

Using accessibility features when accessing eResources

The University Library is committed to ensuring all the eResources we purchase meet current accessibility standards, but with nearly 200 different databases across more than 70 different providers, we are conscious it can be challenging to find the accessibility information you need.

Therefore Library and Learning Services have developed a new [Online Reading List: Database List and Accessibility Information](#). This [handy A-Z list](#) includes all the databases and eResources that the University Library subscribes to, with a focus on accessibility.

Each entry on this list provides two helpful links for each resource:

- One link to the eResource homepage
- One link to the accessibility statement from the provider

The list also highlights key accessibility features for each resource, making it easier to find what suits your needs. Accessibility statements explain how you can access different formats, adjust font sizes and colours, and check screen reader compatibility. You'll may also find contact details if you need more specialised accessible versions.

Accessibility Standards and Features

In this guide we have provided a quick overview of some of the key accessibility standards and features you may come across while researching and reading eResources. A good place to start with any resource is to locate the **settings** or **profile**, as these usually provide options for you to adjust accordingly depending on the features you would find useful.

Colour and Contrast

There might be options within the platform to select different settings specific to **colour** and **contrast**. If not, browser extensions can be used to change many of these settings and help improve accessibility and readability for you. [Midnight Lizard](#), which is available on Chrome, Firefox and Microsoft Edge, is particularly useful and works across all websites.

These are some of the ways you can adjust colour/contrast:

- Choose between dark, light, grayscale or colourful colour schemes
- Modify existing or create new colour schemes
- Adjust brightness, saturation, contrast and hues
- Increase contrast to make text easier to read
- Apply blue light filter to shift all colours towards red light
- Configure background, text, buttons, links, borders, images and scrollbars

Font

The typeface on different interfaces can sometimes be adjusted. [OpenDyslexic](#) is one useful option, often available in settings or profile, that can help alleviate some of the readability issues facing dyslexic students.

Magnification

Users can zoom in over 100% without text spilling off screen. Equally there is often an option to fit text to width of screen which can make reading so much easier.

Keyboard navigation

Often it is possible to navigate by keyboard only – the tab, enter and arrow keys can:

- Navigate website menus.
- Perform basic and advanced searches
- Navigate search results
- Read online including book navigation
- Download eBooks

Screen readers

Screen readers can detect any hidden elements and provide more information to non-sighted or low-vision users. Text Only mode can often be enabled or disabled. With Text Only mode PDF books are presented as plain text and this makes screen readers more efficient.

Text to speech

Text-to-speech tools such as Read Aloud are built into the Microsoft Edge browser. You can usually find this symbol  where it is available. It is also built into most digital devices such as PCs, Macs, tablets and phones.

Further help and support

You can learn more about making reading more effective and accessible [in this short Microsoft video](#), we've lots of useful information available on the [Assistive Technologies page](#) and don't forget to explore the [Online Reading List: Database List and Accessibility Information](#) to learn more about your eResource accessibility features.