
- Fatigue/pain, 7160, 14%
- Other, 3065, 6%
- Unseen, 6338, 12%
- Autism, 1916, 4%
- Sight, 1529, 3%
- Hearing, 1386, 3%
- Mobility, 4508, 9%
- Manual skills, 1932, 4%
- Speech, 466, 1%
- Learning difficulty, 6877, 14%
- Unseen, 6338, 12%
E-resources and Accessibility
Proactive accessibility

- Academic Liaison Librarian supports module team in choosing accessible content or making reasonable adjustments
- Test accessibility of databases (what we test for)
- Database accessibility tips for users
Accessibility testing and converting

Article and book testing and converting for modules and activities;
Test accessibility of individual ebooks, journal articles and videos
Collaborating with suppliers
Working with Suppliers

- Proactive/Reactive Accessibility
- Trials and new resources

- Test resources
- Identify and rank the issues
- Share the findings report with the supplier
- Demonstrate the problems to the publisher

- Publisher Library Advisory Boards
- SHERIF
Services to support our disabled users
Support available to disabled students

Our disabled users have access to the following services

1. Helpdesk – email, phone, 24/7 web chat
2. Supported literature search
3. SensusAccess – automated conversion service
4. Converting inaccessible resources found during independent study
5. RNIB Bookshare Pilot
6. OU Live Training sessions and Transcripts
7. Database Accessibility tips
Any Questions
THANK YOU