Actually Accessible Data: A Call to Action

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Who We Are

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Defining Data Accessibility

At Least Five Options:

- Data is in a format and location where it can be retrieved
- Data can be downloaded by a new user after discovery
- Data can be accessed by machine / automation (FAIR)
- Data has socio-economic access -- is there a paywall?
- Data is easily used by everyone, including disabled people

Include the Historically Overlooked

Ethical duty to Include large portion of the population:

- Over 1 out of every 4 adults in the United States have a disability
- An approximate 1 billion people worldwide

Data is not inherently inaccessible

- Disabled people often can use technology needed to access data
- The choices we make impact accessibility

Consider Laws and Policies

- Laws and policies ever changing
- Increasingly litigious environment
- Calls to only accept vendors who create accessible content
- Easier to build-in accessible features than to retrofit

Improve Products for Other Users

Making content easier to navigate visually can benefit other groups

• E.g. People with dyslexia and other people with print disabilities

Making content easier to use with a screen reader can benefit overall design

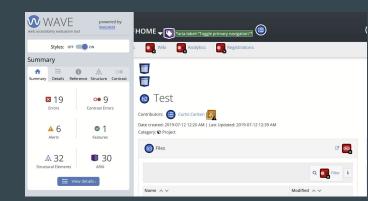
• E.g. Streamlining content for ease of use for all people

Other people may benefit from accessibility features

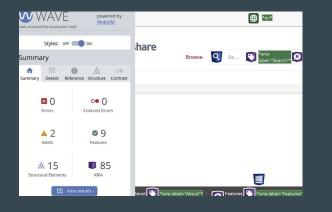
• E.g. ability to have content read aloud

Where We Are - Accessible Repositories

The not so good



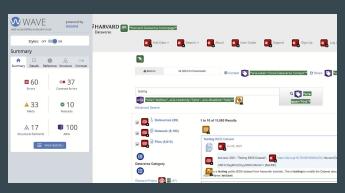
The good

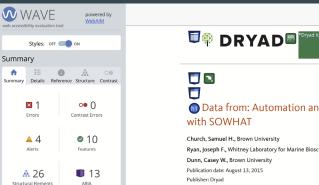


figshare

Harvard Dataverse

OSF





Dryad

Where We Are - Standards

No mention of accessibility in

- FAIR
- CARE
- Core Trust Seal
- Selecting a Repository for Data Resulting from NIH-Supported Research

Where We Are - Curation Guides

No mention of accessibility in

- QDR Curation Manual
- Johnston (ed.), *Curating Research Data*
- ARL SPEC Kit 354: Data Curation
- ICPSR. Guide to Social Science Data Preparation and Archiving
- Majority of Data Curation Primers

Accessibility is addressed explicitly in

- R Data Curation Primer
- Cornell University's eCommons

What To Do *Now*

- 1. Ensure Data Repository is web accessible
- 2. Ensure accessibility of common data formats (e.g., MS Office, PDF)
- 3. Provide supplementary accessibility information for audiovisual data

A Call To Action

- Mainstream accessibility in curation practice and guidance
- Choose accessible vendors and/or tools
- Include disabled people as developers, designers, and testers

Questions & Contact

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