

Using Accessibility Features when Accessing eResources.

Many publishers have produced platforms which are committed to providing all users with a fully accessible experience for research, teaching and learning. For students, this means being able to access features which make reading easier and more manageable.

Accessibility Standards and Features

The different interfaces you come across during your reading will have differing degrees of accessibility options and features depending on whether there are built in tools, browser tools or plugins. However, locating **settings** or **profile** usually provides options for you to adjust accordingly depending on the features you think would prove useful.

Colour and Contrast

There might be options within the platform to select different settings specific to colour and contrast but, if not, browser extensions can be used to change many of the settings associated with this and help improve accessibility and readability for users. Midnight Lizard, which is available for 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/ Read Aloud

Text-to-speech tools such as Read Aloud are built into the Microsoft Edge browser. Look out for this symbol.  It is also built into most digital devices such as PCs, Macs, Tablets and Phones.

Further Support

You can find more information about making reading more effective and easier by watching this short [Microsoft video](#)

If you'd like support with using Assistive Technologies to support learning then please visit [this page](#)