

Accessibility of Institutional Repository Content: Current Landscape and Ideas for a Path Forward

Laura Vavrosky
Digitization and Metadata Specialist
University of Minnesota Duluth

Northeast Institutional Repository Day 2020
December 3, 2020




Presentation Agenda

- Limitations of this presentation
- Current landscape of institutional repository (IR) accessibility
- University of Minnesota Duluth's path forward
- Barriers and some possible solutions



Limitations of This Presentation...

...also known as “The Fine Print”



Current Landscape of Institutional Repository (IR) Accessibility

Current Landscape

- Desire and need for digitally accessible content
- Lack of IR-content-specific accessibility statements
- Lack of instructions for submitters to make content accessible
- Lack of instructions for users to request accessible versions

SOME EXCEPTIONS EXIST!

See my “IRs with Digital Accessibility Features” slide near the end for examples you might adapt for your use



University of Minnesota Duluth's Path Forward



Steps We're Taking / Planning to Take

1. Remediating all content we (Digital Services @ UMD) create before adding to our system-wide IR ([University Digital Conservancy](#))
2. Pursuing partnerships to increase accessibility of externally-submitted content
3. Adding statement to all item records about requesting remediated content



Barriers and Some Possible Solutions



Barriers and Potential Solutions

Reliance on self-submission



Add “quick fixes” section to submission workflow

Limited staff and funding



Tie accessibility efforts into institutional diversity and inclusion goals or efforts

Lack of staff expertise



Attend trainings, do research, build a community, and then share what you know!

Resources

Hoops, J. and McLaughlin, M. (2020). [Web accessibility in the institutional repository: Crafting user-centered submission policies.](#)

Waugh, L., Lyon, C., Shelton, A., Park, K., Hicks, W., & Lindsey, N. (2020). [Accessibility in institutional repositories.](#)

IRs with Digital Accessibility Features*

- **Cornell University** [Web accessibility](#) [IR-specific accessibility policy; resources for submitters]
- **Duke University** [IR accessibility policy](#) [IR-specific accessibility policy; method to request accessible version; resources for submitters]
- **George Washington University** [GW ScholarSpace Submission Form](#) [requires submitters to affirm that their pdf is accessible]
- **Harvard University** [IR accessibility](#) [IR-specific accessibility policy; method to report accessibility problem; resources for submitters]
- **Indiana University** [Submission Guide](#) [resources for submitters]
- **Michigan State University** [Remediation Requests](#) [method to request accessible version]
- **University of Michigan** [FAQ on Preservation and Accessibility](#) [resources for submitters]

*Not a comprehensive list; let me know if I missed your IR!



Thank You! - and - Questions??

Laura Vavrosky
vavr0040@d.umn.edu