

# SUNYLA Library EIT Update

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# The 5 EIT Standards

<https://www.suny.edu/accessibility/eit/>

- Web Accessibility Standards
- Digital Content Accessibility Standards
- Classroom Accessibility Standards
- Library Accessibility Guidelines
- Procurement Accessibility Standards

# Library Services

- Establish policies and procedures for making library materials accessible in a variety of formats (e.g., requests for accommodation, alternative format, OCR scans)
- Provide instructions, documentation, and handouts available in an accessible digital format upon request
- Provide access, resource, & service information on a library accessibility webpage
- Designate a liaison or contact within the library to provide EIT-related support
- Provide training to library staff on available assistive technology & best practices
- Provide assistive technologies and equipment in computer labs, etc.

# Digitizing Content

- Ensure documents and forms digitized or hosted by the library are accessible, or can be made accessible upon request
- Perform high quality source document scans
- When scans for instructional and research materials are requested (e.g., course reserves, ILL), conduct basic OCR scans (text-renderable). Purchasing a new digital document, physical book, or processing by an external vendor may be required to achieve basic accessibility
- Identify and purchase materials that are captioned, or allow and promote the use of interlibrary loan to request captioned titles if your library owns the (uncaptioned) item
- Include transcripts for any media recordings

# The Cohort's Goals

- Create a community and a brain trust for SUNY EIT
- Create a toolkit to help librarians throughout SUNY
- Guidance on assessing EIT Priority with library databases
- Spread awareness and normalize accessibility

# SUNY Purchase Trajectory Stats (Students with Disabilities)

2017-2018-ODR served 17% of the Purchase College student population

2018-2019-19%

2019-2020-no data available (working on this)

2020-2021-22%

2021-2022-25%

2022-2023 back to 22%

# Library Accessibility Toolkit (& Beyond!)

- Basic training and guidance on retrieving and reviewing VPATs for conformance
- Guidance on procurement best practices and communications
- Dealing with non-compliant resources
- Communicating and working with vendors
- Third Party Vendor Accessibility Repository (mostly SLS but all the cohort participants contributed)
- Accessibility Questionnaire



## Accessibility and SLS

covers what SUNY Library Services is doing to address accessibility both internally and for SUNY

[Home](#)[Accessibility Statement](#)[Best Practices for Web Design](#)[Best Practices for Zoom](#)[Training](#)[SUNY Presentations / Best Practices](#)[Library Procurement Accessibility Toolkit](#)[Library Involvement in Campus EIT](#)[Assessing EIT Priority](#)[Determining Compliance Requirements](#)[Retrieving the VPAT®](#)[Reviewing the VPAT®](#)[VPAT® Unavailable Email Templates](#)[Minimal, etc., VPAT® Email Templates](#)[Dealing with Non-Compliant Resources](#)[Managing Compliance Documentation](#)[Vendor Management](#)[Campus Communication](#)[SUNY EIT Standards](#)

### Best Practices for Campus EIT Committees

Many libraries may be asking, "How can the library become more integrated into campus EIT?" Here are the first steps to figuring out what's required by your campus:

The June 20, 2019, [SUNY Board of Trustees Resolution on Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility](#) required all SUNY campuses to designate an EIT Accessibility Officer and develop an EIT Accessibility Plan. The EIT Accessibility Officer and the EIT Accessibility Plan should include the library. Many campuses have developed EIT Accessibility Committees or Advisory Boards, often involving staff from a variety of areas.

If you haven't been involved in the creation of your campus's EIT Accessibility plan, asking for a copy is a good first step. And, making contact with the campus EIT Accessibility Officer is important.

See the [SUNY Libraries Accessibility Guidelines Implementation Guidance](#) document in [SUNY Blue](#), which lays out the areas in which Libraries should be planning to coordinate accessibility efforts.

The E-Resources Librarian or Library Director will also want to inquire about what reviewing and testing guidelines are coming up for procurement purposes. In reaching out to the EIT committee or procurement staff, the Library Contact should ask:

- How is Priority or Impact Level being determined, and what reviews will be required and when?
- What is the short term plan for gathering accessibility conformance documentation
- What resources does the library subscribe to that hasn't been recently reviewed as part of the SUNY Third Party Vendor Repository?

#### Does the Library Need Its Own Accessibility Plan?

Many SUNY libraries have created their own library accessibility plan, as this allows the library to document its efforts, which may involve several different areas. A few library plans are below as examples. Alternatively, the library's plan could be integrated into the overall EIT Accessibility Plan for the campus; depending on how large and complex your campus's plan is, it may or may not be necessary for the library to create its own library plan. What's most important is that your library plan represents all of the library's efforts and plans involving accessibility, and that the library's plan is aligned with your campus's overall EIT Accessibility plan.





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Standards](#)[Procurement](#)[Library: Services & Digital Content](#)[Library: Spaces](#)[Creating an Accessibility Plan](#)[Accessibility Policy Questionnaire](#)[SUNY Library Accessibility Interest  
Group](#)[Third-Party Vendor Repository](#)

### Services & Digital Content

From EIT Library Accessibility Guidelines (LAG)

#### Library Services:

- Establish policies and procedures for making library materials accessible in a variety of formats (e.g., requests for accommodation, alternative format, OCR scans) (*Required*)
  - Review current library policies and/or check with Disability Resource Center for existing policies
  - Ensure there is a written description of library-specific policies for special privileges (e.g., virtual services, extended loan periods)
  - Outline procedures for requesting accommodation (e.g., alternate formats)
  - Publish all policies online
- Designate a liaison or contact within the library to provide EIT support (*Required*)
- Provide instructions, documentation, and handouts available in an accessible digital format upon request (*Required*)
  - To ease the processing of requests, libraries may want to maintain a repository of library materials such as instructions, documentation, or maps, so they may be easily distributed upon request
  - Refer to Digitizing Content for information on creating accessible documents
- Provide access, resource, and service information on a library accessibility webpage (*Required*)

Examples:

  - [Syracuse University Libraries](#)
  - [Temple University Libraries](#)
  - [Penfield Library at SUNY Oswego](#)
- Provide training to all library staff on available assistive technology and EIT best practices (*Strongly recommended*)

The following sites provide free or low-cost training

  - [Project ENABLE](#)

# Legal Update

## April 2023 CUNY John Jay

### [U.S. Attorney Announces Agreement With The City University Of New York To Remedy The Exclusion Of A Student With Visual Impairments](#)

- failed to make usable versions of required textbooks and other course materials available to the student by the start of courses
- instructors required students to use WebAssign, a third-party online learning product, to complete assignments

## 2022 Jury Trial following judgement against LACCD in 2019

### [Jury sides with Blind Students against LA Community College District](#)

- Course learning materials, web based learning platforms **and library materials** (among other resources cited)
- Student tried in vain to convince the LACCD to give them the accessible tools and content they needed to succeed District had wanted to take this to the supreme court, but backed down following protests

### [Legal Updates List from U Minnesota](#)

# Legal Update, continued

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities [Fact Sheet](#)

- All web and mobile apps would need to comply
- Linked Third Party content included
- Public schools' password-protected course content

Some exceptions are proposed but this will challenge our current infrastructure

No matter the exceptions, the trajectory is clear.

# Communications and Issues

- Duplication of effort when faculty don't comply and integrate accessible formats
- Documentation of issues and training (Accommodate pilot)
- Role of the Library in supporting accessible content and alternative formats
  - ILL –intentional scanning practices (more detail next slide)
- More training at the top so that those references resonate in context
  - When you talk about or hear someone talking about accessibility, do you feel confident?
  - When you are in planning meetings for new programs and resources (or cutting) are you staying aware of how it might impact accessibility efforts?
- More discussion and referencing the equity issues
  - Accessibility as integral to DEI efforts

# Where is EIT now?

- Though the EIT policy is in effect, it is applied unevenly across institutions
  - Work is often distributed, but perhaps not in an organized or efficient way
- Alma Integrated ILL has strong EIT potential (shifting from Illiad)
  - began in 2021 with Tim Jackson from OLIS facilitating this
  - 22/64 campuses currently working on this
  - Mostly comprehensive and community colleges
  - Lending side is 99% digital straight from vendors
  - There is small % that is hand scanning (items before 2015ish)
- Update from first set of EIT Reports and how that is being revised going forward
- Website content analysis

# EIT Libraries Sub Committee Needs/Representation

- Need additional training for both librarians and staff on both the technical aspects of accessibility & the softer skills of inclusive patron services
  - Deque University Modules
  - Explore options for system-wide professional development & training
  - Support some flexible time for freely available professional development
- Need to consider accessibility earlier in decision making
- Need for more dedicated resources in terms of both employee time and budget
  - Remediation
  - Professional development
  - Equipment/software

# Next Steps

- As the cohort reorganizes to a sub-committee, we are seeking representatives from your institutions to join us
- Initial goals include
  - Building representation from a broad group of SUNY campuses
  - Reviewing and updating the SUNY EIT Library Accessibility Guidelines as needed
  - Assess what is working well currently and where there are existing challenges

## For more information:

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- Rebecca Oling (Associate Librarian and Director of Digital Accessibility, SUNY Purchase) [rebecca.oling@purchase.edu](mailto:rebecca.oling@purchase.edu)
- [Accessibility and SLS LibGuide](#)



# Sub Committee List

New Paltz: Colleen Lougen

Cortland: Jennifer Parker

Buffalo State: Christopher Hulsman

Oswego: Morgan Bond, Laura Harris

Maritime: Lauren Bradley

HVCC: Sierra Pasquale

UBuffalo: Karlen Chase

StonyBrook: Caterina Reed

Geneseo: Leah Root

Broome: Noah Roth