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Teaching Liaison Librarian in IT

IAAP Certified Professional In Accessibility Core Competencies (CPACC)

Disabled, neurodivergent, and chronically ill librarian

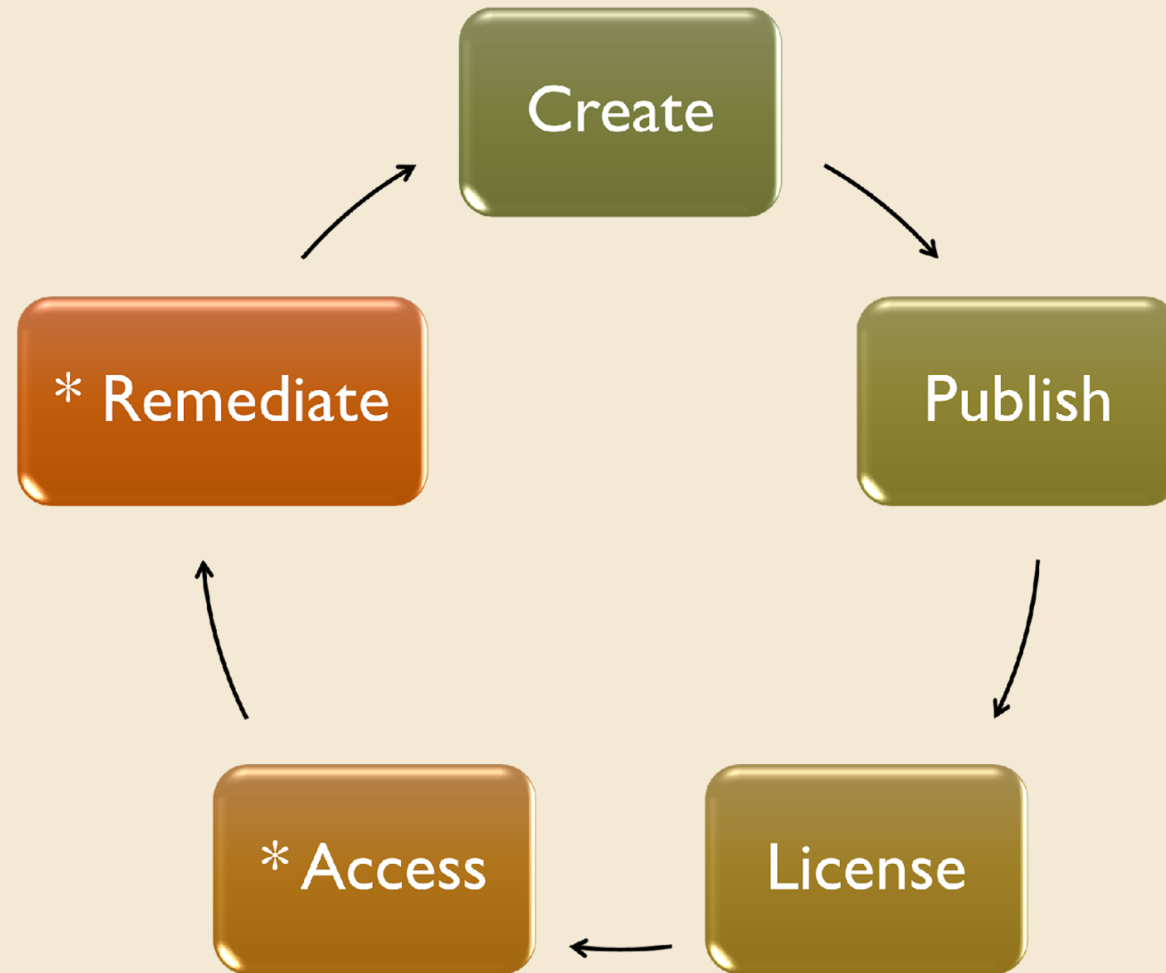
“

I'm trying to read this document on your website, but my screen reader can't interact with it. I need it soon – why wasn't it posted in an accessible format in the first place?

”

- A Disabled Reader

Accessibility in the Research & Publication Lifecycle



*** When accessibility is addressed late, the burden shifts to users and libraries**

What We're Doing

Building Campus Partnerships

- Working with teaching, technology, and graduate programs
- Embedding accessibility into instruction, training, and thesis workflows

Supporting Accessible Creation

- Encouraging accessible formats and authoring practices
- Providing guidance on headings, alt text, tables, and file formats

Shaping Research Workflows

- Engaging with research platforms, repositories, and upstream workflows
- Advocating for accessibility in tools, templates, and submission processes

And... still relying on systems and content we don't control.



Where It Gets Difficult

- Who owns accessibility?
- Who fixes issues—and how quickly?
- How is accessibility tracked or documented?
- What happens when a user reports a barrier?

**If everyone is
responsible...
Who is accountable?**





Accessibility as Partnership, not Assumptions

Start with people, not platforms:

- Talk with disabled students, staff, and researchers.
- Learn from leaders such as: Library of Congress National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled plus state library agencies and professional organizations.

Make engagement actionable:

- Promote clear ways to report barriers.
- Develop simple, stigma-free requests for alternative formats.
- Respond, track, improve.

Nothing about us, without us.

AI: Opportunity and Responsibility

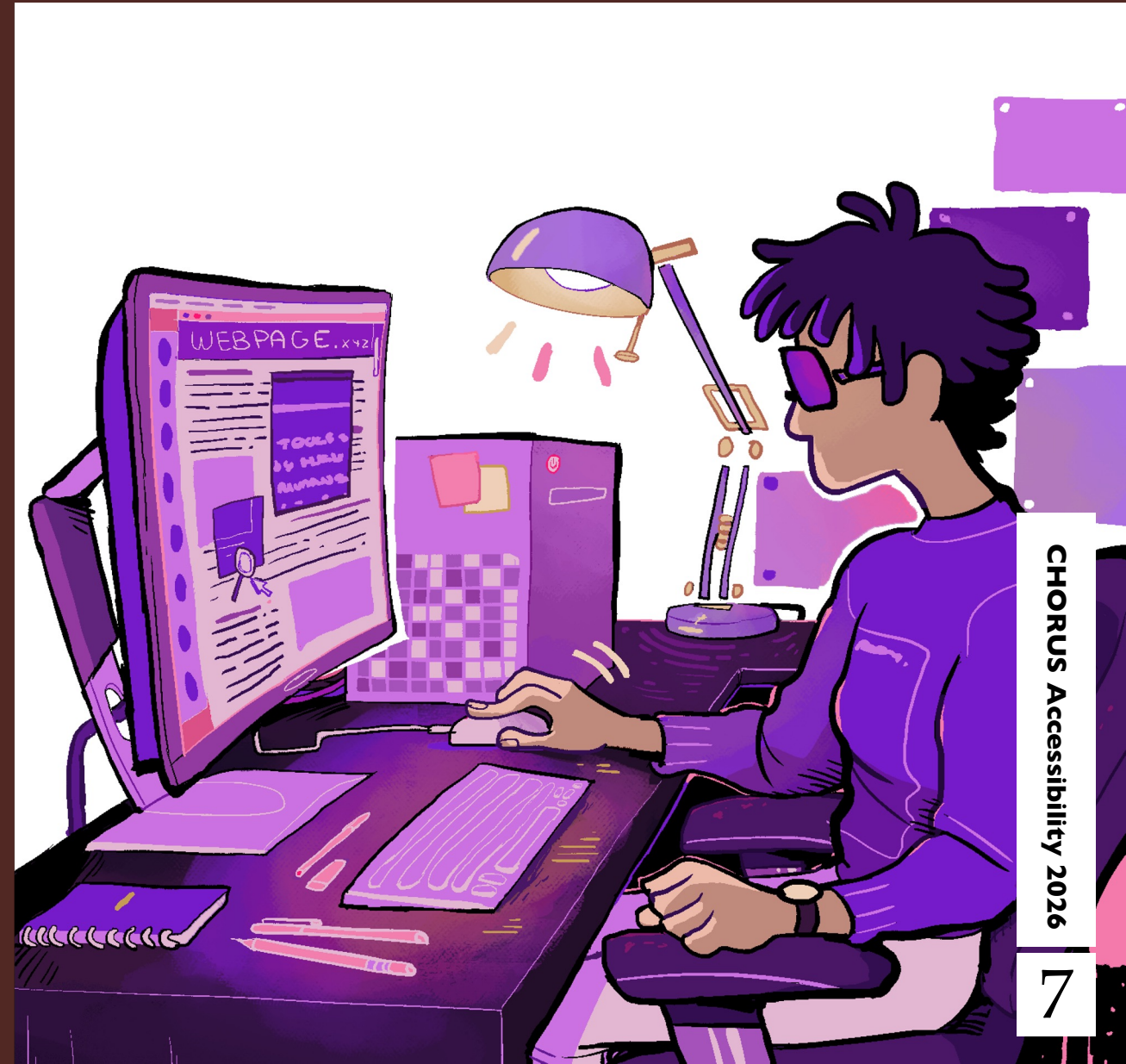
Possibilities:

- Alt text, captions, and format conversion.
- Reducing time for initial remediation.
- Supporting scale across large volumes.

Risks:

- Technically “accessible,” but not meaningful or accurate.
- Passing automated checks without verifying quality.
- Scaling errors across many users.

Accessible does not always mean usable... or accurate.





From Compliance to Belonging

Compliance → Accessibility →
Inclusion → Belonging.

**The barrier is not
the disability...**

It's the systems we
haven't yet
redesigned.

**Accessibility is
everyone's
responsibility...**

But it is not shared
evenly.

Resources

- **Learn the Foundations:** [Digital Accessibility Foundations Free Online Course](#) (WAI)
- **Library-Focused Practice:**
 - [Accessibility Resources for All Libraries](#) (ALA)
 - [Fair Use Supports Accessibility](#), but You Don't Have to Take My Word for It (ARL)
- **Stay Informed:**
 - Lainey Feingold's [Accessibility Laws and Legal Updates](#)
 - [DREDF](#) (Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund)



Continue the conversation!

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I welcome all questions, corrections, and shared practices.

