

2022 Virtual Accessibility Conference – Session Details

Wednesday May 25 and Thursday May 26, 2022

Wednesday May 25, 8:45-9am

Welcome and Opening Remarks

ASL and Live Human Captioning

Stream: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility

Presenters: Michelle Fach, Executive Director, OpenEd, University of Guelph, Athol Gow, Manager, Library Accessibility Services, University of Guelph

Wednesday May 25, 9–9:45am

Disability and the Writing Centre: Access, Pedagogy, Identity, and Disclosure in the Context of the University Writing Centre

Stream: Accessible Teaching and Learning (ATL)

Presenter: Kate Kaul, York University Writing Department

Description

“Disability and the Writing Centre” discusses access, pedagogy, and disclosure in the specific context of the university writing centre. My project reviews the gaps and intersections between Writing Centre Studies and Accessible Teaching and Learning. What can new insights from disability studies, disability rhetoric, and disability justice bring to the work we do towards access in the writing centre? This presentation will encourage participants to explore questions in discussion.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Be able to identify services offered by a university writing centre, and services focused on accessibility through “Accessibility Specialist” appointments
- Examine intersections between the pedagogy of Accessible Teaching and Learning, and the one-to-one tutoring structure of a university writing centre
- Recognize critical approaches to Universal Design for Learning that centre social justice
- Examine issues of privacy, disclosure, and identity for students accessing writing centre services

Presenter Biography

Kate Kaul is a contract instructor and a doctoral candidate in Social and Political Thought at York University, teaching for the Writing and Sociology departments; I am the Accessibility Specialist at York’s Writing Centre. That work draws on my interests in access-focused teaching, and on critical approaches to disability and disablement, as well as my own disability experience.

Wednesday May 25, 9-9:45am

It's Time to Address Ableism in Academics: A Scoping Review of the Experiences and Impact of Ableism Among Faculty and Staff

ASL

Stream: Conference Theme: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA11y)

Presenters: Sally Lindsay, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital & University of Toronto and Kristina Fuentes-Aiello, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital

Description

This presentation will share results from a recent systematic review examining the experiences and impact of ableism in academia among faculty and staff. Attendees will actively engage in a discussion about the findings in our review. We will highlight our findings showing how faculty and staff choose to disclose their disability and request accommodations, and navigate the persistent negative attitudes towards them. We will share the impact of ableism on physical and mental health, and career development. We will also highlight some coping mechanisms to address academic ableism.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- To understand the ableism experiences of ableism among faculty and staff
- To understand the impact of academic ableism on health and well-being and career development
- To identify coping strategies for addressing academic ableism

Presenter Biographies

Sally Lindsay is a Senior Scientist in the Bloorview Research Institute at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and Associate Professor in the Department of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy, University of Toronto. Her research focuses on the social inclusion of youth and young adults with disabilities.

Kristina Fuentes-Aiello is a Postdoctoral fellow in the Bloorview Research Institute, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital. She received her PhD in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Her research interests lie in workplace and labour market issues.

Wednesday May 25, 9-9:45am

Video Description: A DIY Primer

Stream: Access Technology (AT)

Presenters: Charles Silverman, Toronto Metropolitan University and Rob Harvie, Inclusive Media & Design Inc.

Description

This presentation will explore the importance of providing access to described video.

You will be invited to engage and ask questions throughout the session.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Explore what makes for good description
- Examine the advantages and disadvantages of live voice vs synthetic speech
- Learn about tools for creating described video
- Understand what's involved in producing a Described Video
- Steps involved in posting a described video on YouTube

Presenter Biographies

Charles Silverman's interests include barrier-free design, assistive technologies, Universal Design, Inclusive Design, as defined by the Inclusive Design Research Centre, and related practices, policies, standards, and legislation. He's been in the accessibility field for 30 plus years. Charles has been teaching at Ryerson's School of Disability Studies since the early 2000s. Previously, he worked for CAST, where UDL got its start.

He is currently the lead designer for Inclusive Media and Design's CapScribe captioning and description project.

Charles has a severe to profound hearing loss, and is a fan of human-generated captioning and smarter hearing devices.

Rob Harvie brings a rich background in IT and accessibility solutions. While working at the University of Toronto over a few decades, he spent a large chunk of his time in research work with the Adaptive Technology Resource Centre on various federally-funded media accessibility research initiatives.

He directed Information Technology Services for the Faculty of Information, and taught human-computer interaction and emerging technologies – including augmented reality and multi-sensory interfaces at the Institute for Communications, Culture and IT, the McLuhan Program in Culture and Technology, and Continuing Studies.

Rob continues his lecturing on inclusive design at various Canadian colleges and universities, serves on digital accessibility working and advisory groups, and is founding director of Inclusive Media and Design, a Toronto-based boutique consultancy

Wednesday May 25, 10-10:45am

Giving Voice: Insights and Perspectives of Post-Secondary Autistic Students and Faculty

Stream: Accessible teaching and Learning (ATL)

Presenters: Janice Fennell and Janice Galloway, Sheridan College

Description

Research from the recently completed research study, "Insights and Strategies to Support Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in Postsecondary Contexts: A Canadian Perspective" will be shared. This session will highlight the reported needs and experiences of students with ASD while exploring perspectives of teaching faculty and culminate in small group discussions, led by the facilitators, to highlight tools, tips and resources to support faculty, students and staff.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Attendees will be able to identify barriers and needs of students with ASD in the learning environment
- Critically examine their assumptions about students with ASD and apply strategies to support students with ASD in the teaching and learning environment
- Proactively implement inclusive teaching practices to support learners with ASD

Presenter Biographies

Janice Fennell is the Manager, Accessible Learning at Sheridan College and has over 15 years' experience working with individuals with disabilities in community organizations and various educational contexts. Janice has a M.A. in Critical Disability Studies and a PhD. in Education from York University. Janice is currently a member of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) - Postsecondary Education Standards Development Committee and Sheridan Advisory Council. Janice also serves on the Colleges Committee on Disability Issues (CCDI). Janice's lifelong passion is to disseminate knowledge to assist individuals with disabilities to be included in their learning communities.

Janice Galloway is a Learning Strategist with Accessible Learning at Sheridan College. Janice has over 13 years' experience working with students with disabilities in various educational contexts. Janice holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree and Bachelor of Education from Nipissing University. Janice has delivered training, workshops and presentations on Autism Spectrum Disorder to multiple audiences. Janice co-facilitates a social group for students with ASD and is a trained UCLA PEERS leader. Janice is a member of the Learning Specialists Association of Canada (LSAC) and completed the Applied Learning Disability Studies Certificate. Janice has conducted research and collaborated on publications.

Wednesday May 25, 10-10:45am

Mobile Accessibility: Testing Mobile Sites and Native Apps for Accessibility

Stream: Web Accessibility (WA)

Presenter: Gian Wild, AccessibilityOz

Description

When developing WCAG2, the Working Group did not envision the current world where mobile is almost ubiquitous. For example, WCAG2 requires that all content be accessible to the keyboard interface, but it does not require that all content be accessible to a touchscreen user. WCAG2.1 does include some mobile accessibility requirements; but many think it doesn't go far enough. Enter the Mobile Site Testing Guidelines: developed by a bipartisan group of accessibility companies. These guidelines are meant to be used with WCAG2 (and WCAG2.1) to ensure that sites are accessible to people with disabilities using mobile and tablet devices.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Learn about mobile testing concepts and methods.
- Get hands-on experience in using the new test process.

- Learn how to apply testing methods in practice for different platforms and different situations.

Presenter Biography

Gian Wild is the CEO and Founder of AccessibilityOz, established in Australia in 2011 and the U.S in 2015. Gian has worked in the accessibility industry since 1998. She spent six years contributing to the international set of web accessibility guidelines used around the world. A 2017 Australian of the Year award nominee, Gian splits her time between Australia the U.S. A regular speaker at conferences around the world, in 2015 she presented to the United Nations on the importance of web accessibility at the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/accessibilityoz>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/gianwild/>

Wednesday May 25, 10-10:45am

Four Frameworks, One Goal: Examining Frameworks to Guide Inclusive Post-Secondary Education

ASL

Stream: Conference Theme: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA11y)

Presenters: Christine Zaza and Melissa Potwarka, University of Waterloo

Description

In addition to Universal Design for Learning, three other frameworks foster inclusion in the postsecondary setting: Universal Instructional Design, Universal Design for Instruction, and the Inclusive Design Framework. In this unconference session we invite participants to engage in interactive activities as we explore how these frameworks intersect, diverge, promote EDI, and align with ADOA legislation. Participants will leave with resources to help them navigate and apply these frameworks.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Compare and contrast four frameworks that promote inclusion in higher education
- Describe how these frameworks align with accessibility and human rights legislation
- Identify barriers to implementation and how can we overcome these barriers
- Discuss the merits of adopting one framework versus synthesizing underlying principles from all frameworks

Presenter Biographies

Christine Zaza is an Online Learning Consultant with the Centre for Extended Learning, University of Waterloo. She is also an Adjunct Lecturer in the Faculty of Health, where she developed an undergraduate course on Mental Health Literacy. Her main areas of interest are accessibility, inclusive instruction, mental health and well-being.

Melissa Potwarka is Health Promotion & Evaluation Specialist with Campus Wellness and PhD student in the School of Public Health Science at University of Waterloo. Melissa's

professional experience and research interests intersect within the Health Promoting Universities & Colleges movement. Broadly, she is interested in whole systems approaches to addressing wellbeing in the learning environment through multistakeholder collaboration and partnership.

Wednesday May 25, 11-11:45am

Advice for Institutionalizing UDL

Stream: Conference Theme: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA11y)

Presenters: Rachel Courts and Ofure Okojie, Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO)

Description

HEQCO recommends UDL be embraced across Ontario colleges and universities. But how do we scale up UDL across institutions? And how do we do that in a way that incorporates principles of equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization? In November 2021, HEQCO began engaging the sector to help answer these questions. Our presentation will share insights about defining UDL, approaches to institutionalizing UDL and evaluating progress towards institutionalization. We'll invite the audience to share their insights as well.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Examine their own perceptions of UDL
- Consider whether there are gaps (such as those related to anti-racism / EDID) in their perceptions of UDL
- Consider / identify opportunities to facilitate institutionalization of UDL principles at their own institutions
- Consider / identify opportunities to evaluate or improve existing evaluations of progress with UDL implementation

Presenter Biographies

Rachel Courts is a researcher at the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO) where she works on research projects focused on improving access, quality and sustainability in Ontario's postsecondary education system.

Prior to joining HEQCO, Rachel worked as a research assistant on projects related to access, student experience and university pedagogy. Her research interests also include equity in education and student well-being at both the secondary and post-secondary level.

Rachel holds a master of educational leadership and policy from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto.

Ofure Okojie is a research intern at the Higher Educational Quality Council of Ontario (HEQCO).

Ofure is currently working on projects centered on access and accessibility, work-integrated learning, and social mobility.

Ofure holds a bachelor of arts from the University of Toronto in Sociology.

Wednesday May 25, 11-11:45am

Scaling and Embedding Accessibility in Product Development

ASL

Stream: Web Accessibility (WA)

Presenter: Niki Ramesh, CBC

Description

Building a sustainable process around accessibility is important to take your organization from a group of champions to a mature organization that actively prioritizes digital accessibility. Welcome to the hard part! Today's talk will walk attendees through how to embed accessibility at 5 stages of product development - Research, Defining functionality, Design, Development and Testing. At each stage, we'll walk through artifacts such as accessibility requirements, style guides and automated tests, to help your product teams include accessibility with little additional effort. The session will provide attendees with tactical steps they can take to make sure accessibility is considered and prioritized by Agile teams.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Understand holistically how accessibility fits into digital product development
- Breakdown how to build a process around accessibility from research through to testing
- Identify different ways accessibility can be embedded into your products

Presenter Biography

Niki Ramesh leads digital accessibility for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). She and her team are passionate about providing equitable digital experiences for everyone living in Canada. She enjoys working with research and product development teams to experiment with accessibility features and embed accessibility into the development cycle. She's also a co-founder of Access to Success, supporting MBA students with disabilities and accessibility startups in North America.

LinkedIn: <https://ca.linkedin.com/in/nikitharamesh>

Wednesday May 25, 11-11:45am

Building the Course Syllabus into a Cornerstone of Accessible Teaching

Stream: Accessible teaching and Learning (ATL)

Presenters: Michelle Schwartz and Adam Chaboryk, Toronto Metropolitan University

Description

By the end of this presentation, delegates will have an appreciation of how UDL principles can be integrated into syllabi to form the cornerstone of an inclusive learning experience. Delegates will take away an easily adaptable accessible syllabus (in Google Doc and Word format) along with a customizable website template to provide an interactive accompanying guide to meet the needs of their institution.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Examine how the course syllabus functions as the starting point for integrating UDL into teaching
- Appreciate how UDL principles can be easily integrated into course syllabi through the application of an customizable template.
- Discuss how accessible syllabi are supported at other institutions
- Adapt an accessible syllabus template to meet their own needs

Presenter Biographies

Michelle Schwartz is an Educational Developer in the Teaching Development unit of the Centre for Excellence in Learning and Teaching at XU (Ryerson University). Her primary responsibilities include providing support for inclusive education, including universal design for learning (UDL), open access education and open pedagogy, and inclusive and accessible learning spaces.

Website: <https://lackingauthoritycontrol.com/>

Twitter: MichelinaNeri

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/michelleschwartz/>

Adam Chaboryk is a digital accessibility specialist and web developer with a passion for building inclusive experiences. Adam is an IT Accessibility Specialist at XU (Ryerson University), where he enables the community with the resources and guidance to create a more inclusive digital environment for all learners, faculty, staff and the general public. Adam also leads the development of Sa11y, an open source accessibility checker designed for content authors.

Website: <https://chaboryk.xyz/>

Wednesday May 25, 1-1:45pm

Creating Sustainable Accessible Interfaces

Stream: Web Accessibility (WA)

Presenter: Talyah Aviran, UXAccess

Description

Your product is amazing, you are very proud of it but, when trying to sell it, you are asked by vendors to make it accessible. What? How? When? Where do I start? What is it going to entail? How long will that take? Who should be involved? How is it going to be integrated in our current product development procedures? Don't panic. It is doable. I am here to share my experience. I will introduce you to tools, methods and resources to accomplish web accessibility by design.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Learn what is an inclusive design system
- Learn how to annotate for accessibility
- Learn what makes widgets accessible
- Learn about existing tools for designers, developers, QA
- Learn how to include people with disabilities

Presenter Biography

Talyah Aviran believes that digital accessibility has more impact on an organization as well as on the organization's products when it is introduced at the very beginning of the product lifecycle, shifting the process of product building to the left and creating a new culture of inclusion. From her experience, when you start the process of embedding web accessibility from the design phase, you create a unified language, and understanding between all professionals. Adding people with disabilities to the process, enforces the importance and the impact the end product will make on the users' lives. Talyah utilizes existing design and development tools, to assist the teams in embedding web accessibility into their day-to-day practices.

Twitter: @TalyahAviran

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/talyahaviran/>

Wednesday May 25, 1-1:45pm

Making an Accessible WordPress Site and Keeping it Accessible

ASL

Stream: Web Accessibility (WA)

Presenter: Sandy Feldman

Description

This presentation will teach users how to make an accessible WordPress site and will cover the following material:

- Finding an Accessibility Ready WordPress theme
- Keeping it accessible by
- Using headings to structure content
- Writing link text that makes sense out of context
- Writing custom "read more" links
- Making sure colours have good contrast
- Using more than just colour to show things
- Testing for keyboard access to everything
- Adding alternative text to images

Attendees will have a chance to ask questions.

Learning Outcomes

- How to find an Accessibility Ready theme

- How to use the WordPress backend to maintain accessibility
- Where to find automated tools to test for accessibility

Presenter Biography

Sandy Feldman is a freelancer focused on web accessibility and design, who builds web sites for organizations that focus on accessibility. She builds accessible custom WordPress themes, or customizes accessibility-ready themes. Sandy supports the people who keep those sites up to date.

Sandy Feldman works with inclusivemedia.ca auditing web sites for Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) compliance. Inclusive Media clients include government ministries and agencies, not-for-profits, and businesses in the corporate sector.

She works with Brandeis University Digital Accessibility Program and the Outreach and Special Projects Archivist keeping the Special Projects accessible.

Website: sandyfeldman.com, <https://www.a11yready.com>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sandyfeldman/>

Wednesday May 25, 1-1:45pm

Gaming Beyond the Mechanics: Accessibility of Language, Tone, Culture, and Concept ASL

Stream: Conference Theme: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA11y)

Presenter: Lorelei Root, Eagle's Flight

Description

Creating an accessible game needs to be a part of the conversation long before a single line of code is even written. Of course we need to take the accessibility of the game mechanics into account, but the conversation and decision to include accessibility needs to begin at an earlier point and cover a broader range of topics than just the code. In this presentation Lorelei Root will walk us through some factors that she has often seen overlooked in the video game development industry, such as using accessible language and tone in creating initial game concepts and storylines, creating an accessible environment for game development, and avoiding an ableist corporate culture overall.

Learning Outcomes

After this session attendees will be able to:

- Identify a few common ableist language choices to avoid in game development.
- Have a more in-depth understanding of why disabled representation is so vitally important in video games, and how unrealistic representation can be more harmful than helpful.
- Be able to recognize and avoid some ways that ableism often factors into concept and narrative in games.
- Have new language and understanding around the topic of “difficulty” in video games.
- Have a renewed interest in pursuing cross-disability accessibility in the development of video games and other forms of digital media.

Presenter Biography

Lorelei Root is a Digital Accessibility Specialist currently working for Eagle's Flight in Guelph Ontario, and has experience working with various video game development studios. She is the vice-chair of the City of Guelph's Accessibility Advisory Committee, the chair of the city of Guelph's Municipal Elections Accessibility Subcommittee, a board member for the Canadian Centre for Disability Studies, and serves on a number of other boards and committees in an accessibility advisory capacity. As a disabled woman herself who uses various forms of assistive tech to access the world, she is driven by a passion for cross-disability accessibility advocacy.

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lorelei-root-078348216/>

Wednesday May 25, 2-2:45pm

Data for Disability Advocacy: Navigating Data Bias With a Wikibase AI Prototype

Stream: Conference Theme: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA11y)

Presenters: Rachel da Silveira Gorman and Thumeka Mgwigwi, York University

Description

Our team is developing a wikibase prototype with an AI search engine that has been trained with disability advocacy data sets. In this presentation, we review data and AI bias from the perspective of local and global disability advocacy, and highlight problems of racism, sexism, and heterosexism within disability rights data. We also review feedback from local and global disability advocacy organizations about their data needs, and their constituents' data needs. We end with a discussion about our emerging understanding of disability data and accessibility.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Identify biomedical bias in disability data sources
- Identify racism, sexism, and heterosexism within disability rights data
- Examine the benefits and shortcomings of a wikibase AI prototype
- Recognize the importance of data for disability advocacy
- Identify some local and global disability advocacy data needs

Presenter Biographies

Rachel da Silveira Gorman is Associate Professor in the Graduate Program in Critical Disability Studies at York University. Da Silveira Gorman is an interdisciplinary scholar working in fine arts, humanities, and sciences. Current projects include disability data, AI bias, and AI-prototypes; and the role of mast cell biology and biochemistry as mechanisms of the social determinants of health and inequitable COVID outcomes. Da Silveira Gorman's writings on ideologies of disability and race have appeared in *American Quarterly*, *Somatechnics*, *thirdspace*, and the *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*. Da Silveira Gorman also works extensively in choreography and curating.

Thumeka Mgwigwi is Subject Librarian in Critical Disability Studies, Health Policy & Management, Global Health, and Psychology at York University. Mgwigwi's research projects

include anti-racist and anti-ableist initiatives in academic libraries; and a pilot project on an AI-endowed wikibase of data for disability advocacy.

Wednesday May 25, 2-2:45pm

Exploring Web Accessibility in the High School Programs: A Pilot Project

ASL

Stream: Accessibility Theory, Policy and Compliance (ATPC)

Presenters: Sandi Gauder, CMS Web Solutions and Julie Johnston Volcansek, District School Board of Niagara

Description

WebsitesForAll.ca, funded by CIRA, introduces the concepts of accessibility and usability to students learning about web design. In collaboration with our local school board, we piloted WebsitesForAll.ca to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Special High Skills Major (SHSM) students. We will present the results of the pilot project.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Identify new ways to introduce learners to the concepts of web accessibility
- Examine the importance of creating modules that model accessibility best practices
- Explore student engagement in hands-on learning experiences
- Examine the benefits of usability testing and persona development

Presenter Biographies

Sandi Gauder is a partner, web developer and accessibility specialist at CMS Web Solutions. In her role, she moves accessibility forward by coaching developers, designers and content creators.

Sandi is also a professor in Mohawk's Accessible Media Production program teaching Web Content and Social Media Accessibility.

Julie Volcansek works for the District School Board of Niagara as vice-principal of A.N. Myer Secondary School in Niagara Falls.

Previous to this role, she was the special assignment teacher for the Specialist High Skills Major program for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, supporting 59 programs in all high schools. She also has worked with the Ontario Council for Technology Education writing curriculum and planning provincial student conferences.

Julie holds a master of education with a focus on the use of digital technology in education.

Wednesday May 25, 2-2:45pm

What Businesses Should Learn from "A Life Worth Living's" Accessible Website Journey

Stream: Accessibility Theory, Policy and Compliance (ATPC)

Presenters: Judy Robinet and David Best, A Life Worth Living

Description

A business's decision to hire a website developer to meet AODA standards is complicated by the lack of knowledge and understanding of digital accessibility on the part of both parties. Through "A Life Worth Living's" 3-year journey, Judy Robinet, Executive Director, and David Best, IT Specialist, will highlight their real-world challenges and provide best practice solutions to avoid expensive and non-compliant sites.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Identify the meaning of digital accessibility in terms of your business goals to measure your business accessibility requirements to maximize efficiency.
- Determine how digital accessibility can augment your business goals, values and target expectations through implementing a digital accessibility strategy.
- Examine your business culture to assess premeditated actions, the anticipation of others' behavior, and the purposeful design of coordinated actions.
- Develop best practice digital communication strategies to market products/services and build a unique brand to reach a diverse population with satisfied customers.
- Evaluate the vendor's ability to deliver an accessible and useable website to maximize your business investment.

Presenter Biographies

Judy Robinet, M.SpEd, O&M, ECE, is the Founding Executive Director of A Life Worth Living. Previous roles include Early Childhood Educator, Parent Effectiveness Instructor, Child and Family Counselor, and Orientation and Mobility Specialist. Based on these experiences, she authored the book, *A Life Worth Living*. She co-authored research on self-esteem and independent living published in the *Journal of Visual Impairment and Blindness*. She has presented at national and international conferences. Judy was honoured with the Lions International President's Certificate, Ontario Community Action Award, Helen Keller Award, 2017 St. Clair College Alumni of Distinction Award, and a Melvin Jones Fellowship.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/alifeworthlvng>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/a-life-worth-living-windsor/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ALifeWorthLivingNational>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/alifeworthlivingnational/>

David Best is an Accessibility IT Specialist, with more than 30 years of working experience, in software design and development, project management, diversity leadership, and disability advocacy. David is persistent in seeking out accessibility business best practice solutions. Recently retired from IBM, David is now an entrepreneur actively supporting Ontario organizations with accessibility awareness. As an Information Technology Specialist, an Accessibility Consultant, a Digital Inclusion Advocate, and an Assistive Technology user, David have experienced the digital divide, confronted workplace challenges, implemented best practice inclusion strategies, mentored peer support group initiatives, facilitated web design workshops, and promoted emerging technologies that inspire independence and confidence.

Wednesday May 25, 3-4:30pm

Panel Presentation: IDEA11y: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility

ASL and Live Human Captioning

Stream: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA)

Facilitator: Indira Naidoo-Harris, AVP Diversity and Inclusion, University of Guelph

Presenters:

Deborah Stienstra, Jarislowsky Chair in Families and Work and Director, Live Work Well Research Centre, University of Guelph

Mahadeo Sukhai, Vice-President Research and International Affairs & Chief Accessibility Officer, Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)

Meenu Sikand, CEO and Founder, Accessibility for All

Description

Our distinguished moderator and panelists will explore the connections between accessibility and diversity, equity and inclusion issues.

Presenter Biographies

Deborah Stienstra holds the Jarislowsky Chair in Families and Work at the University of Guelph, where she is the Director of the Live Work Well Research Centre and Professor of Political Science. She is the author of [About Canada: Disability Rights](#) (Fernwood, 2020). Her research and publications explore the intersections of disabilities, gender, childhood, and Indigenouness, identifying barriers to, as well as possibilities for, engagement and transformative change. Her work also contributes to comparative and trans/international research and theory related to intersectional disability rights and justice.

Dr. Mahadeo Sukhai is the world's first congenitally blind biomedical research scientist. Mahadeo is director of research and chief inclusion and accessibility officer for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), having previously served as a researcher at the University Health Network in Toronto. In his role at CNIB, Mahadeo leads a significant research program focused on social determinants of health and inclusion for people living with sight loss in Canada. He also is responsible for organizational employee culture-building strategy related to inclusion, accessibility and employee wellness.

Dr. Sukhai is the principal investigator for and co-author of 'Creating a Culture of Accessibility in the Sciences,' a book based on his groundbreaking work on access to science within higher education and serves as the principal investigator for national projects to understand the student experience for persons with disabilities, and to examine accessibility and inclusion within science education and healthcare.

Dr. Sukhai co-founded IDEA-STEM, an organization dedicated to accessibility in science education, and NOVA, the international Network of researchers with Visual impairments and their Allies, a new professional society with the mission to improve accessibility and inclusion in the biomedical sciences for researchers with vision loss.

Meenu Sikand Founder of the AfA ([Accessibility for All](#)), Meenu Sikand is a Canadian immigrant of South-Asian origin. She brings 30 years of personal and professional experience

advancing the disability agenda nationally and globally Meenu has an unwavering commitment to improve employment situation of WWD (Women with Disabilities) especially those who have intersecting identities. She brings personal and professional knowledge of systemic, policy and accessibility barriers, which prevent persons with disabilities (PWD) from achieving their full human potential and exercise their rights. Under her leadership, AfA focuses on public education campaigns to raise disability and diversity awareness, human rights training and development of accessibility policies for broader public and private sectors using an intersectional lens embedded in the IDEA principles. In 2017 and 2022, AfA participated in the renewal of Canada's 2017 – 2022 National action Plan on Women, Peace & Security. She is also serving on the Accessibility Standards Advisory Council of Ontario and on the national boards of Canadian Women's Foundation, Canada Post and United Way GTA.

Meenu is a well-respected Inclusion, Accessibility, Diversity and Social Justice thought leader who is committed to build bridges between Diversity and Disability movements. Meenu is an alumnus of Mobility International USA's (MIUSA) Women's Institute on Leadership and Disability program and holds a master's degree in Critical Disabilities Studies from York University.

AfA is one of the founding members of the Race & Disabilities Canada and is serving on the leadership steering committee of Disability without Poverty advocating for the Canada Disability Benefit. Meenu is the first SA woman to be inducted in the Canadian Disability Hall of Fame and received the honor of Senior Executive of the Year 2020 from the Canadian Center of Inclusion and Diversity for promoting and supporting inclusion of racialized PWD through anti-oppressive practice, research, representation and collaboration.

Thursday May 26, 9-9:45am

Creating Accessible Word Documents

ASL

Stream: Document and Media accessibility (DMA)

Presenter: Gina Catenazzo, Seneca College

Description

Microsoft Word has many features to ensure that the documents you are creating are accessible. Participants will learn the fundamentals of creating accessible Word documents and modifying inaccessible content to comply with accessibility standards.

In this session, we look at the following in Word with respect to accessibility: Accessibility Checker, Document Structure, Document Properties, Images, and Tables. You will walk away with strategies to help you make your Word documents accessible.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Apply accessibility guidelines to Word documents
- Modify Word documents to make them accessible.
- Identify and use accessibility features in Word.

Presenter Biography

Gina Catenazzo collaborates with a multi-disciplinary team to create beautiful, engaging, and accessible online courses at Seneca College. She implements creative and accessible solutions to digital content and online course development. She is keenly passionate about providing inclusive solutions in online learning by applying Universal Design and Accessibility principles.

Twitter: @ginacatenazzo

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/ginacatenazzo/>

Thursday May 26, 9-9:45am

Designing Impactful Financial Empowerment Programs: Disability Benefits Wayfinder Stream: Conference Theme: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA11y)

Presenters: Janet Flynn and Nandita Bijur, Prosper Canada

Description

Applying for disability benefits is hard, frustrating and demoralizing for many people with a disability. If you are a front-line service organization delivering support to people with disabilities, learn how Prosper Canada and our B.C. partners DABC, Plan Institute and SRDC, used service design to create a website and service model to help improve the access to benefits for people with disabilities. This presentation will take you through our journey, highlighting the intersection of service design and accessibility for engaging people with disabilities in the design process with the understanding that people have diverse behaviours, needs, abilities and contexts. We will share insights and tips and answer your questions.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Understand how service design can be adapted to include disability accessibility to improve service outcomes
- Examine the four steps of service design with accessible adaptations
- Learn the significant impacts of service design for your organization
- Identify the five steps to integrate service design in your organization
- Learn specific ways to engage participants in an accessible manner

Presenter Biographies

Janet Flynn is a Senior Program Officer at Prosper Canada working with partners to design and embed financial empowerment initiatives into their existing services. She gained over 20 years of finance experience in the private sector and joined Prosper Canada in 2017 to align her passions with her career and employ her skills to enhance the lives of others.

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/janet-flynn

Nandita Bijur (she/her) is a senior officer at Prosper Canada, working with municipal and community partners to integrate financial empowerment into existing services. As a service designer who has worked with frontline organizations and governments, she is most energized by learning how to make complex systems accessible and understandable.

Thursday May 26, 9-9:45am

All Things Braille: Innovative Tech, Accessible Signage and Everything In Between

Stream: Document and Media accessibility (DMA)

Presenter: Jen Goulden, Crawford Technologies

Description

People often ask if technology has made braille irrelevant, but this is comparable to asking if technology has had this effect on print as well. The question we should be asking is: How does technology enhance inclusion and accessibility for braille readers? This session will provide an overview on all things braille, including the latest code updates, low-cost devices and emerging electronic formats.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Innovations in braille technology;
- Governing bodies responsible for code maintenance;
- Inclusivity in public spaces;
- Resources for learning, teaching and producing braille.

Presenter Biography

Jen Goulden, EDP, UEB Technical, is an Accessibility Compliance Specialist with Crawford Technologies and has more than 15 years' experience in the field of document accessibility. She holds a Master's degree in linguistics from the University of Ottawa and speaks English, French and Spanish. She is a certified braille transcriber and a member of the ePUB and WCAG working groups. She is Past President of Braille Literacy Canada and Treasurer of the International Council on English Braille. She is CNIB's representative to the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) and in January of this year she became the BANA Chair

Twitter: [@CrawfordTechInc](https://twitter.com/CrawfordTechInc)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/crawford-technologies/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CrawfordTechInc>

Thursday May 26, 10-10:45am

Why keyboard-only Access Still Matters: Uncomfortable Accessibility Questions for the Age of Mobile Technologies

Stream: Access Technology (AT)

Presenter: Alan Cantor, Cantor Access Inc

Description

From a technical standpoint, modern software is nearly 100% keyboard accessible. Yet from a practical standpoint, software is challenging to operate without a mouse. In this session, the argument for the ongoing relevance of keyboard access will be presented. The current model of keyboard interactivity (hotkey based) will be compared with a rules-based system. A rule-based interface would be logical, discoverable, and enticing — whether accessed by keyboard, mouse, touch, gestures, voice, or other means.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Attendees will understand the ongoing relevance of keyboard-only access.
- Attendees will know why keyboard-only access to today's software is hard to learn, impossible to discover, and unreliable.
- Attendees will articulate how enticing and effective keyboard-only access could be, and how these interfaces might lead to improved accessibility and usability for everybody.

Presenter Biography

Alan Cantor has worked in the workplace accommodation and accessibility fields for over 25 years. He has advised more than 90 organizations in North America, Europe and Asia; has published more than 50 articles, book chapters, guidelines, and FAQs; and facilitated over 180 workshops, classes, and webinars.

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/alan-cantor-49004119

Thursday May 26, 10-10:45am

Accessibility Bites: Building Knowledge Across An Organization

ASL

Stream: Accessibility Theory, Policy and Compliance (ATPC)

Presenter: Josie Gray, BCcampus

Description

Knowledge about accessibility is often held by one person in an organization, even through many people produce documents, media, and events that need to be accessible. This session will explore one strategy to build accessibility knowledge across an organization through regular, short drop-in sessions. In addition, teaching materials developed for different accessibility topics will also be shared under open licenses to allow for remixing.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Explain the need to build accessibility expertise across an organization
- Examine and consider various accessibility training approaches
- Deliver a short accessibility workshop

Presenter Biography

Josie Gray is the manager of production and publishing at BCcampus. She manages the B.C. Open Textbook Collection and provides training and support for B.C. faculty publishing open educational resources (OER). Josie has been learning about and teaching accessibility for five years and completed her Masters of Design in Inclusive Design at OCAD University in 2021.

Twitter: https://twitter.com/josiea_g

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/josieagray/>

Thursday May 26, 10-10:45am

Awareness of Assistive Technology in the Course Design Process Creates a More Egalitarian System

Stream: Accessible teaching and Learning (ATL)

Presenter: Humberto Hernandez, D'Youville College

Description

Assistive Technology is available to construct a more egalitarian system in a context where inclusion plays an important role.

Learning Objectives:

1. Summarize how Assistive technology is used to create a more egalitarian system in human development.
2. Critique why students with disabilities experience lower levels of class engagement.
3. Evaluate how the awareness of AT affordances allow faculty to assess and remediate course content.

It will be a active participation presentation where there are built-in questions, interactions, and one-minute papers for the audience to engage them.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- 1. Summarize how Assistive technology is used to create a more egalitarian system in human development.
- 2. Critique why students with disabilities experience lower levels of class engagement.
- 3. Evaluate how the awareness of AT affordances allow faculty to assess and remediate course content.

Presenter Biography

Humberto Hernandez is a Colombo-American accessibility activist and Assistive Technology (AT) instructor who has worked for organizations in the private and public sector to break down barriers for individuals with all type of abilities. Humberto is a certified front-end web developer and a future doctor in education. Humberto has dedicated a significant part of his professional life testing, assessing, and remediating websites and other authoring tools to make them accessible for individuals with disabilities.

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/HumbertoA11y>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/humbertohernandez7/>

Instagram: [humbert0oo](https://www.instagram.com/humbert0oo)

Thursday May 26, 11-11:45am

How To Create Information That Is Accessible to the Visually Impaired

ASL

Stream: Access Technology (AT)

Presenters: Palmer Douglas and Karen Douglas, PD Visual Accessibility

Description

The purpose of this presentation is to help people understand that accessibility tools such as screen readers cannot work if the content isn't designed with them in mind. Participants will watch a short video demonstration of screen readers followed by a brief explanation. Then, using a series of short videos to illustrate our points, we'll demonstrate how design, including fonts and format, matters.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Demonstrate how screen readers function
- Examine common issues encountered by screen reader users
- Discuss how accessibility can be improved for websites, documents, and forms.

Presenter Biographies

Palmer Douglas was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called Alström Syndrome at the age of 2 years old, which is why he's blind, wears hearing aids, and has other health issues. Palmer attended school locally until grade 5 after which he began commuting by plane weekly to W. Ross Macdonald School for the Blind. At this school, he used braille textbooks and submitted all assignments in Braille and started using screen reading technology.

After leaving W. Ross, Palmer attended Algonquin College, recently graduating from the Law Clerk program. Palmer has launched a business as an accessibility consultant.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PD-Visual-Accessibility-103837178727540>

Karen Douglas is Palmer's sighted assistant for his visual accessibility business. In this role, she translates his accessibility findings into language that sighted people will understand.

Thursday May 26, 11-11:45am

Long-term Collaboration Between Non-disabled and Disabled Colleagues in Developing Accessible Online Courses

Stream: Accessibility Theory, Policy and Compliance (ATPC)

Presenters: Lisa Kovac and Cortney Hanna-Benson, Occupational Safety Group, Inc. (OSG)

Description

This presentation shares our experiences designing E-learning courses using a collaborative approach between non-disabled instructional designers and a disabled curriculum developer. This iterative model for designing courses ensures accessibility is at the forefront of course development instead of merely an item that exists on a to-do list. Attendees will learn how this long-term collaborative model, which considers accessibility at every stage of the design process, fosters a workplace culture of commitment to accessibility. Attendees will also gain practical steps toward applying this model in their own workplaces.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Examine benefits of long-term iterative collaboration on accessible course design
- Compare their organizations' collaborative models to the one offered in this presentation
- Identify teams in their organization where collaboration between non-disabled and disabled colleagues would be most beneficial
- Recognize how long-term collaboration promotes a workplace culture of respect for and implementation of accessibility
- na

Presenter Biographies

Lisa Kovac is a Curriculum Developer for Occupational Safety Group, Inc. (OSG). As a member of the curriculum team, she provides iterative editorial and accessibility feedback during the development of both face-to-face and online courses on various topics relating to occupational health and safety. She also writes articles for OSG's aoda.ca website, an archive of resources related to current and future standards under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). She has been a university writing tutor, both face-to-face and online, and delivers creative writing workshops at King's University College.

Cortney Hanna-Benson is an Instructional Designer, Lead for the Occupational Safety Group, Inc. (OSG). As a member of the Curriculum team at OSG, she is responsible for developing both face-to-face and online courses on various topics relating to occupational health and safety. Her previous research projects involved investigating the effectiveness of a pre-university online course for its effectiveness in easing the transition to university and exploring the use of competition-based technologies in the classroom. Cortney also added to her e-learning and facilitation portfolio by hosting workshops on topics relating to e-learning and graduate student professional development.

Thursday May 26, 11-11:45am

PDF/UA-2 - Everything You Need to Know

Stream: Document and Media accessibility (DMA)

Presenter: Paul Rayius, CommonLook

Description

This presentation will discuss the upcoming ISO PDF/UA-2 standard and what changes this will bring to the accessibility standard. Attendees will learn about new tags, new features and how to prepare for the new changes once they are released. The session will be interactive with Q&A throughout the presentation. The takeaway will be an understanding of what is coming in the new standard.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Document accessibility standards continue to advance, be prepared for PDF/UA-2
- Learn the key differences and how PDF/UA-2 is designed to make documents more accessible
- Understanding the differences between PDF/UA-1 and the new PDF/UA-2 standard

Presenter Biography

Since 2013, **Paul Rayius** has helped a variety of organizations, including healthcare, government agencies (local, state and federal), financial institutions, and colleges and universities meet their PDF accessibility needs. In addition to his expertise with the CommonLook suite of tools for testing, creating and remediating PDFs, he is also well versed in accessibility standards including Section 508 (including the “refreshed” standard), Health and Human Services (HHS), WCAG 2.0, WCAG 2.1, and PDF/UA. Paul is a member of the IAAP (International Association of Accessibility Professionals) and serves on various committees including helping to develop the Accessible Document Specialist certification. In addition, he is a member of the PDF Association and participates in writing the ISO 32000 (PDF) and ISO 14289 (PDF/UA) standards, as well as working with the PDF/UA Competence Center, the PDF/UA Technical Working Group, and serving as co-chair for the Accessibility Service Bureau Working Group. Paul also participates in, and moderates, several online accessibility groups and forums. Prior to joining the CommonLook team, Paul graduated with a BMe in Instrumental Music Education from Florida State University and taught middle school band for 11 years. In his spare time, he enjoys various outdoor activities and is an avid lacrosse player and geocacher.

Twitter: @CommonLook

Facebook: @CommonLook

Thursday May 26, 1-1:45pm

Returning to Apprenticeship: A Practical Way to Meet Many Needs

Stream: Access Technology (AT)

Presenters: Dr. Deborah Gold and Doug Poirier, BALANCE for Blind Adults

Description

Faced with an ongoing shortage of experienced and knowledgeable AT instructors with lived experience of sight loss, we decided in November 2020 to start up an AT Apprenticeship Program with 3 goals in mind: 1) Provide an employment opportunity for people with good technology skills who may want to learn how to teach others and who need employment experience; 2) Address the shortage of personnel in this important field; 3) meet more needs of an increasingly diverse client base through the use of more part-time instructors with a range of skills, in order to best match teacher ability to student need. In so doing we aim to better fulfill our mission of customized training and support.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Describe the principles of apprenticeship as an employment and training tool.
- Describe the impact of technologies on the ability to teach and train remotely.
- Identify the benefits of using a "train the trainer" approach when there is a personnel shortage.

Presenter Biographies

Dr. Gold's career spans 30 years with and on behalf of people with disabilities, in community settings, colleges, universities and institutions. Dr. Gold holds a PhD in Special Education from Syracuse University. She worked for 16 years at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind in progressively advanced roles, most recently as their National Director of Research and

Program Development. With a career commitment to equity, her publications span multiple fields including recreation and leisure, vision rehabilitation, occupational therapy and engineering. Dr. Gold has been at the helm of BALANCE for Blind Adults since 2016.

Website: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM-tRao9tWCE2-5c3TrRGEg/videos>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/balancefba>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/deborahgold/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/balanceforblindadults/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/balanceforblindadults/>

Doug Poirier has been working for BALANCE since 2001 and at the time I was hired as a contract worker to run a 6 week program to help their clients learn a new, state-of-the-art technology. This was the beginning of the adaptive technology program and 17 years later it's still going strong. I like to think that BALANCE is a leader in assistive technology training/instruction. BALANCE gives blind and visually impaired individuals a choice. We are equipped to meet the needs of a more diverse population and we always do our best to help everyone who comes our way.

Thursday May 26, 1-1:45pm

Accessibility is Everyone's Responsibility: A Sustainable Team-Based Approach ASL

Stream: Accessibility Theory, Policy and Compliance (ATPC)

Presenters: Mary Huang and Christine Hogenkamp, Context Creative

Description

How can an organization gain and share accessibility knowledge in a practical, sustainable way? See how award-winning creative studio Context Creative built a multidisciplinary, collaborative in-house taskforce to stay on top of new information, troubleshoot day-to-day issues and support ongoing operations. This overview of how one team learned and evolved through trial, error and growth offers examples of real-world solutions and low-cost tools you can adapt for your organization.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Gain perspectives on managing in-house accessibility efforts to begin the process of creating or tailoring an appropriate team-based approach to meet their needs.
- Utilize Context Creative's experience as a case study for assessing their own situation/organization to identify resources, barriers and opportunities in building and sustaining a team-based approach.
- Practice thinking of accessibility as an evolving team effort with roles and tasks that may shift over time alongside the organization's changing resources and growing knowledge/understanding.

Presenter Biographies

As a senior account management professional at Context Creative, **Mary Huang** has overseen numerous communications initiatives for public sector clients, from healthcare reports to interactive financial literacy microsites, including projects that have been recognized as accessibility best practice case studies. She has also worked with the Registered Graphic Designers of Ontario (RGD) and the Ontario government to help develop accessibility print and digital communications guidelines. Mary established Context Creative's Accessibility Taskforce, an in-house team comprised of staff representing all studio disciplines who collaboratively learn and share best practices, and regularly provide guidance to internal and external stakeholders.

Website: <https://contextcreative.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/contextcreative>

LinkedIn: <https://ca.linkedin.com/company/context-creative>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/contextcreative/>

Christine Hogenkamp is a front-end development wizard with specialties in cross-client compatible email development, web ads, and accessibility QA. She is also the Accessibility Taskforce Lead at Context Creative, coordinating a volunteer team of designers, developers, writers, animators and more in assessing issues, trends and disseminating learnings to all staff. Along with the Taskforce members, Christine actively creates and maintains documentation on best practices and processes, and spearheads many practical tests and troubleshooting experiments.

Website: <https://contextcreative.com/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/contextcreative>

LinkedIn: <https://ca.linkedin.com/company/context-creative>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/contextcreative/>

Thursday May 26, 1-1:45pm

Reception of Different Styles of Audio Description by Blind/Visually Impaired Kids

Stream: Conference Theme: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA11y)

Presenter: Caroline Martin, Université de Montréal

Description

Learn about the research project on the reception of different styles of audio description by blind and visually impaired children and adolescents.

This research project aims to collect qualitative and quantitative data on the level of comprehension, emotional impact and appreciation of television series accompanied by two different styles of audio description tracks, standard and creative.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Identify the differences between the different styles of audio description

- Understand the influence of audio description styles on the emotional impact and comprehension level of audiovisual content such as television series.
- Discover extracts of the different audio description created for the study and samples of the questionnaires.

Presenter Biography

Caroline Martin is passionate about art and education. She's been teaching literature and film at various universities in Quebec for over 15 years. In 2019, she acted as an advisory board member for the Inclusive-Media course series at the Chang School of Continuing Education (Ryerson University). As a postdoctoral researcher at the Laboratoire Cinémédias at the Université de Montréal, she is currently conducting research on the reception of audio description among blind and visually impaired children and adolescents (FRQSC, 2020-2022) and I am involved in the development of an inclusive media training through a grant from the Broadcasting Accessibility Fund.

Website: <http://carolinemartin-edu.ca>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/caroline-martin-phd-643205198/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/yvescaroline/>

Thursday May 26, 2-2:45pm

Testing Accessible PDF Documents: What Goes On Behind the Scenes

ASL

Stream: Document and Media Accessibility (DMA)

Presenters: Aimee Ubbink and Jen Goulden, Crawford Technologies

Description

Regardless of the document type and output format, a robust testing process is an essential component of document remediation. In this session we'll discuss the testing tools and processes required to create documents that are both accessible and usable. We will focus on the issues that can arise during QA and provide recommendations on how to address them

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- The importance of properly structured input files;
- The benefits and drawbacks of automated checkers;
- Considerations for personal and confidential information;
- The role of assistive technology in document accessibility testing

Presenter Biographies

Aimée Ubbink, EDP, PMP, CrawfordTech's Technical Accessibility Manager, specializing in the design and remediation of accessible documents. Since 1999, she has worked with software developers to design systems for automated production adhering to evolving standards, emerging technologies, and formats. Working closely with our research and testing teams she assists in building and launching new innovative solutions. Member of the PDF Association and sits on the PDF/UA Technical and Liaison Working Group. She is the W3C

Advisory Committee Representative for CrawfordTech, and member of the ePUB and WCAG working groups.

Twitter: [@CrawfordTechInc](https://twitter.com/CrawfordTechInc)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/crawford-technologies/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CrawfordTechInc>

Jen Goulden, EDP, UEB Technical, is an Accessibility Compliance Specialist with Crawford Technologies and has more than 15 years' experience in the field of document accessibility. She holds a Master's degree in linguistics from the University of Ottawa and speaks English, French and Spanish. She is a certified braille transcriber and a member of the ePUB and WCAG working groups. She is Past President of Braille Literacy Canada and Treasurer of the International Council on English Braille. She is CNIB's representative to the Braille Authority of North America (BANA) and in January of this year she became the BANA Chair.

Thursday May 26, 2-2:45pm

Reclaiming the Narrative: Indigenous Perspectives on Accessibility and Disability

Stream: Conference Theme: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA11y)

Presenters: Victoria Herrera and Dina Moati, Sheridan College

Description

This presentation will:

- Examine individual assumptions, beliefs, and values about accessibility and disability.
- Identify colonial narratives of disability and possible impacts on self and relation to others.
- Discuss Indigenous perspectives of accessibility.
- Reflect on Indigenous ways of knowing and doing in relation to our own worldviews, cultural beliefs, and practices.

Learning Outcomes

After this session you will be able to:

- Examine individual assumptions, beliefs, and values about accessibility and disability.
- Identify colonial narratives of disability and possible impacts on self and relation to others.
- Discuss Indigenous perspectives of accessibility.
- Reflect on Indigenous ways of knowing and doing in relation to our own worldviews, cultural beliefs, and practices.

Presenter Biographies

Committed to social justice and the radical belonging of all peoples, **Victoria Herrera** spends much of her time dreaming collective freedom dreams. She is passionate about decolonizing and indigenizing all the things! She has worked extensively with urban Indigenous communities across Ontario in the areas of education, employment, health, and social services.

Victoria holds a M. Ed. in Adult Education and Community Development and an Honors Bachelor of Arts in Indigenous Studies and Islamic Studies from the University of Toronto.

Dina Moati is a professor at Sheridan College. Her experience in the field of education spans K-12, vocational, and post-secondary and is situated in Canadian and international settings. Her approach embraces an intentional holistic lens in cultivating inclusive human-centred environments that are grounded in the core values of equity, autonomy, authenticity, and critical reflection.

Dina holds an M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction, is a certified “Learning Disability Specialist” (Assistive Technologist and Learning Strategist), Adult Education Facilitator, and is currently working towards her PhD in Educational Sustainability with a focus on equity and social justice.

Thursday May 26, 2-2:45pm

Impact on Daily Living and Perceived Ease of Use for Assistive Technologies Used in the Sight Loss Community

Stream: Assistive Technology (AT)

Presenter: Michaela Knot, Specialist accessibility, CNIB

Description

Many technologies have been developed to improve participation and accessibility for blind and partially sighted persons; however, the relative impact—positive or negative—of these technologies in the context of user competency, age and other demographic variables, had not previously been assessed.

This session will present the research sought to understand the technology use patterns of blind and partially sighted persons in Canada, and to correlate use patterns with competency and attitudes toward technology within this population.

Learning Outcomes

After this session, you will be able to:

- Understand the technology use patterns of clients who are deafblind, blind and partially sighted
- Understand the differing levels of technological classifications relevant for those who are blind, deafblind and partially sighted and impact in daily living
- Describe the correlation of patterns of technology use with self-perceived digital competencies as part of digital literacy skills

Thursday May 26, 3-4pm

Closing Plenary Session: IDEA11y: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Accessibility

ASL and Live Human Captioning

Stream: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA)

Presenter: Sarah Jama

Description

Community organizer and disability activist Sarah Jama will speak about her personal experience of ableism in the education sector as well as the ongoing struggle of people with disabilities to live with dignity and independence and be seen as equal members of society.

Presenter Biography

Sarah Jama is the lead organizer and co-founder of the Disability Justice Network of Ontario in Hamilton, Ontario. Sarah's lived experiences with cerebral palsy have fostered interests and a passion for community engagement, disability justice, and activism.

Sarah is a board member with the Hamilton Transit Riders Union (HTRU), a council member on the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council, and a member of the Hamilton Community Benefits Network (HCBN).