

Collaborating on Accessibility and Open Access

In this session we'll review two new committees this year, the GALILEO Open Access and Accessibility Committees. Come learn about their purposes, what they've done so far, and how to get involved in shaping GALILEO's strategy in these areas.


A little about me

- Acquisitions and E-Resources Coordinator at GALILEO
- Background in ILL and Acquisitions



A little about GALILEO


GALILEO SUBCOMMITTEES



ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE

Helping ensure that websites and content provided through GALILEO are compliant with ADA and current standards for accessibility.


[Learn more](#)



OPEN ACCESS COMMITTEE

Providing free access to information and unrestricted use of electronic resources for everyone

[Learn more](#)



E-RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Providing guidance and assistance for evaluating existing GALILEO resources, selecting new resources, and assessing resource needs through surveys and other methods.

[Learn more](#)

<https://about.galileo.usg.edu/governance/subcommittees/>

Very brief Introduction to Accessibility

- Universal design: Designed for things to be used, understood, and accessed by everyone.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act was created to eliminate discrimination in many areas, including access to private and public services, employment, transportation and communication.
- Most libraries are covered by the ADA's Title I (Employment), Title II (Government Programs and Services) and Title III (Public Accommodations).
- Most libraries are also obligated under Section 504 and some have responsibilities under Section 508 and other laws as well.

Source: ASGCLA <https://www.ala.org/asgcla/resources/libraryservices>

Very brief Introduction to Web Accessibility

- The Web is fundamentally designed to work for all people, whatever their hardware, software, language, location, or ability. When the Web meets this goal, it is accessible to people with a diverse range of hearing, movement, sight, and cognitive ability.

Source: W3C <https://www.w3.org/WAI/fundamentals/accessibility-intro/>

GALILEO Accessibility Committee

The GALILEO Accessibility Committee helps ensure that websites and content provided through GALILEO are compliant with ADA and current standards for accessibility. The committee also assists in accessibility evaluations for library websites and locally licensed resources. The committee currently focuses on the following areas:

- Assists with assessment of websites and content provided through GALILEO
- Collaborates on methods for local resource assessment
- Provides opportunities for training and discussion

The accessibility committee encourages libraries to ask vendors to adopt the following language adapted from the Big Ten Academic Alliance's Standardized License Language for Library E-Resource Accessibility.

<https://btaa.org/library/reports/library-e-resource-accessibility---standardized-license-language>

GALILEO Accessibility Committee

- Identified training and collaboration on evaluation as goals
- Refined purpose and created [Accessibility Committee webpage](#) on the GALILEO website
- Completed inventory of GALILEO vendor accessibility compliance (licensing, VPATS, accessibility statements).
- Working on a LibGuide to communicate best practices and serve as a starting resource
- Working on shared assessment tools

GALILEO
An Initiative of the University System of Georgia

Library / LibGuides / GALILEO Accessibility Committee LibGuide / Vendor Accessibility

GALILEO Accessibility Committee LibGuide: Vendor Accessibility

Welcome! Accessibility Fundamentals Education & Training Testing & Tools Vendor Accessibility Other

Vendor Accessibility Compliance

Accessibility assessment for 3rd party vendors can be supported by other methods besides hands-on testing. Libraries should check for the following resources to help ensure that vendors are doing their duty to make their resources accessible to all.

- Licensing Language
- Accessibility Statements
- VPATS (Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates)
- Independent Evaluations

This portion of our guide contains recommended language to include in your licenses with vendors, links to accessibility statements for vendors shared across the GALILEO community, information on assessing Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates (VPATs), and a list of independent resources for reporting accessibility. Checking for these with your vendors will help ensure that vendors are doing their part and understand that accessibility is important to your library.

If you notice any outdated links, would like information for a vendor who is not listed, or have any other questions related to vendor accessibility, please email John Stephens at GALILEO (john.stephens@usg.edu).

Licensing Language

The GALILEO Accessibility Committee encourages libraries to ask vendors to adopt the following language adapted from the Big Ten Academic Alliance's Standardized License Language for Library E-Resource Accessibility (<https://btaa.org/library/reports/library-e-resource-accessibility---standardized-license-language>).

Licensor shall comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), by supporting assistive software or devices such as large print interfaces, text-to-speech output, voice-activated input, refreshable braille displays, and alternate keyboard or pointer interfaces, in a manner consistent with the Web Accessibility Initiative Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 AA (<https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/>). Licensor shall ensure that product maintenance and upgrades are implemented in a manner that does not compromise product accessibility. Licensor shall provide to Licensee a current, accurate completed Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) to demonstrate compliance with accessibility standards (<https://www.itic.org/policy/accessibility>). If the product does not comply, the Licensor shall adapt the Licensed Materials in a timely manner and at no cost to the Licensee in order to comply with applicable law. Nothing in this Agreement shall limit the Licensee or any end user from making lawful, noninfringing uses to facilitate access to the Licensed Materials by users who have disabilities. For the avoidance of doubt, the Licensor authorizes such uses.

VPATS

Accessibility Statements

We encourage libraries to check that vendors provide public statements on their commitment to we accessibility. The following list contains statements for vendors that provide shared subscriptions to the GALILEO community, and can be used as examples when asking other vendors to provide similar statements.

- ACS
- Britannica
- EBSCO
- Gale
- Infobase (Films on Demand)
- Mango Languages
- Ovid Journals
- Oxford University Press
- ProQuest
- Springshare
- Westlaw

Very brief Introduction to Open Access

What is Open Access?

- Open Content
- Open Access – Digital Library of Georgia, New Georgia Encyclopedia
- Open Data
- Open Educational Resources – Affordable Learning Georgia
- Open Access Scholarly Research – Georgia Knowledge Repository

GALILEO Open Access Committee

The Open Access Committee will provide guidance on supporting the use and creation of Open Access resources within GALILEO. The committee will assess current Open Access resources and policies and make recommendations to increase the utilization of Open Access materials. The initial goal of this committee will be to establish a general Open Access strategy for GALILEO. After this initial phase, the committee will provide input on projects to assist GALILEO in meeting its strategic goals for Open Access. Examples of possible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Investigating existing OA initiatives and recommending GALILEO participation
- Assessing publishing output of GALILEO affiliated authors
- Exploring funding models to increase OA output
- Supporting the negotiation of transformative agreements
- Coordinating and standard set of OA policies for GALILEO members

GALILEO Open Access Committee

- Biggest shared needs are more information on Open Access and providing experience and training for librarians
- Created [Open Access Committee webpage](#) on the GALILEO website
- Organized a webinar by University of Michigan press on Fund to Mission Open Access Monographs. [LYRISIS](#) has an offer open to GALILEO members and available through costshare ordering
- Working on a LibGuide to promote GALILEO Open Access Resources, increase awareness, and share best practices

Conversations and Questions

My email: john.stephens@usg.edu

Accessibility: Reduce barriers and duplicated efforts

Open Access: Increase education, awareness, provide support and strategic coordination

Volunteers happily accepted at any time – no commitment necessary