Access for Whom?
OER and Disability Studies

Joshua Mitchell, Administrative Assistant
Michelle Reed, Open Education Librarian

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ARLINGTON | LIBRARIES

Thank You!

About the Open Education Group

The Open Education Group is an interdisciplinary group of people based at Brigham Young University who are passionate about improving education and a stellar group of partners that are helping us get it done. Want to work with us? Contact David Wiley.

Primary Researchers

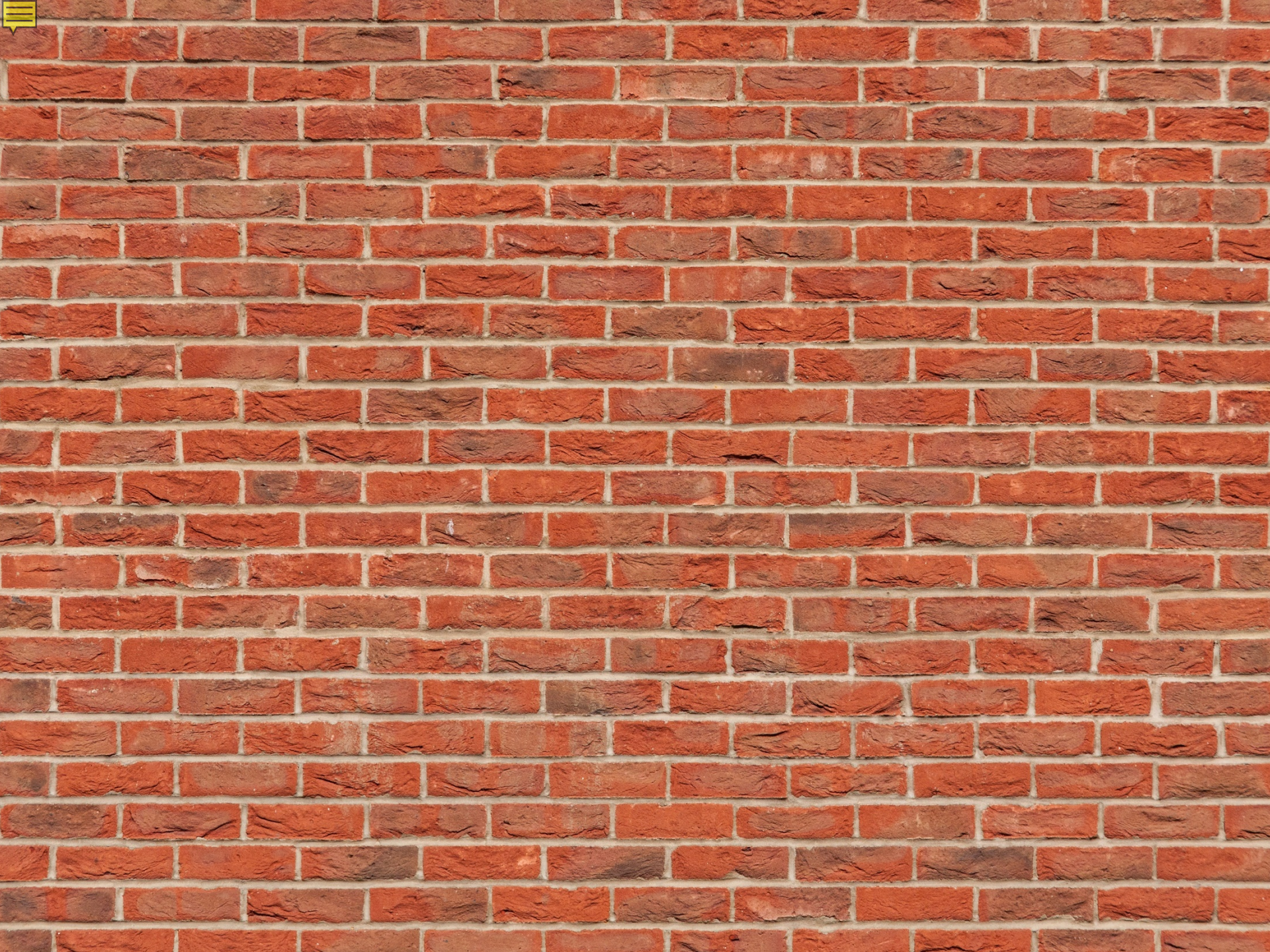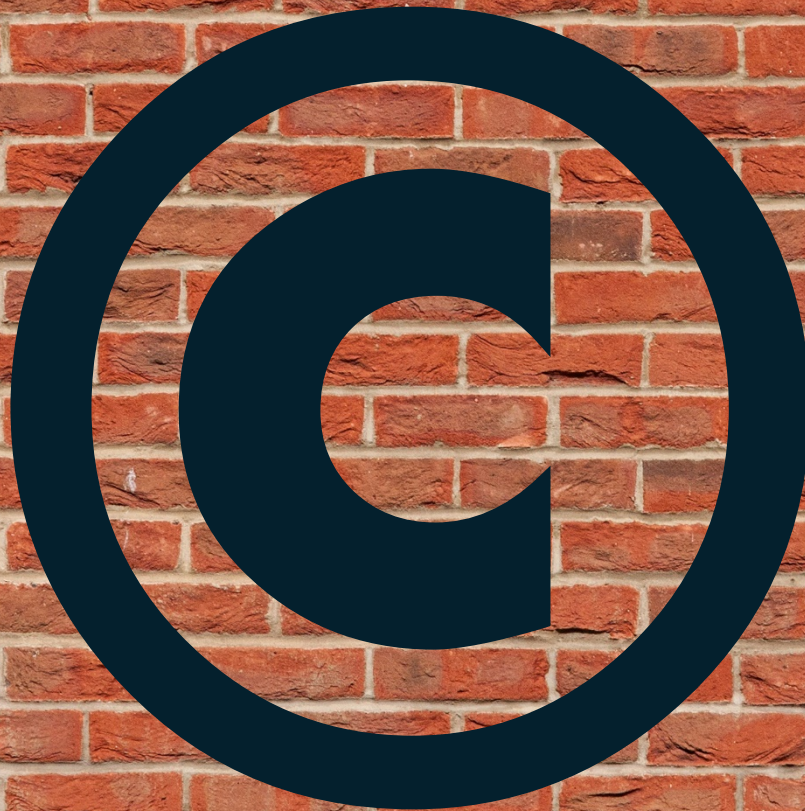| Lane Fischer | John Hilton III | David Wiley |

Americans with Disabilities Act

The Low Number Of Students With Disabilities Graduating From College Is A Crisis

How better soft skills might boost low college persistence and employment rates.

Jackie Mader and Sarah Butrymowicz The Hechinger Report | 11/15/2017 12:34 pm ET

The Chafee Amendment

"It is not an infringement of copyright for an <u>authorized entity</u> to reproduce or to distribute copies or phonorecords of a previously published, <u>nondramatic literary work</u> if such copies or phonorecords are reproduced or distributed in specialized formats exclusively for use by blind or other persons with disabilities.'"

17 U.S. Code § 121

"The provision of access for [print-disabled users] was not the intended use of the original work (enjoyment and use by sighted persons) and this use is transformative."

Authors Guild v. HathiTrust

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KEY

OER & Accessibility

- College Open Textbooks (2011)

  - POUR principles: Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, and Robust

  - PDF Textbooks scored 2.7 out of 5

  - Web-based textbooks scored 4 out of 5

  - Common issues: lack of glossary, no alt-text, no alternatives for color coding, etc.

OER & Accessibility

- BCcampus (2015)

  - POUR Principles

  - Importance of understanding screen readers

  - Bold, enlarged texts not helpful for students with visual impairments

  - Alt-text ensures that information is not being missed

OER & Accessibility

- University of Texas at Arlington (2017)

  - Evaluated 20 open textbooks

  - Images and tables were a primary accessibility

    problem

  - They succeeded in other areas such as color

    contrast, font, and content organization.

What is the financial impact of OER adoption on offices that support students with disabilities in higher education?

ARL Celebrates US House Passage of Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act, Urges Administration to Complete Implementation

by Krista L. Cox | 202-296-2296 | krista@arl.org | on September 25, 2018
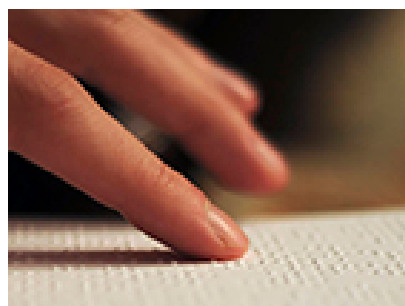

image CC-BY-NC-ND by Dominique Archambault

The Association of Research Libraries (ARL) celebrates today's passage of the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act by the US House of Representatives. Earlier this year, the US Senate unanimously ratified the Marrakesh Treaty and passed the Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act, S. 2559. As an organization dedicated to achieving enduring and barrier-free access to information, ARL welcomes this next step toward ratification and implementation.

http://www.arl.org/news/arl-news/4632

Questions & Discussion

Thank you!

The following excerpt is from "Experiential Learning and Open Education: Partnering with Students to Evaluate OER Accessibility" in *OER: A Field Guide for Academic Librarians* (forthcoming 2018).

Flexible Learning for Open Education (Floe): Floe is a grant-funded project managed by the Inclusive Design Research Centre at OCAD University. The website lists recommended practices for online publishing and offers tools for developers that show what accessible and inaccessible publications and sites look like. The resource is available at https://floeproject.org/.

WAVE Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool: WAVE is an online accessibility checker that helps complete accurate accessibility evaluations by analyzing webpages for inaccessible content. The tool came in handy when evaluating HTML versions of texts and can easily scan for missing headers, missing alternative text on pictures, and inaccessible buttons on the webpage that can be easily overlooked during manual evaluations. We used the accessibility checker to perform an initial scan of each OER for formatting and textual errors. The WAVE accessibility checker can be found at http://wave.webaim.org.

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG): WCAG served as a master list of requirements and accessibility references during the evaluations. These guidelines outline the current accessibility standards in online publications and informed the creation of our evaluation rubric. WCAG should be considered when conducting accessibility evaluation on HTML versions of e-books. It can be accessed at https://www.w3.org/WAI/intro/wcag.