



California Open Online Library for Education & Accessibility

COOL4Ed (the California Open Online Library for Education) was created so that faculty can easily find, adopt, utilize, review and/or modify free and open etextbooks for little or no cost. The COOL4Ed accessibility open textbook evaluations can inform faculty, staff, and students how the free and open etextbooks meet 15 accessibility “checkpoints” that could impact the learning of learners with a range of disabilities.

SUMMARY OF ACCESSIBILITY EVALUATION:

Textbook: Handbook of Independent Journalism

Format of Textbook: PDF

Assistive Technology (AT) Evaluation Score: Overall	6.7 (Maximum score = 10)
<p>Assistive Technologies (AT) Evaluations applies specialized tools and software in the accessibility evaluation process. These specialized assistive technologies, see list below, are typically not used or available by the general public into the accessibility evaluation process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility features of desktop operating systems (e.g. high-contrast display themes, settings from the Keyboard and Mouse control panels) • Accessibility-related software included with desktop operating systems (e.g. VoiceOver, Microsoft Narrator) • Third-party accessibility software and hardware: • Screen readers (e.g. JAWS, Window Eyes) • Magnification software (e.g. ZoomText Magnifier/Reader, MAGIC Pro with Speech) • Reading software for users with learning disabilities (e.g. Read and Write Gold, Kurzweil 3000) • Refreshable Braille displays 	
Non- Assistive Technology (NAT) Evaluation Score: Overall	6.6 (Maximum score =10)
<p>Non-Assistive Technologies (NAT) Evaluations applies only native or basic tools and software such as the keyboard and Narrator in the accessibility evaluation process. These non-assistive technologies are readily available and used by the general public.</p>	



COOL4Ed Accessibility Evaluation Methods:

The California State University [Accessible Technology Initiative](#) and [MERLOT](#) (Multimedia Educational Resources for Learning and Online Teaching) developed the rubric or “checkpoints” for the accessibility evaluation. [CAST](#), a nationally recognized organization with expertise in accessibility and UDL, reviewed and affirmed the appropriateness and value of the accessibility evaluation rubric and contributed the references and support resources to help people learn how best to design, evaluate, and remediate the learning materials to maximize the accessibility of the learning resources for all. The “checkpoints” have been built upon the Section 508 technical standards and has been organized and tailored to the typical characteristics of digital resources used in higher education courses.

The accessibility evaluations were performed by the [Center for Usability in Design and Accessibility](#) at California State University, Long Beach; faculty and graduate students with expertise in human factors, usability, and accessibility performed the evaluations of over 150 free and open etextbooks. COOL4ed.org has published the accessibility evaluation rubric and provides a detailed description of the methodology used to evaluate the accessibility of the etextbooks in COOL4ed.

LOOKING FOR DETAILED ACCESSIBILITY REPORTS?

[See Detailed Accessibility Evaluation Report using Assistive Technologies](#)

[See Detailed Accessibility Evaluation Report using Non-Assistive Technologies](#)



DETAILED ACCESSIBILITY EVALUATION REPORT using Assistive Technologies

Assistive Technologies (AT) Evaluations applies specialized tools and software in the accessibility evaluation process. These specialized assistive technologies, such as Kurzweil and NVDA, are typically not used or available by the general public into the accessibility evaluation process.

1. Accessibility Documentation

A. The organization providing the online materials has a formal accessibility policy.	Fail
Additional Information:	Could not find this information.
B. The organization providing the online materials has an accessibility statement.	Fail
Additional Information:	Could not find this information.
C. An Accessibility Evaluation Report is available from an external organization.	Fail
Additional Information:	Could not find this information.

2. Text Access

A. The text of the digital resource is available to assistive technology that allows the user to enable text-to-speech (TTS) functionality.	Pass
Additional Information:	NVDA read all the text on pages 4-8. However the pace was very fast.

3. Text Adjustment

A. Text is compatible with assistive technology.	Pass
Additional Information:	Used Adobe Reader XI and the text size adjusted on pages 4-8.
B. The resource allows the user to adjust the font size and font/background color (or is rendered by an application such as a browser,	Fail



media player, or reader) that offers this functionality).	
Additional Information:	Used Adobe Reader XI to adjust the font and colors. Checked pages 4-8 and the font color never changed.

4. Reading Layout

A. Text of the digital resource is compatible with assistive technology that allows the user to reflow the text by specifying the margins and line spacing (or is rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader that offers this functionality).	Pass
Additional Information:	Used Adobe Reader XI and the text reflowed on pages 4-8.
B. If the digital resource is an electronic alternative to printed materials, the page numbers correspond to the printed material.	N/A
Additional Information:	No printed version.

5. Reading Order

A. The reading order for digital resource content logically corresponds to the visual layout of the page when rendered by assistive technology.	Pass
Additional Information:	Checked pages 4, 7, 11, 15, 18 and the reading order logically corresponded to the page layout.

6. Structural Markup/Navigation

A. The text of the digital resource includes markup (e.g. tags or styles) that allows for navigation by key structural elements (chapters, headings, pages) using assistive technology (or is rendered by an application	Fail
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such as a browser, media player, or reader that offers this functionality).	
Additional Information:	Used NVDA and checked pages 4-7. No headings were found. "No next heading."
B. The text of the digital resource includes markup for bullets and numbered lists that is compatible with assistive technology (or is rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader that offers this functionality).	Fail
Additional Information:	Used NVDA and checked lists on pages 9, 13, 15, 16, 18, 22, 25, 26, 35, 49. No lists were found. "No next list."
C. If the text of the digital resource is delivered within an ebook reader application, a method is provided that allows users to bypass the reader interface and move directly to the text content that is compatible with assistive technology.	N/A
Additional Information:	Not using reader application.

7. Tables

A. Data tables include markup (e.g. tags or styles) that identifies row and column headers in a manner that is compatible with assistive technology (or are rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader that offers this functionality).	N/A
Additional Information:	No tables found.

8. Hyperlinks

A. In-book links take you to a location within the textbook. For example, the table of contents would be considered in-book links and	N/A
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embedded links take you to the correct location in the book.	
Additional Information:	No in book links found.
B. Live hyperlinks take you to any website or webpages external to the book.	Fail
Additional Information:	Checked live links on pages 63-68. No other links were found in the book.
C. Live links take you to the correct webpage that is functioning properly.	Fail
Additional Information:	0/20 live links were functional.
D. Live links are descriptive enough for the users to know where it should take them.	Fail
Additional Information:	0/20 live links had an acceptable description. All live links used the web URL.

9. Color and Contrast

A. All information within the material that is conveyed using color is also available in a manner that is compatible with those that do not perceive color, and information conveyed by color is also conveyed in other ways.	Fail
Additional Information:	Text color was changed often but no color was used to convey things such as links. There was no color redundancy, when colors changed there was nothing to differentiate between different color texts. Checked pages 4-7.
B. Information is conveyed from the sub-categories for contrast.	Pass
Additional Information:	Checked pages 4-7.
C. Contrast for headers passed WCAG AA standards for large texts (contrast ratio 3:1).	Pass
Additional Information:	Most headers passed color contrast requirements. Some problems occurred with the large text that was in the gray/blue color.



D. Contrast for text passed WCAG AA standards for normal texts (contrast ratio of 4.5:1).	Pass
Additional Information:	All text passed color contrast requirements.
E. Contrast for simple images (for example, images of atoms) passed WCAG AA standards (contrast ratio of 4.5:1).	N/A
Additional Information:	No simple images found.

10. Language

A. The text of the digital resource includes markup that declares the language of the content in a manner that is compatible with assistive technology.	N/A
Additional Information:	Cannot check this because do not have Adobe Acrobat Pro.
B. If the digital resource includes passages in a foreign language, these passages include markup that declares the language in a manner that is compatible with assistive technology.	N/A
Additional Information:	Cannot check this because do not have Adobe Acrobat Pro.

11. Images

A. Non-decorative images have alternative text that is compatible with assistive technology (or is rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader that offers this functionality).	N/A
Additional Information:	No non-decorative images found.
B. Decorative images are marked with null alternate text or contain markup that allows them to be ignored by assistive technology.	Pass



Additional Information:	Used NVDA and checked pages 4-10. NVDA skips over decorative images.
C. Complex images, charts, and graphs have longer text descriptions that are compatible with assistive technology (or are rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader) that offers this functionality).	N/A
Additional Information:	No complex images found.

12.Multimedia

A. A synchronized text track (e.g. open or closed captions) is provided with all video content.	N/A
Additional Information:	No multimedia found.
B. A transcript is provided with all audio content.	N/A
Additional Information:	No multimedia found.
C. Audio/video content is delivered via a media player that is compatible with assistive technology. This includes support for all criteria listed in Section 15 below.	N/A
Additional Information:	No multimedia found.

13.Flickering

A. The digital resource content does not contain anything that flashes more than three times in any one-second period.	Pass
Additional Information:	No flickering found.

14.Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

A. STEM figures have appropriate markup that indicates that the image is a figure.	N/A
Additional Information:	No figures found.



B. STEM graphs have appropriate markup that indicates that the image is a graph.	N/A
Additional Information:	No graphs found.
C. STEM equations have appropriate markup that indicates that the image is an equation.	N/A
Additional Information:	No equations found.
D. STEM tables have appropriate markup that indicates the image is a table.	N/A
Additional Information:	No tables found.
E. STEM figures have appropriate notation markup that conveys both the notation (presentation) and meaning (semantics) of the STEM content.	N/A
Additional Information:	No figures found.
F. STEM graphs have appropriate notation markup that conveys both the notation (presentation) and meaning (semantics) of the STEM content.	N/A
Additional Information:	No graphs found.
G. STEM equations have appropriate notation markup that conveys both the notation (presentation) and meaning (semantics) of the STEM content.	N/A
Additional Information:	No equations found.
H. Assistive technology used can access the content from the STEM tables.	N/A
Additional Information:	No tables found.

15. Interactive Elements

A. Each interactive element (e.g. menu, hyperlink, button) and function (e.g. annotations) allows keyboard-only operation both with and without assistive technology.	N/A
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Additional Information:	No interactive elements found.
B. Each interactive element conveys information to assistive technology regarding the element’s name, type, and status (e.g. “Play, button, selected”).	N/A
Additional Information:	No interactive elements found.
C. All instructions, prompts, and error messages necessary to complete forms are conveyed as text to assistive technology (or are rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader that offers this functionality).	N/A
Additional Information:	No interactive elements found.

DETAILED ACCESSIBILITY EVALUATION REPORT using Non-Assistive Technologies

Non-Assistive Technologies (NAT) Evaluations applies only native or basic tools and software such as the keyboard and Narrator in the accessibility evaluation process. These non-assistive technologies are readily available and used by the general public.

1. Accessibility Documentation

A. The organization providing the online materials has a formal accessibility policy.	Fail
Additional Information:	No Content Found
B. The organization providing the online materials has an accessibility statement.	Fail
Additional Information:	No Content Found
C. An Accessibility Evaluation Report is available from an external organization.	Fail
Additional Information:	No Content Found



2. Text Access

<p>A. The text of the digital resource is available to assistive technology that allows the user to enable text-to-speech (TTS) functionality.</p>	<p>Pass</p>
<p>Additional Information:</p>	<p>Pgs 6-11 were checked. The text is available to assistive technology that allows user to enable text-to-speech functionality.</p>

3. Text Adjustment

<p>A. Text is compatible with assistive technology.</p>	<p>Fail</p>
<p>Additional Information:</p>	<p>Pgs 6-11 were checked. When the window page chaged in size, a horizontal bar appeared. The font size of all pages checked could be adjusted however a horizontal scrolling bar appeared.</p>
<p>B. The resource allows the user to adjust the font size and font/background color (or is rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader) that offers this functionality).</p>	<p>Fail</p>
<p>Additional Information:</p>	<p>Pgs 6-11 were checked. When changing the font/background color to green text on black, the background color did change to black and the font color did not change to green. Instead, the font color changed to grey and the large chapter titles remained white.</p>

4. Reading Layout

<p>A. Text of the digital resource is compatible with assistive technology that allows the user to reflow the text by specifying the margins and line spacing (or is rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader that offers this functionality).</p>	<p>Pass</p>
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Additional Information:	Pgs 6-11 were checked. When reflowing the text, the text to speech function did work. The text was available for assistive technology. This was consistent on all pages checked. The text did reflow.
B. If the digital resource is an electronic alternative to printed materials, the page numbers correspond to the printed material.	N/A
Additional Information:	Need additional information. We do not have printed material to compare it too.

5. Reading Order

A. The reading order for digital resource content logically corresponds to the visual layout of the page when rendered by assistive technology.	Pass
Additional Information:	Pgs 7-12 were checked. The reading order was logical on all five pages.

6. Structural Markup/Navigation

A. The text of the digital resource includes markup (e.g. tags or styles) that allows for navigation by key structural elements (chapters, headings, pages) using assistive technology (or is rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader that offers this functionality).	Fail
Additional Information:	The Title, bookmarks all failed using the accessibility checker. Heading and Tagged PDF passed.
B. The text of the digital resource includes markup for bullets and numbered lists that is compatible with assistive technology (or is rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader that offers this functionality).	Fail



Additional Information:	There were no list structural markups. The Title and Bookmarks all failed using the accessibility checker. Headings and Tagged PDF passed.
C. If the text of the digital resource is delivered within an ebook reader application, a method is provided that allows users to bypass the reader interface and move directly to the text content that is compatible with assistive technology.	N/A
Additional Information:	No additional eReader used.

7. Tables

A. Data tables include markup (e.g. tags or styles) that identifies row and column headers in a manner that is compatible with assistive technology (or are rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader that offers this functionality).	N/A
Additional Information:	There were no tables found throughout the book. However, using the accessibility checker, the rows TH and TD, headers and regularity all passed.

8. Hyperlinks

A. In-book links take you to a location within the textbook. For example, the table of contents would be considered in-book links and embedded links take you to the correct location in the book.	N/A
Additional Information:	No within book hyperlinks found.
B. Live hyperlinks take you to any website or webpages external to the book.	Fail
Additional Information:	16/20 live links worked. Pg 2, 63 (11 live links), and 64 (8 live links) were checked. However all links were not descriptive.



C. Live links take you to the correct webpage that is functioning properly.	Fail
Additional Information:	16/20 live links worked. Pg 2, 63, and 64 were checked.
D. Live links are descriptive enough for the users to know where it should take them.	Fail
Additional Information:	0/20 live links had a description. Pg 2, 63, and 64 were checked. 20 out of 20 links were in html (URL) form and did not have a description on where the link would take you.

9. Color and Contrast

A. All information within the material that is conveyed using color is also available in a manner that is compatible with those that do not perceive color, and information conveyed by color is also conveyed in other ways.	Pass
Additional Information:	Pgs 6-10 were checked. Information not conveyed by color alone. Size of font was used to convey information. The chapter titles larger is size compared to the rest of the text. The chapter numbers were in white with red background as too where the chapter titles.
B. Information is conveyed from the sub-categories for contrast.	Pass
Additional Information:	Pgs 6-10 were checked. Most pages had the contrast ratio of 4.51:1 and above (12.87:1). The chapter titles were larger in size compared to the rest of the text. The chapter titles passed with 7.4:1. The chapter numbers passed with a ratio of 6.42:1. There was text in burgandy color which passed with a ratio of 6.42:1.
C. Contrast for headers passed WCAG AA standards for large texts (contrast ratio 3:1).	Pass
Additional Information:	Pgs 6-10 were checked. Large chapter headings passed with a ratio of 7.4:1.



D. Contrast for text passed WCAG AA standards for normal texts (contrast ratio of 4.5:1).	Pass
Additional Information:	Pgs 6-10 were checked. Most of the text was above the ratio 4.51:1 (12.87:1). Large text, which in this case were chapter titles, passed with a 7.4:1. Text that was burgandy in color passed with a ratio of 6.42:1.
E. Contrast for simple images (for example, images of atoms) passed WCAG AA standards (contrast ratio of 4.5:1).	Fail
Additional Information:	Pgs 6-10 were checked. Simple images failed with a ratio of below 4.51:1 (2.08:1 on page 8).

10. Language

A. The text of the digital resource includes markup that declares the language of the content in a manner that is compatible with assistive technology.	Fail
Additional Information:	Using the accessibility checker the primary language failed.
B. If the digital resource includes passages in a foreign language, these passages include markup that declares the language in a manner that is compatible with assistive technology.	Fail
Additional Information:	Using the accessibility checker the primary language failed.

11. Images

A. Non-decorative images have alternative text that is compatible with assistive technology (or is rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader that offers this functionality).	Fail
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Additional Information:	0/10 non decorative images had descriptions that did convey meaning (descriptions were not sufficient to convey meaning). Pgs 8, 10, 17, 20, 23, 28 (2 images), 29, 31, and 35 had images and were checked. All images did not contain descriptions. Using the accessibility checker, figures alternate text failed.
B. Decorative images are marked with null alternate text or contain markup that allows them to be ignored by assistive technology.	N/A
Additional Information:	No Decorative images found.
C. Complex images, charts, and graphs have longer text descriptions that are compatible with assistive technology (or are rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader) that offers this functionality).	Fail
Additional Information:	0/1 image descriptions did convey meaning (descriptions were not sufficient to convey meaning). Pg 38 had the image and was checked. There was only one complex image found throughout the book. The image did not contain a description. Using the accessibility checker, figures alternate text failed.

12.Multimedia

A. A synchronized text track (e.g. open or closed captions) is provided with all video content.	N/A
Additional Information:	No content found
B. A transcript is provided with all audio content.	N/A
Additional Information:	No content found
C. Audio/video content is delivered via a media player that is compatible with assistive technology. This includes support for all criteria listed in Section 15 below.	N/A
Additional Information:	No content found



13. Flickering

A. The digital resource content does not contain anything that flashes more than three times in any one-second period.	Pass
Additional Information:	Pgs 1-10 were checked. No flickering content was observed. Using the accessibility checker, screen flicker passed.

14. Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)

A. STEM figures have appropriate markup that indicates that the image is a figure.	N/A
Additional Information:	No figures were found throughout the book.
B. STEM graphs have appropriate markup that indicates that the image is a graph.	N/A
Additional Information:	No graphs were found throughout the book.
C. STEM equations have appropriate markup that indicates that the image is an equation.	N/A
Additional Information:	No equations were found throughout the book.
D. STEM tables have appropriate markup that indicates the image is a table.	N/A
Additional Information:	No tables were found throughout the book.
E. STEM figures have appropriate notation markup that conveys both the notation (presentation) and meaning (semantics) of the STEM content.	N/A
Additional Information:	No figures were found throughout the book.
F. STEM graphs have appropriate notation markup that conveys both the notation (presentation) and meaning (semantics) of the STEM content.	N/A
Additional Information:	No graphs were found throughout the book.
G. STEM equations have appropriate notation markup that conveys both the notation	N/A



(presentation) and meaning (semantics) of the STEM content.	
Additional Information:	No equations were found throughout the book.
H. Assistive technology used can access the content from the STEM tables.	N/A
Additional Information:	No tables were found throughout the book.

15. Interactive Elements

A. Each interactive element (e.g. menu, hyperlink, button) and function (e.g. annotations) allows keyboard-only operation both with and without assistive technology.	N/A
Additional Information:	No Interactive Element Present.
B. Each interactive element conveys information to assistive technology regarding the element's name, type, and status (e.g. "Play, button, selected").	N/A
Additional Information:	No Interactive Element Present.
C. All instructions, prompts, and error messages necessary to complete forms are conveyed as text to assistive technology (or are rendered by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader that offers this functionality).	N/A
Additional Information:	No Interactive Element Present.

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