



Innovations in Accessible Scholarly Communication

November 2021

Munin Conference on Scholarly Publishing

Stephanie Rosen

Accessibility Strategist and Librarian for Disability Studies

University of Michigan Library

Hi 🤝

I'm Stephanie

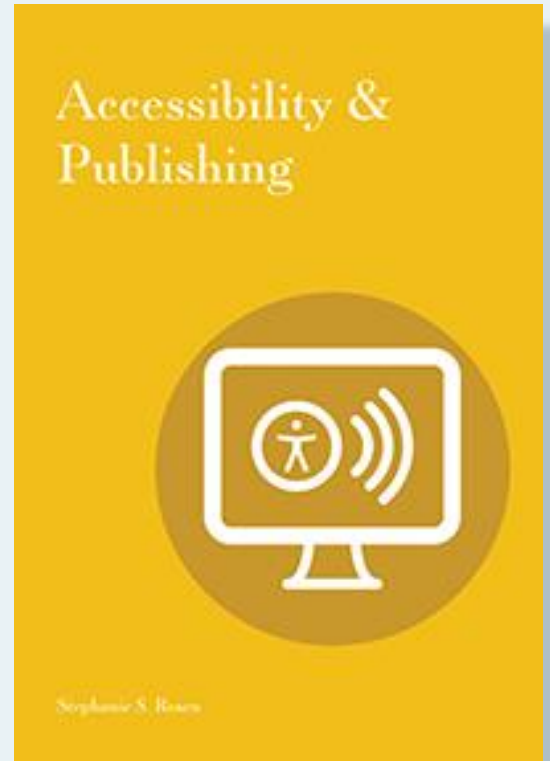
Rosen

(she/her or they/them)



Accessibility & Publishing (Rosen 2018)

doi.org/10.3998/mpub.10212548



What is accessibility?

Open Access

- **Free, immediate, unrestricted, online** availability of research
- Promise that **anyone can use** results
- More **equitable knowledge ecosystem**

Accessibility

Ensures digital content is barrier free through design standards

- **Universal** formats
- Easy to **perceive**
- Easy to **operate**
- Easy to **understand**

W3C, "[Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) Overview](#)"

Kin + Carta, "[\[Plain Language\] Accessibility Guidelines Summary](#)"

Innovation

- Workflows for **born-accessible** scholarly communications
- **Accessible practices** for authors, editors, publishers, and all actors in this ecosystem
- Format convergence in **EPUB 3+**
 - DAISY - book formats for readers with print disabilities
 - W3C - digital accessibility for the web, across all disabilities and tech

What are current best practices?

Production

- Workflows for **born-accessible** scholarly communications
- Aim to **meet accessibility standards**
 - [EPUB Accessibility Standards](#)
 - [EPUB Accessibility Guidelines](#)
 - [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines](#)
- Regularly **assess** and adjust

George Kerscher, "[Do you have a broken link in your accessibility chain?](#)"

Production - Guidance

- [Inclusive Publishing website](#)
- [BISG Quick Start Guide to Accessible Publishing](#)
- [Accessible Publishing Best Practice Guidelines for Publishers](#)
- [Benetech Global Certified Accessible](#)

Production - Case studies

- SAGE Publishing, [“The secrets of failing better”](#)
- U Texas at Arlington, [Accessibility practices in OER workflows](#)

Editorial & Authors

- Authoring **accessible content**
- **Text alternatives** for visual content
- Accessible **audio-visual media**

Editorial & Authors - Guidance & Cases

- [Describing Visual Resources Toolkit](#)
- [DIAGRAM Center Image Description Guidelines](#)
- [Described and Captioned Media Program](#)
- [“Beyond the mandates: The far-reaching benefits of multimedia accessibility”](#)
- [Taylor & Francis Group - ABC International Excellence Award](#)

What's next?

Looking forward

- Accessibility metadata (metadata about accessibility)
- Accessible data (accessible formats for various types of data)
- Work processes