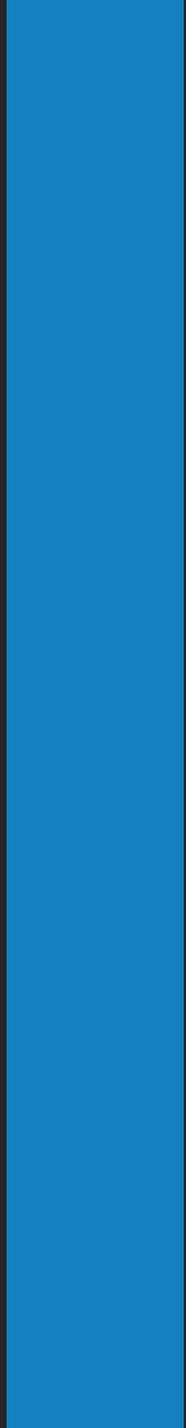




Ally Roadmap & Vision

May 2023



Forward-Looking Statement

Statements regarding our product development initiatives, including new products and future product upgrades, updates or enhancements represent our current intentions, but may be modified, delayed or abandoned without prior notice and there is no assurance that such offering, upgrades, updates or functionality will become available unless and until they have been made generally available to our customers.

The Vision

Accessibility and Universal Design



Supporting diverse 21st century learners by unlocking
the power of flexibility and choice

Recent Progress

Previous Releases - Highlights

2023

Ally for LMS

- Learn Ultra Alternative Formats Progress Tracking
- Course configuration messaging improvements
- LibreOffice updates
- Translated version now supports up to 60.000 characters

Ally for Web

- Ally for Web Scanning On Demand for individual domains from the Accessibility report

Ally for Web Community Manager

- Scanning sections on demand directly from the institutional report

NOW

Scanning On-Demand

Ally for Websites, Web Community Manager

- Provide greater flexibility when tracking and fixing content issues
- Scan in between the normally scheduled scans to pick up on recent updates

The screenshot displays the 'Scan in progress' status for a domain. At the top right, there are buttons for 'Crawling domain' and 'Export domain'. The main section features a progress indicator and a 'Cancel scan' button. Below this, the 'My Page' section for 'mysite.com/myypage' shows the last successful crawl on 2/18/23 at 1:27 PM. At the bottom, three summary cards are shown: 'Total files' with a value of 0, 'Total pages' with a value of 1, and 'Overall accessibility score' at 92.3%.

AVAILABLE NOW

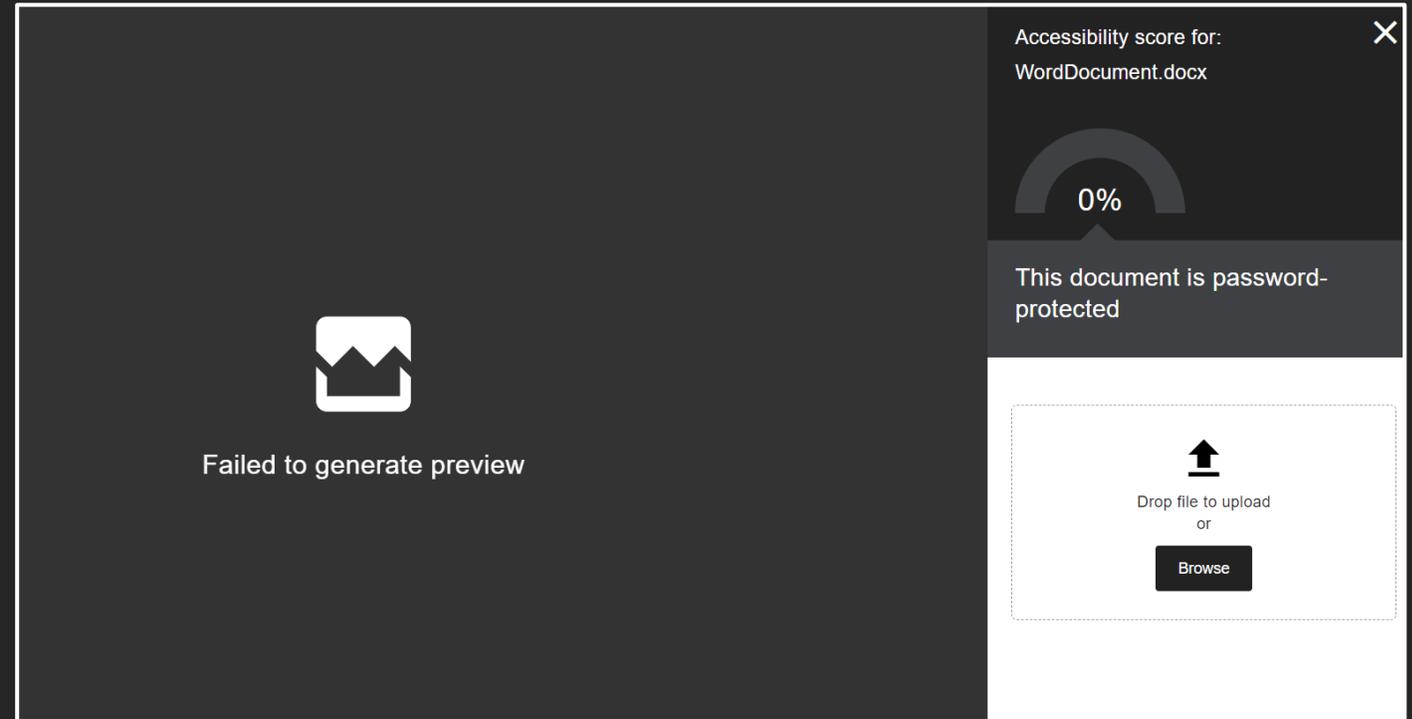
NOW

Password Protected Office and LibreOffice Docs

Ally for LMS

- Ally currently flags and scores password-protected PDF documents with a 0% score.
- This expands this check to include password-protected Microsoft and Libre Office documents and will flag and score those files with a 0% score.

*This would be a go-forward change affecting the score ONLY for new content (since the moment of the release).



AVAILABLE NOW

NOW*

Expanding LMS Guidance Flows

Ally for LMS

- Replace “Guidance not yet available” for HTML file content
 - Text with insufficient contrast
 - Indiscernible link text

The screenshot displays the Ally LMS interface. The main content area shows a document titled "History of Music" with a highlighted section of text: "1 / 1 Most cultures have their own mythical origins concerning the invention of music, generally rooted in their respective mythological, religious or philosophical beliefs." A red dashed box highlights this text, and a red box with the number "12" indicates the issue type: "Text fragments with insufficient contrast".

The sidebar on the right provides guidance for this issue:

- Types of contrast issues**
- Avoid specific color combinations**
- Certain colors can be hard to distinguish for people with color blindness. Using these colors by themselves is typically fine, but becomes problematic when used in combination with other colors or to convey meaning.
- Use a tool such as [the Paciello Group Contrast Analyzer](#) to verify.
- Regular vision:**
- Causes of deforestation in the Amazon, 2000 - 2005**
- Cattle ranches: 60%
- Small-scale agriculture: 33%
- Commercial agriculture: 7%
- Seen by someone with red-green color blindness:

At the bottom of the sidebar, there is a visual representation of the text as it would appear to someone with red-green color blindness, showing the colors of the bar chart as shades of green and yellow.

AVAILABLE NOW

What's Next?

How do we build the roadmap?

Ally Product Vision



User Feedback

- Idea Exchange 
- Design Focus Groups
- Ally User Group
- Anthology User Group
- Support Tickets
- Product Usage
- (NEW) Surveys



Market Research

- Industry Trends
- Best Practices
- Universal Design for Learning
- Data Intelligence
- Associations & Conferences



Regulatory & Legal

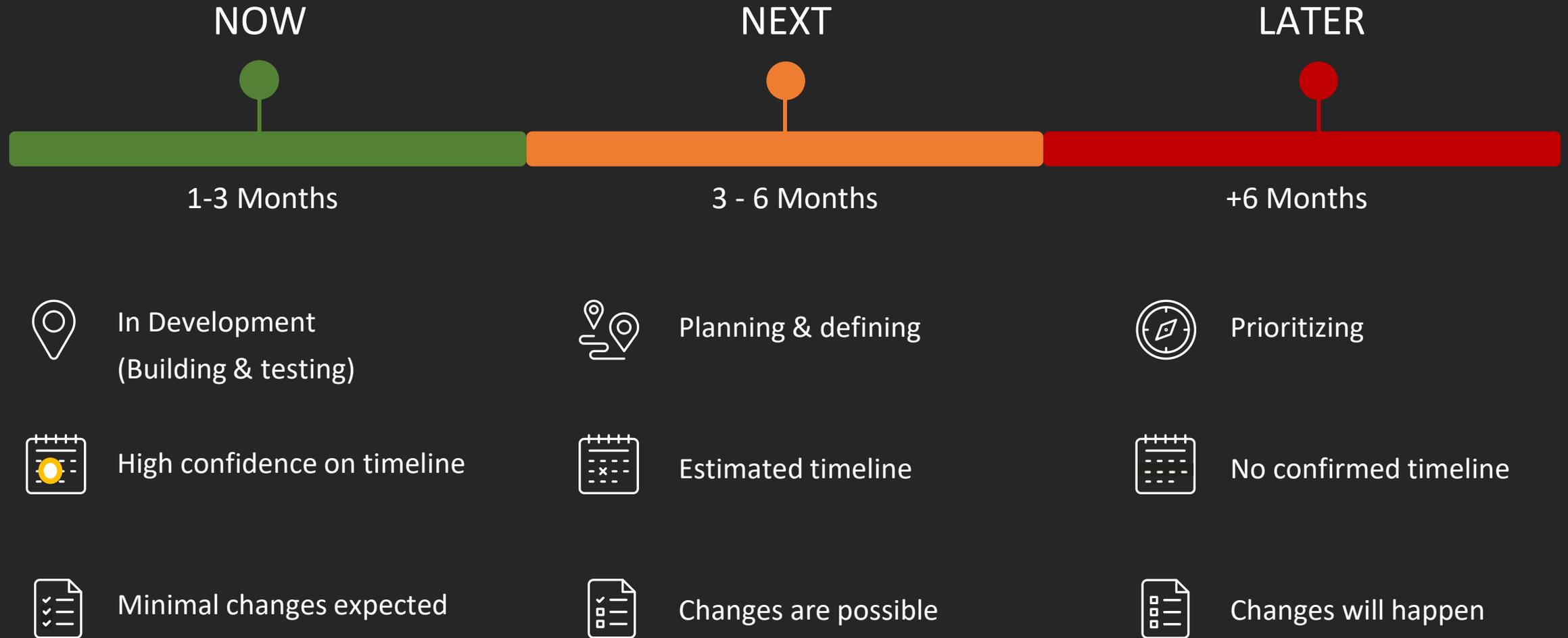
- Data Privacy & Protection
- Security
- Accessibility



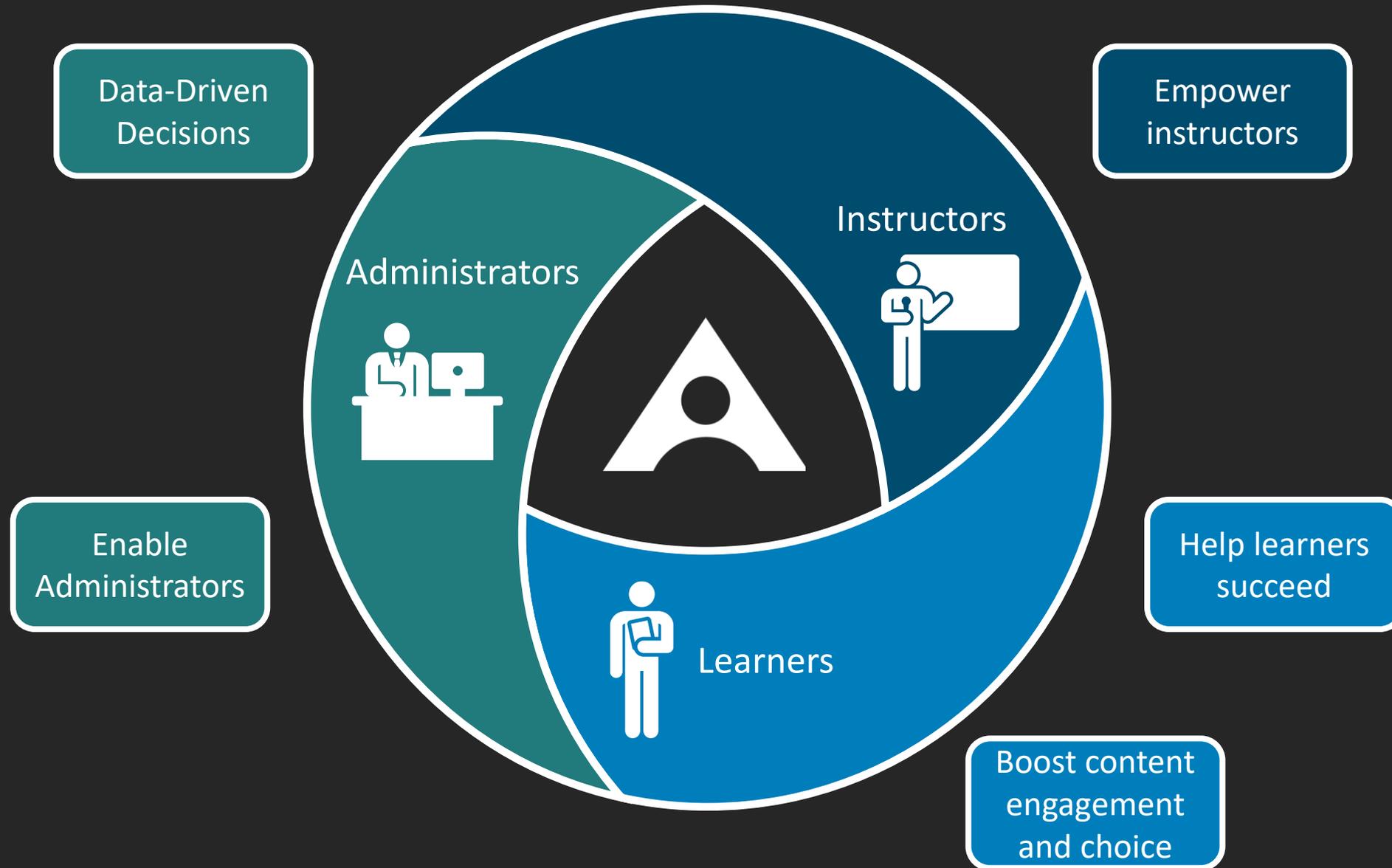
Business Alignment

- Alignment with Anthology's vision
- Cost, risk, & difficulty
- Client Impact

How do we think about the roadmap?



2023 Development Themes



Empower Instructors

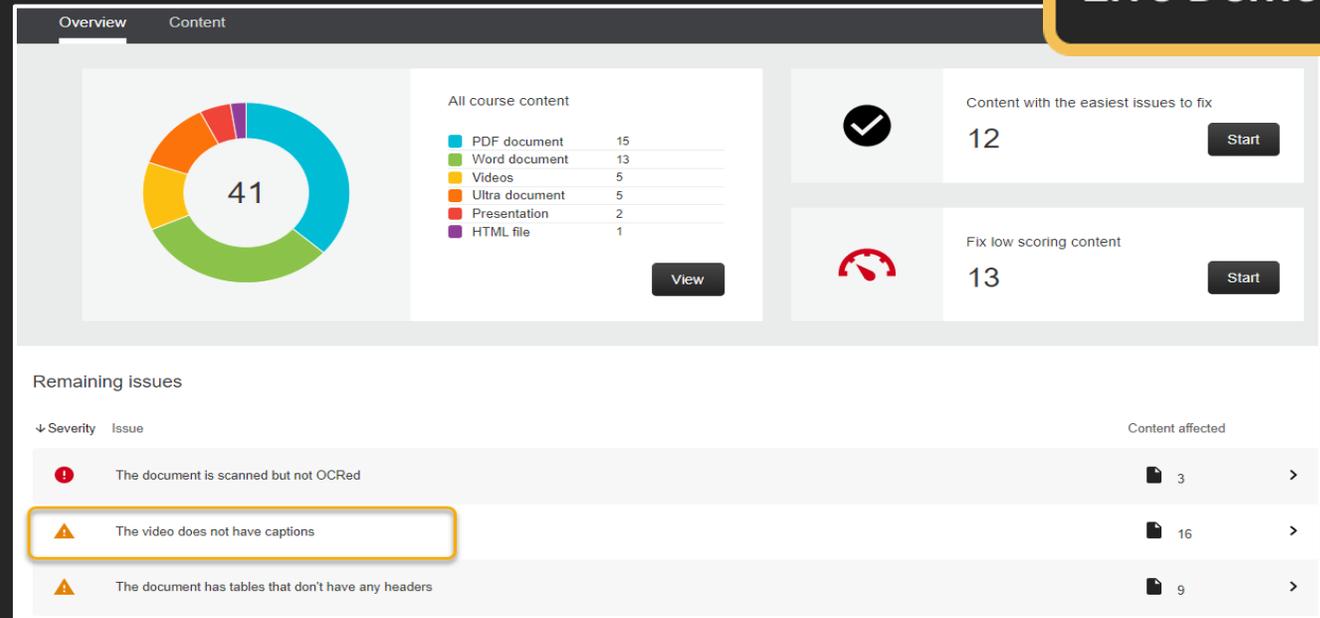
1-3 MONTHS

Expanding Video Caption Checks

Ally for LMS

- Expand to more video providers (depending on API availability):
 - Vimeo: Currently in development
 - Kaltura: Currently in research
- Support embedded video content uploaded directly in LMS (not links) where available
 - Canvas: Currently in development (waiting on Canvas endpoint)
 - HTML5: Currently in development

Live Demo



IN DEVELOPMENT



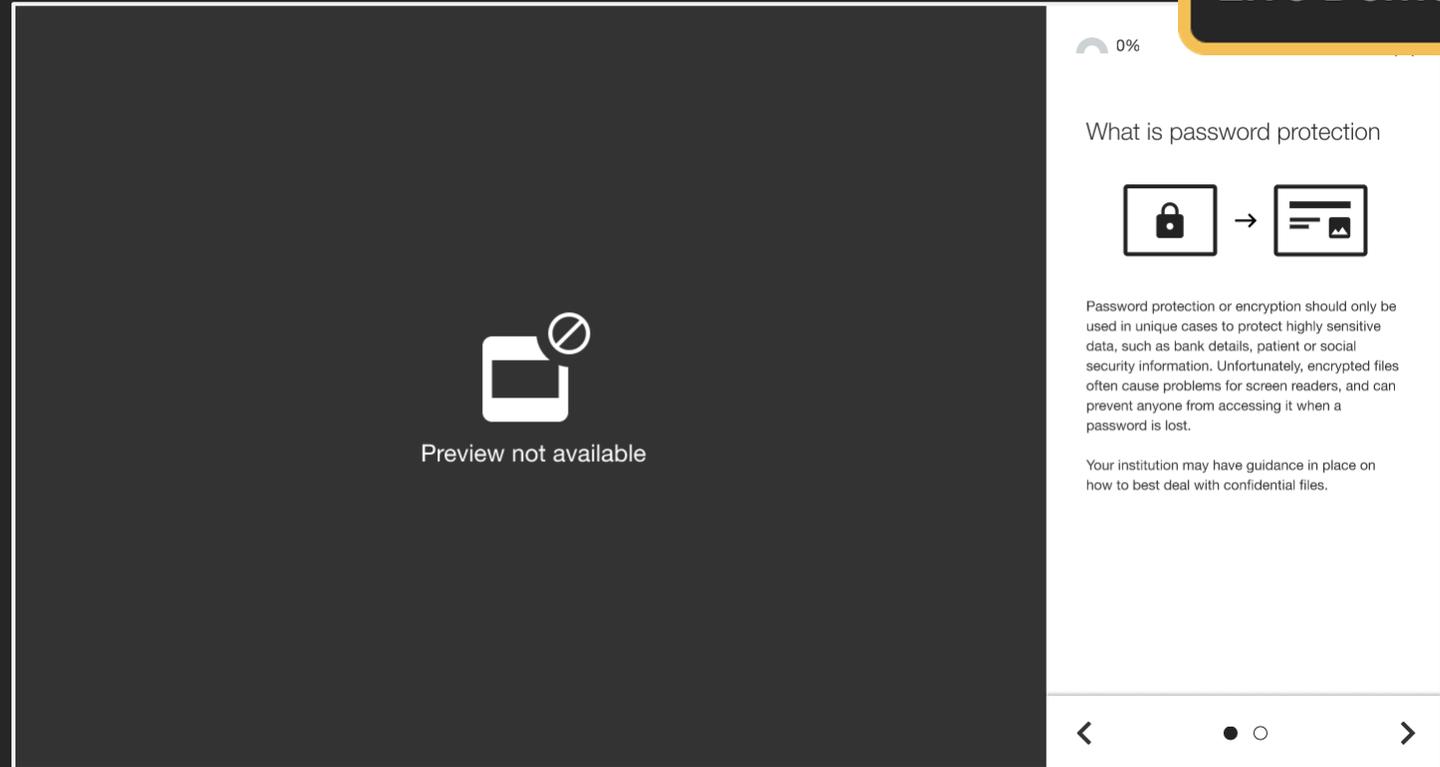
1-3 MONTHS

Expanding LMS Guidance Flows

Ally for LMS

- Replace “Guidance not yet available” for HTML file content
 - Illogical Heading order
 - Video without captions
- Other LMS Guidance Flows
 - Password protected files

Live Demo



IN DEVELOPMENT

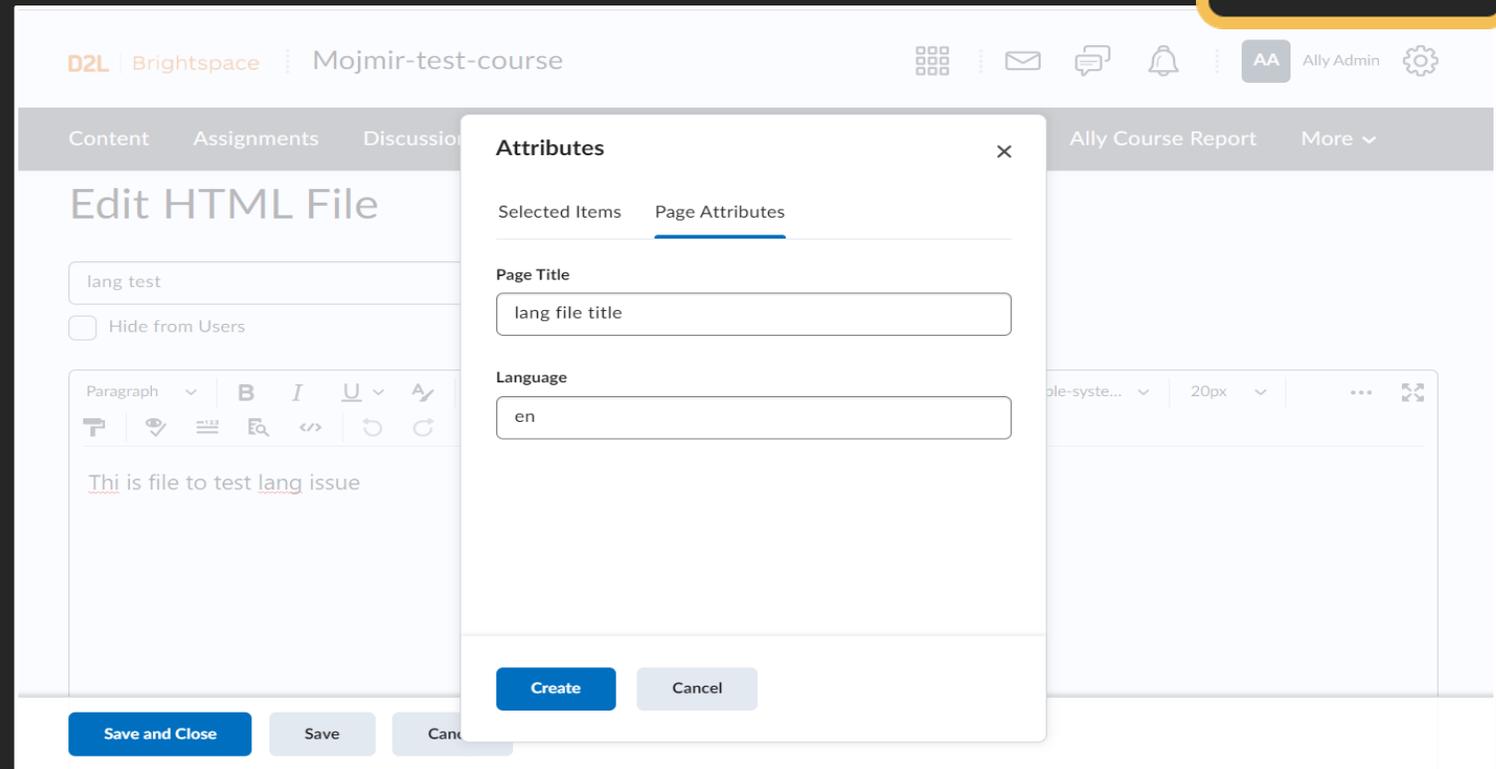
1-3 MONTHS

D2L WYSIWYG Content Guidance

Ally for LMS

- Align Ally WYSIWYG guidance with the current D2L Brightspace content structure
- Treat any Brightspace HTML content (uploaded or created) as WYSIWYG content with the Ally feedback indicator and Guidance Flows available to the instructor

Live Demo



IN DEVELOPMENT

3-6 MONTHS

Broken Link Checking

Ally for LMS

- Apply Ally's accessibility check to determine which links within WYSIWYG content or HTML files are broken
- Provide feedback and guidance when the content linked is moved or removed

Indian classical music

During the ancient and medieval periods, the [classical music](#) of the [Indian subcontinent](#) was a largely unified practice. By the 14th century, socio-political turmoil inaugurated by the [Durr Sultanate](#) began to isolate Northern and Southern India, and independent traditions in each region began emerging. By the 16th-century two distinct styles had formed: the [Hindustani classical music](#) of the North and the [Carnatic classical music](#) of the South.[154] One of the major differences between them is that the Northern Hindustani vein was considerably influenced by the Persian and Arab musical practices of the time.[155] Carnatic music is largely devotional; the majority of the songs are addressed to the Hindu deities.

Indian classical music ([marga](#)) is monophonic and based on a single melody line or [raga](#) rhythmically organized through [talas](#).

IndianClassicMusic.jpg

How to fix broken links

1. Open the editable HTML file using an HTML editor
2. There are **5 links** on this item that **are broken**. Use the preview on the left to help locate them on the page.
3. Some LMSs provide multiple ways to update links. Often, you'll have to edit in the **HTML or Source Code**. Locate the link with the issue in the code.

A link element may vary but looks similar to:

```
<a href="https://ally.ac">
  Blackboard Ally
</a>
```

A link is broken when the URL in your code doesn't match the destination.

Types of broken links
4. Once you identified the broken link, double check the correct URL that you want to point to and replace or fix it.
5. Repeat these steps for all links on the page with this issue. **Save** and

PLANNING & DEFINING

HTML Preview

Ally for LMS and Ally for Websites

- Provide a preview within the feedback panel for specific accessibility issues

List of Authors to Choose From

Here is a list of authors to choose from for your two written assignments. If you need help with your selection just let me know. I have linked each author to his/her Wikipedia article, which will provide you with good basic information to help you make your choice.* Each student should pick and "claim" a different author. If you love an American author who is not on the list, write me an email and we will negotiate. Once you have selected your author and work(s), post your choices on the [Author Selection](#) discussion board. I will approve your choices there.

Once you have picked your author, select the work or works you would like to study. Please choose something you have not read before. If you are studying a poet, you should select at least three to six (3-6) poems (depending on length). If you are studying a fiction writer, you should study at least one to three (1-3) stories (depending on length) or a novel. If you are studying a playwright, you should study at least one (1) play.

You can get a copy of the work(s) you want to read in several different ways. Many of the older authors' works are online -- just Google and find them. Many of the works can be found at very inexpensive prices in used bookstores or online. If you have trouble finding what you need, write me an email and I'll help.

* I don't recommend using Wikipedia for your research, but it is fine for this basic information link.

1878-1906

[Henry James](#), fiction

[Upton Sinclair](#), fiction

[Willa Cather](#), fiction

[Theodore Dreiser](#), fiction

[Jack London](#), fiction

[Sarah Orne Jewett](#), fiction

[Mary E. Wilkins Freeman](#), fiction

1907-1925

[Sherwood Anderson](#), fiction

[William Carlos Williams](#), poetry

Accessibility score for:
linkNotDiscernable.html



All issues

This HTML file contains links with missing text

What this means

How to fix link text

Upload a version with correct link text



Drop file to upload
or

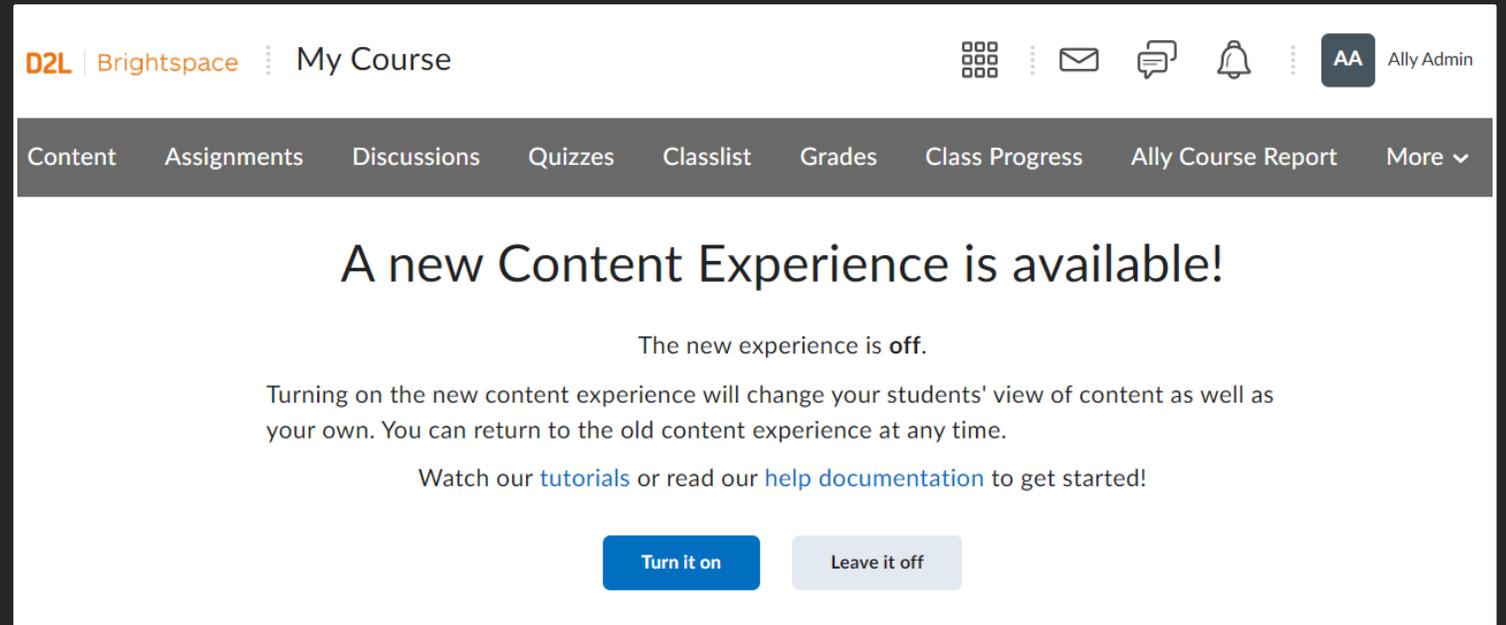
Browse

6+ MONTHS

D2L Content Experiences

Ally for LMS

- Working with D2L to enable Ally in new content experience areas
- Dependent on D2L roadmap for content experience area compatibility



The screenshot shows a D2L Brightspace course interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the D2L logo, the text "Brightspace", and "My Course". On the right side of the navigation bar, there are icons for a grid, an envelope, a speech bubble, a bell, and a user profile labeled "AA Ally Admin". Below the navigation bar is a menu with the following items: Content, Assignments, Discussions, Quizzes, Classlist, Grades, Class Progress, Ally Course Report, and More (with a dropdown arrow). The main content area features a large heading: "A new Content Experience is available!". Below the heading, it states: "The new experience is **off**." and "Turning on the new content experience will change your students' view of content as well as your own. You can return to the old content experience at any time." At the bottom of the notification, there are two buttons: "Turn it on" (in blue) and "Leave it off" (in light blue). A link to "Watch our tutorials" and a link to "read our help documentation" are also present.

PRIORITIZING

6+ MONTHS

HTML Code Preview

Ally for Websites

- Provide a “code view” preview within the feedback panel for specific accessibility issues
- Allows admins, in Ally for Websites, to see where in the code they may need to focus on to solve an issue rather than just the WYSIWYG view

* Potential application in LMS

The screenshot displays the Ally for Websites interface. On the left, a code editor shows HTML code with line numbers 21 through 38. A red box highlights a specific line (line 34) containing a link with a span that has a style attribute setting the color to black. The code is: `<p>Link text is not visible: the text</p>`. On the right, a feedback panel titled "Text fragments with insufficient contrast" shows a 43% contrast level. Below the title, it explains the issue: "Avoid specific color combinations" and "Certain colors can be hard to distinguish for people with color blindness...". It also provides a link to "the Paciello Group Contrast Analyzer" and a "Regular vision:" section with a bar chart titled "Causes of deforestation in the Amazon, 2000 - 2005" showing 60% for Cattle ranches, 33% for Small-scale agriculture, and 7% for Commercial agriculture. At the bottom of the panel, it says "Seen by someone with red-green color blindness:".

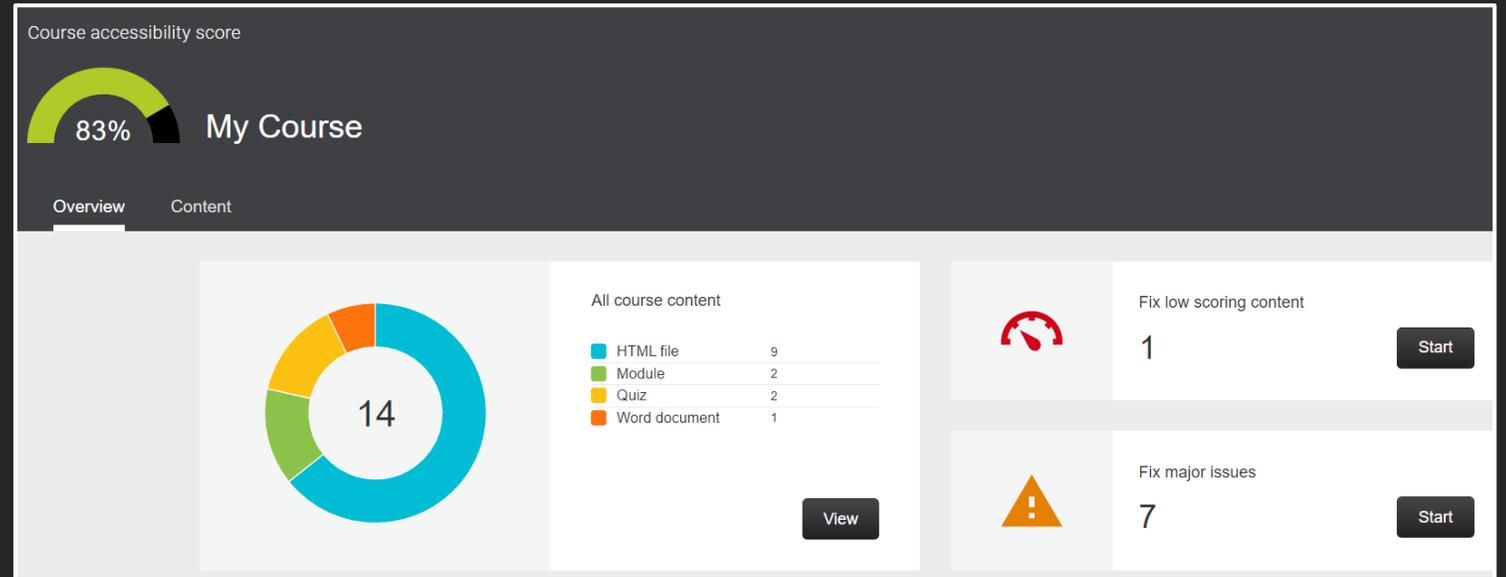
PRIORITIZING

6+ MONTHS

Course Accessibility Report improvements

Ally for LMS

- Easier to use breakdown of files vs. WYSIWYG content issues
- More streamlined information and grouping to make it easier to find specific areas of focus
- Potential exporting options



PRIORITIZING



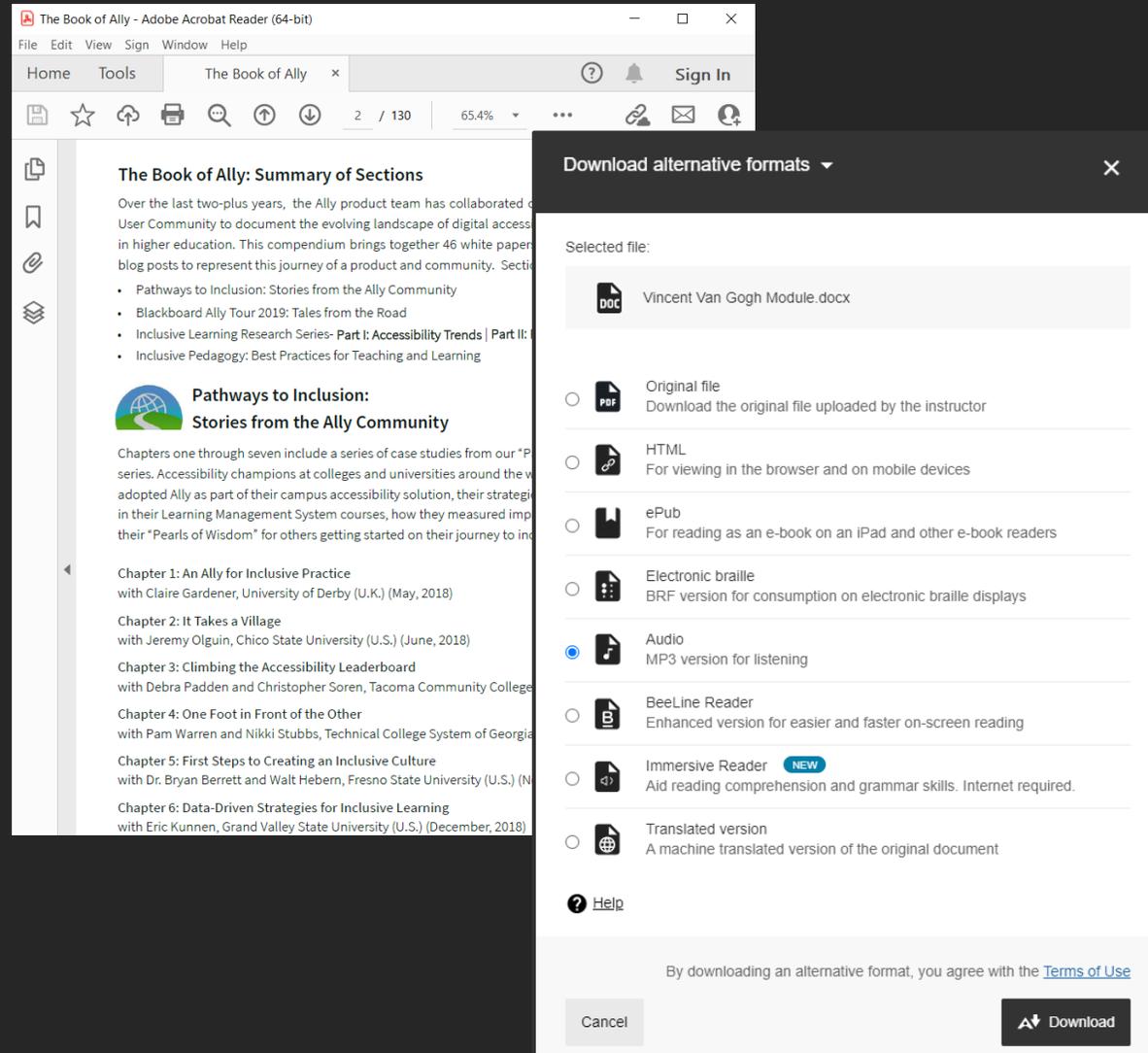
Help Learners Succeed
Boosting Engagement and Choice

1-3 Months

Breaking the Character Limit Audio Format

Ally for LMS, Websites and WCM

- Support books, and files with considerable amount of text and move past our historical file character limits that prevent alternative format generation in some cases.



IN DEVELOPMENT



3-6 MONTHS

Original File as an Alternative Format

Ally for LMS

- Add the ability to download the original file within the Alternative Formats modal

[Sign up](#) to take part in research around 'Download original file'

PLANNING & DEFINING

Download alternative formats

Selected file:

Syllabus_Chemistry.docx

HTML
For viewing in the browser and on mobile devices

ePub
For reading as an e-book on an iPad and other e-book readers

Electronic braille
BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays

Audio
MP3 version for listening

BeeLine Reader
Enhanced version for easier and faster on-screen reading

Immersive Reader NEW
Aid reading comprehension and grammar skills. Internet required.

Translated version
A machine translated version of the original document

Link

By downloading an alternative format, you agree to the [Terms of Use](#)

Back Download

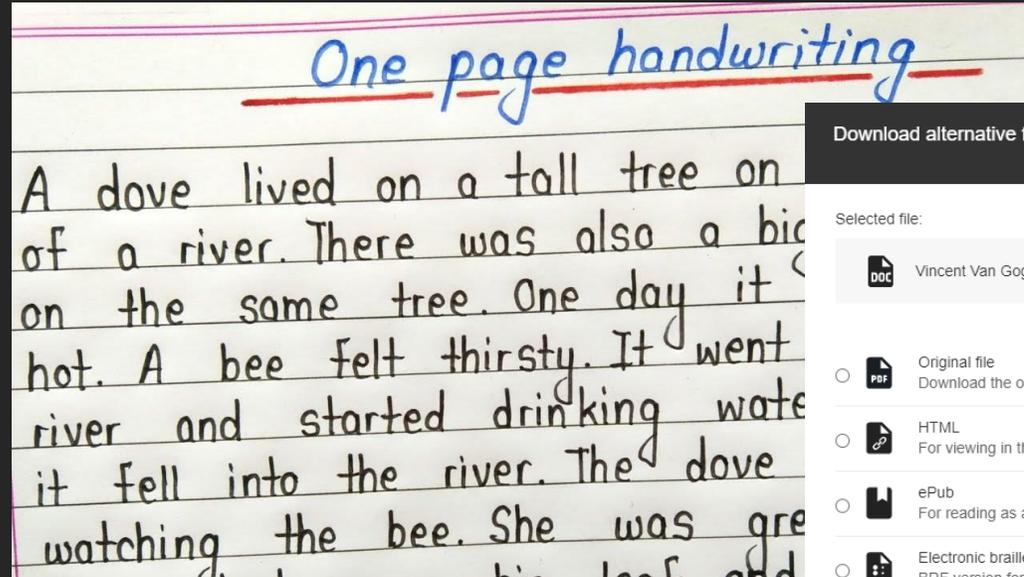


6+ MONTHS

Handwriting Recognition Support

Ally for LMS

- Identify handwritten files through Optical Character Recognition
- Provide better conversion for handwritten files when generating Alternative Formats



✕
Download alternative formats ▾

Selected file:

Vincent Van Gogh Module.docx

- Original file
Download the original file uploaded by the instructor

- HTML
For viewing in the browser and on mobile devices

- ePub
For reading as an e-book on an iPad and other e-book readers

- Electronic braille
BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays

- Audio
MP3 version for listening

- BeeLine Reader
Enhanced version for easier and faster on-screen reading

- Immersive Reader NEW
Aid reading comprehension and grammar skills. Internet required.

- Translated version
A machine translated version of the original document

- [Help](#)

By downloading an alternative format, you agree with the [Terms of Use](#)

Cancel
Download

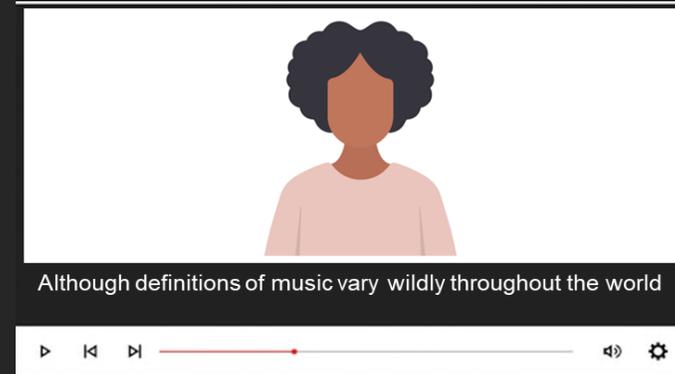
PRIORITIZING

6+ MONTHS

Transcript for Video Content

Ally for LMS

- Generate Transcript for YouTube videos
 - Get transcript for captioned videos
 - Generate transcript without captions



don't have any regrets. Money is not the metric that I use for success. So Consequently, I just 84:05
 enjoyed flying so much and contributing to the defense of the country and to NASA and
 scientific investigations. So it was a good match for me. What are you most proud of?
 Moments of your career going from zero to \$1 million a month as head of sales. During that
 time, I had to figure out how to sell.

I had to recruit a sales team. We did it. These kids that work for me, a lot of them are barely
 out of high school. A lot of them have had criminal records, but we're giving them a chance.
 We're trying to help them turn their life around and turn generations around for the next five
 generations. In your career. What have been some of the things you're most proud of? What
 I'm proud of is I can look around every day and see this global community of people I coach
 and I bring together and how most of them who can get out of their own way are prospering.

To me, that's tremendously valuable because they play a small role in people's success on a 85:04

PRIORITIZING

6+ MONTHS

Alternative Formats for Video Content

Ally for LMS

- Transform video content into other formats
- Leveraging Ally Alternative Formats as a more inclusive way to consume the content
- Potential for new Alternative Format using video transcript

The diagram illustrates the process of converting video content into an alternative format. On the left, a video player shows a person's head and shoulders. Below the video is a progress bar and playback controls. A large white arrow points from the video player to a transcript window on the right. The transcript window, titled 'Transcript.docx', displays the video's content in a dark theme with high contrast. The text is color-coded: 'definitions of music' is purple, 'music' is green, and 'cultures' is pink. A tooltip over the word 'music' shows a musical staff with notes. To the right of the transcript is a settings panel with options for Text Size (set to 42), Increase Spacing (checked), Font (Calibri selected), and Themes (black selected).

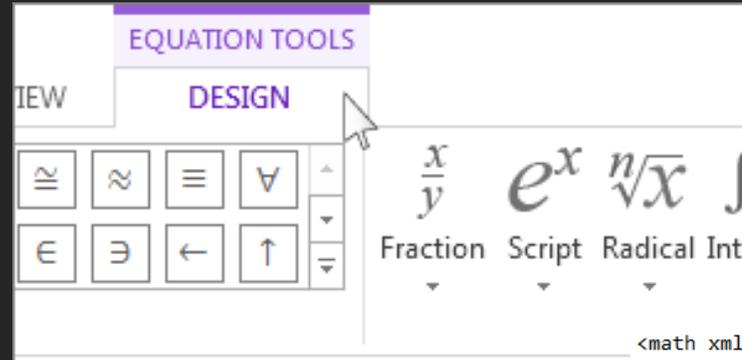
PRIORITIZING

6+ MONTHS

Expanded STEM Support

Ally for LMS

- Better detection and handling of STEM content within documents
 - Starting research with MS Office
- Better conversion of math equations to MathML



```
<math xmlns='http://www.w3.org/1998/Math/MathML'>
  <semantics>
    <mrow>
      <mfrac>
        <mn>1</mn>
        <mn>2</mn>
      </mfrac>
      <mo>=</mo><mfrac>
        <mn>1</mn>
        <mn>4</mn>
      </mfrac>
    </mrow>
    <annotation encoding='MathType-MTEF'>MathType@MTEF@5@5@+=
    feaahqart1ev3aqatCvAUfeBSjuyZL2yd9gzLbvyNv2CaerbuLwBLn
    hiov2DGi1BTfMBaeXatLxBI9gBaerbd9wDYLwzYbItLDharqqqtubsr
    4rNCHbGeaGqiVu0Je9sqqrpepC0xbbL8F4rqqrFfpeea0xe9Lq=Jc9
    vqaqpepm0xbba9pwe9Q8fs0=yqaqpepae9pg0FirpepeKkFr0xfr=x
    fr=xb9adbaqaaeGaciGaaiaabeqaaamaabaabaaGcbaWaaSaaaaaaca
    aIXaaabaGaaG0maaaacqGH9aqpdaWcaaqaiaaigdaaeaaI0aaa
    aaaa@3A0A@
    </annotation>
  </semantics>
</math>
```

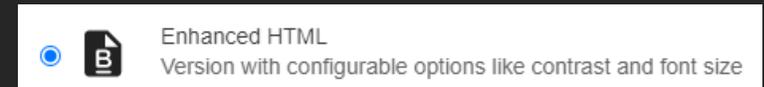
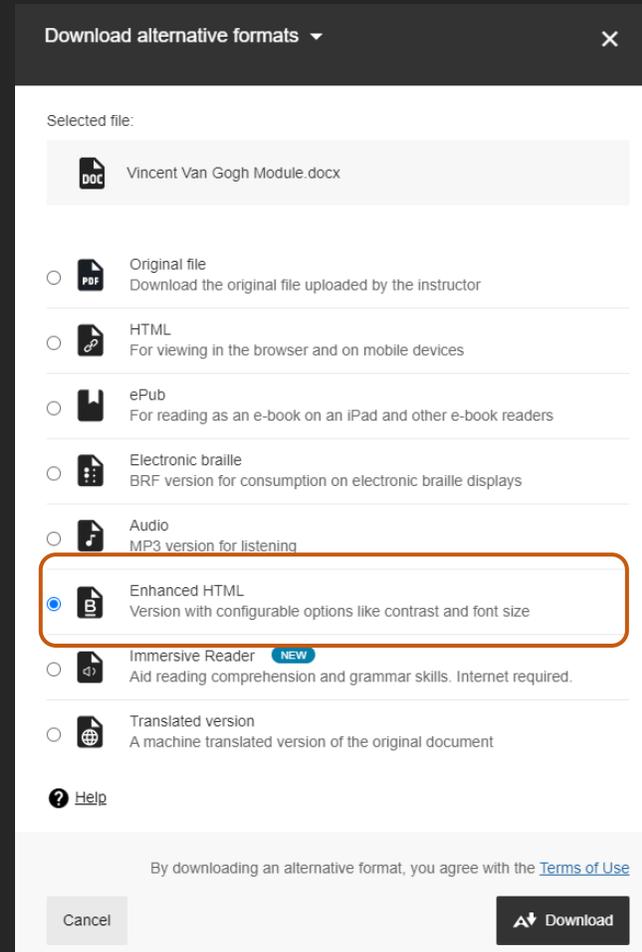
PRIORITIZING

6+ MONTHS

Enhanced HTML Alternative Format

Ally for LMS, for Websites and WCM

- Enhance Ally’s existing HTML Alternative Format with additional features, including potential contrast and font size or font type options



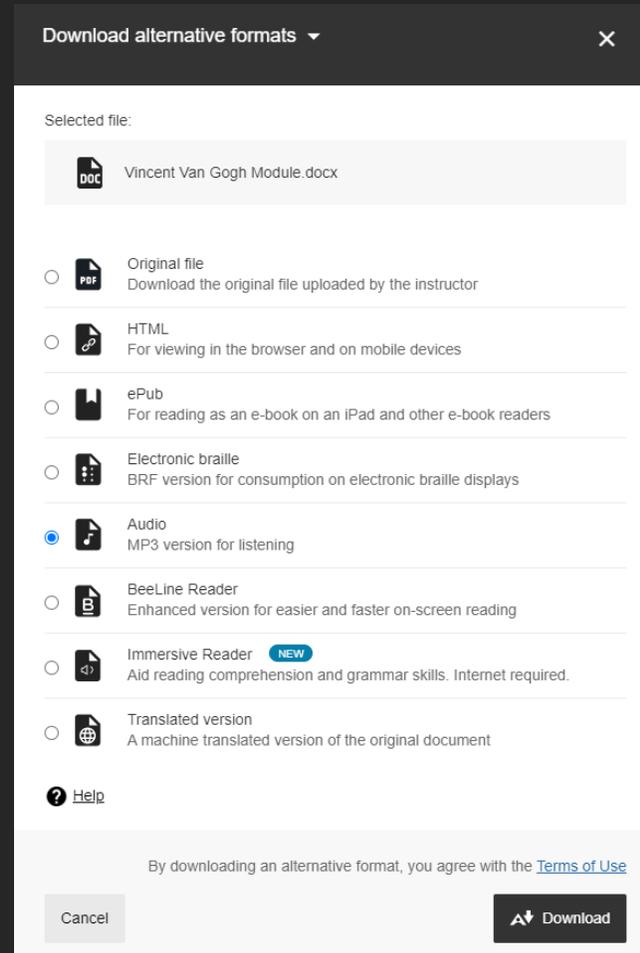
PRIORITIZING

6+ MONTHS

Playlists for Audio

Ally for LMS, Websites and WCM

- Add the ability to break up documents by heading structure, etc. before converting to audio
- Allow for navigation within the audio as a playlist file



History of Ally

-  **Chapter 1**
The beginning
-  **Chapter 2**
Alternative Formats
-  **Chapter 3**
The importance of WYSIWYG
-  **Chapter 4**
The future

PRIORITIZING



Enable Administrators Data-Driven Decisions

1-3 MONTHS

Moodle 4.1 Support

Ally for LMS

- Currently under tests
- Moodle core self-hosted environments targeted to June.
- OpenLMS environments are subject to maintenance windows scheduled for summer 2023.

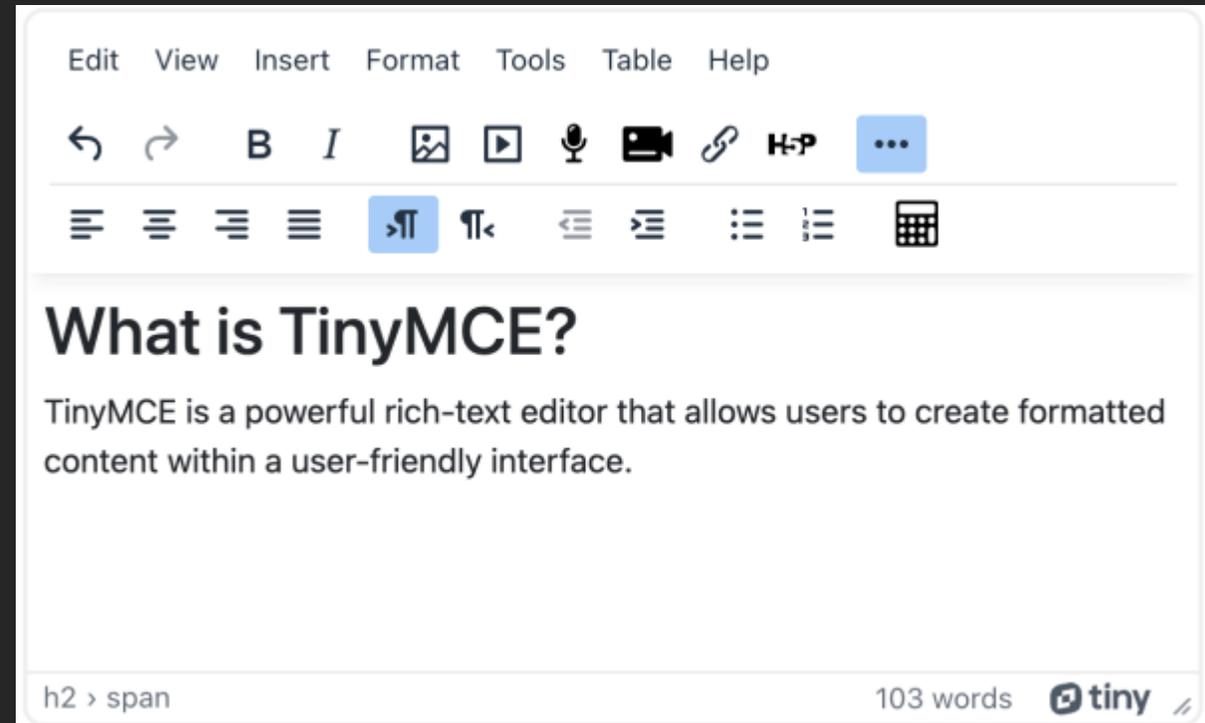
*IN DEVELOPMENT*

1-3 MONTHS

Moodle TinyMCE 6.0 Editor Support

Ally for LMS

- Provide support for the newest TinyMCE editor beginning with Moodle version 4.1.



IN DEVELOPMENT

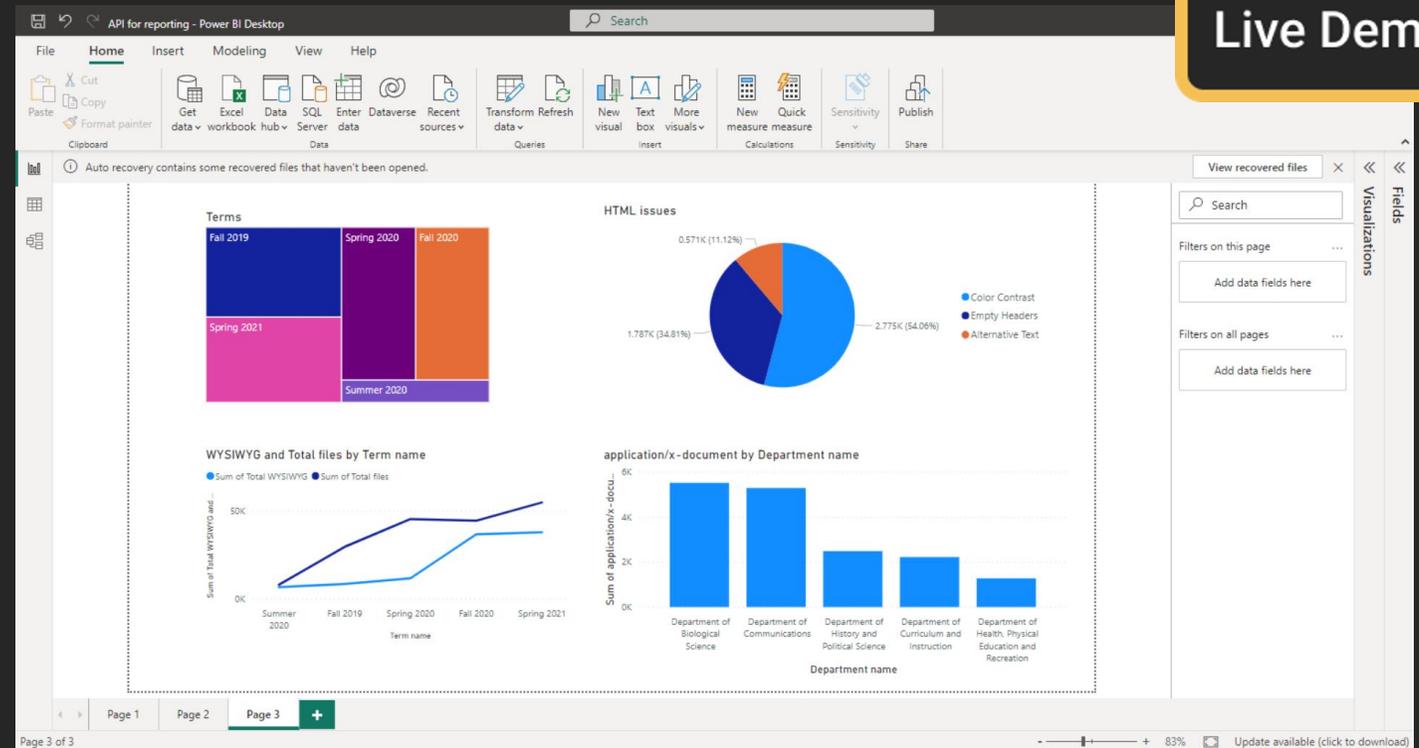
1-3 MONTHS

Facilitate Integration with Reporting Tools

Ally for LMS

- Current API only supports downloading data files (CSV)
- New endpoint to get data in formats supported by reporting tools (e.g JSON files)
- Easy integration with Power BI and other reporting tools

Live Demo



IN DEVELOPMENT

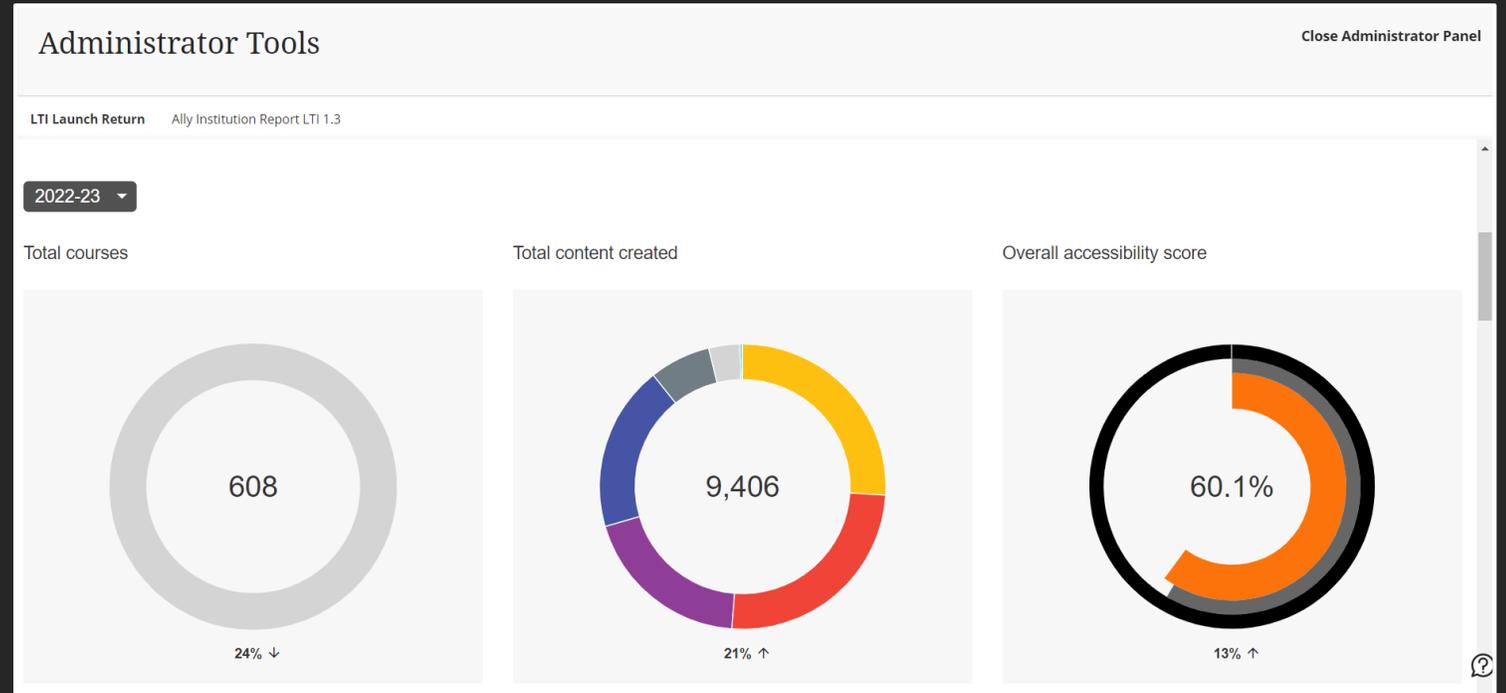


3-6 MONTHS

Institutional Report Improvements

Ally for LMS

- More usable and dynamic options embedded within the institutional report to enable faster navigation, etc.



PLANNING & DEFINING

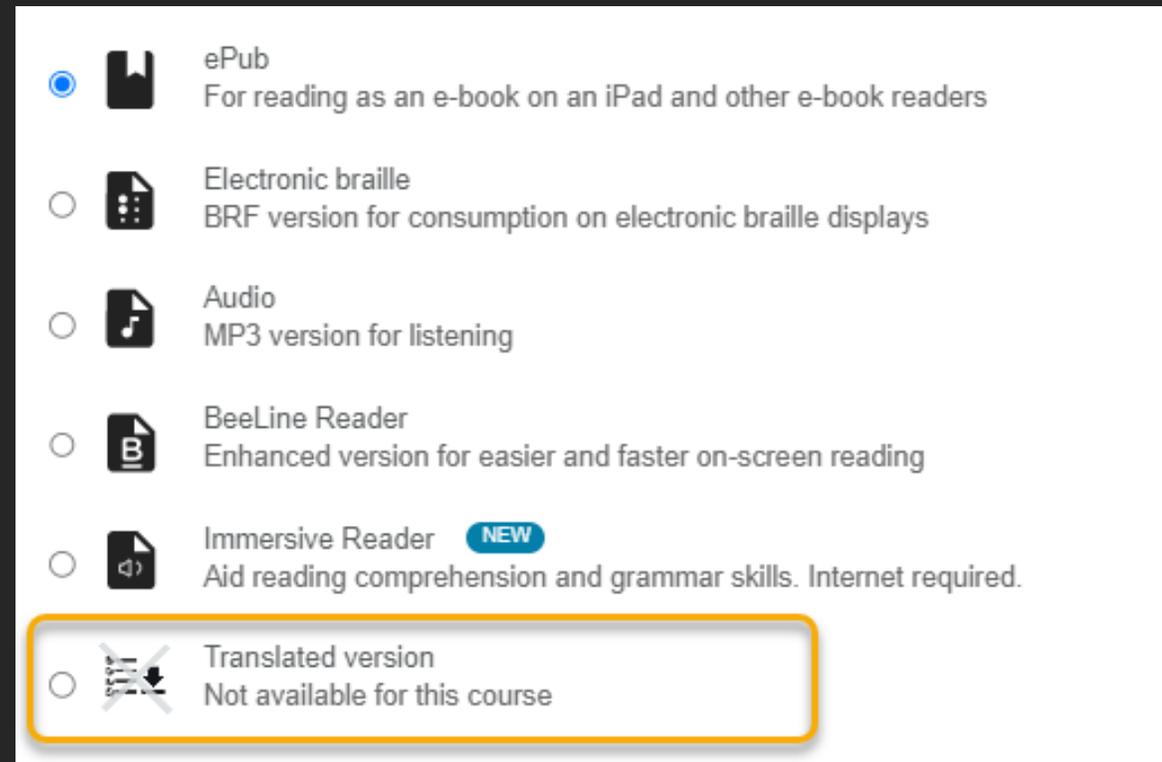


3-6 MONTHS

Course-level Translated Format Configuration

Ally for LMS

- Allow for configuration of the Translated Version Alternative Format at the course level
- Enables institutions to choose to disable the Translated version where needed (i.e., in language courses) while still providing the benefit to students in other course material.



The screenshot displays a list of alternative format options for course-level configuration:

- ePub**
For reading as an e-book on an iPad and other e-book readers
- Electronic braille**
BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays
- Audio**
MP3 version for listening
- BeeLine Reader**
Enhanced version for easier and faster on-screen reading
- Immersive Reader** NEW
Aid reading comprehension and grammar skills. Internet required.
- Translated version**
Not available for this course

PLANNING & DEFINING

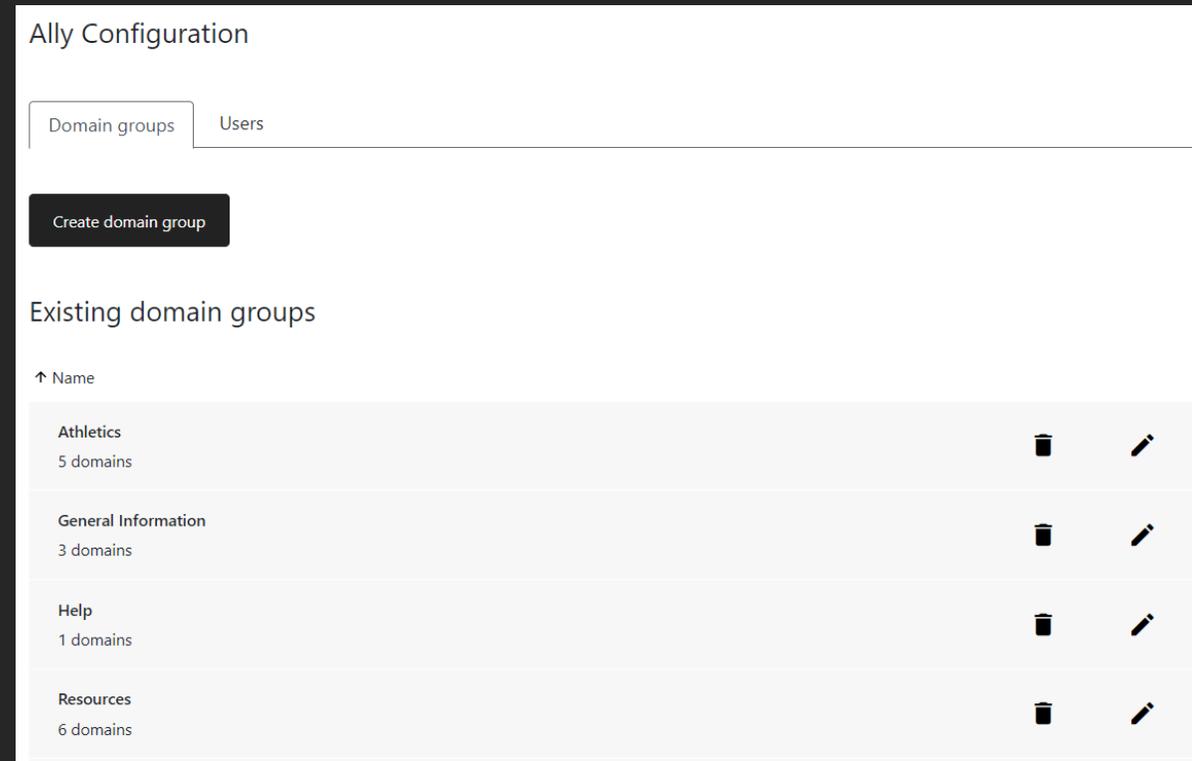


3-6 MONTHS

Domain Configuration

Ally for Websites

- Ability to add and remove domains from the Ally for Web scan configuration without requiring additional help from support teams



The screenshot displays the 'Ally Configuration' interface. At the top, there are two tabs: 'Domain groups' (selected) and 'Users'. Below the tabs is a 'Create domain group' button. The main section is titled 'Existing domain groups' and features a table with a column header 'Name' and an upward-pointing arrow. The table lists four domain groups, each with a trash icon and an edit icon to its right.

↑ Name		
Athletics 5 domains		
General Information 3 domains		
Help 1 domains		
Resources 6 domains		

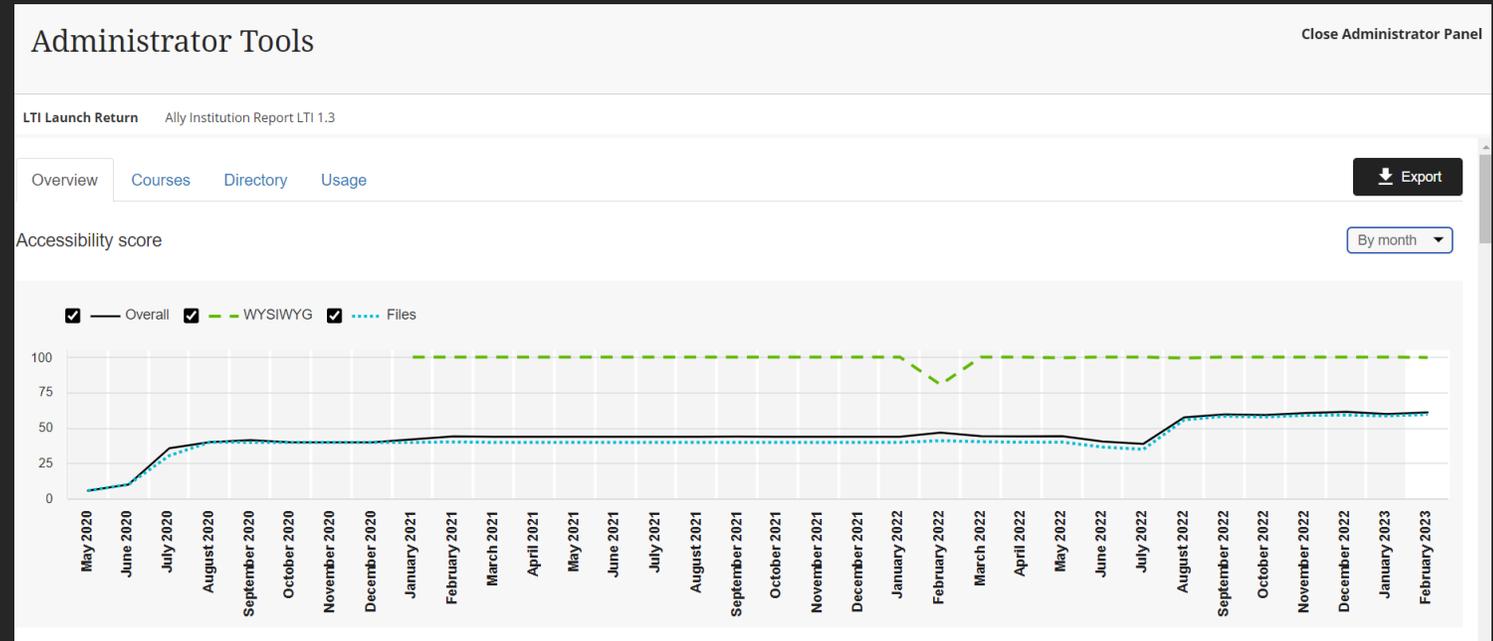
PLANNING & DEFINING



Institutional Report Filtering Ally for LMS

- Consider simple filtering options* to allow for additional engagement within the Overview, Courses and Directory (departmental) reports

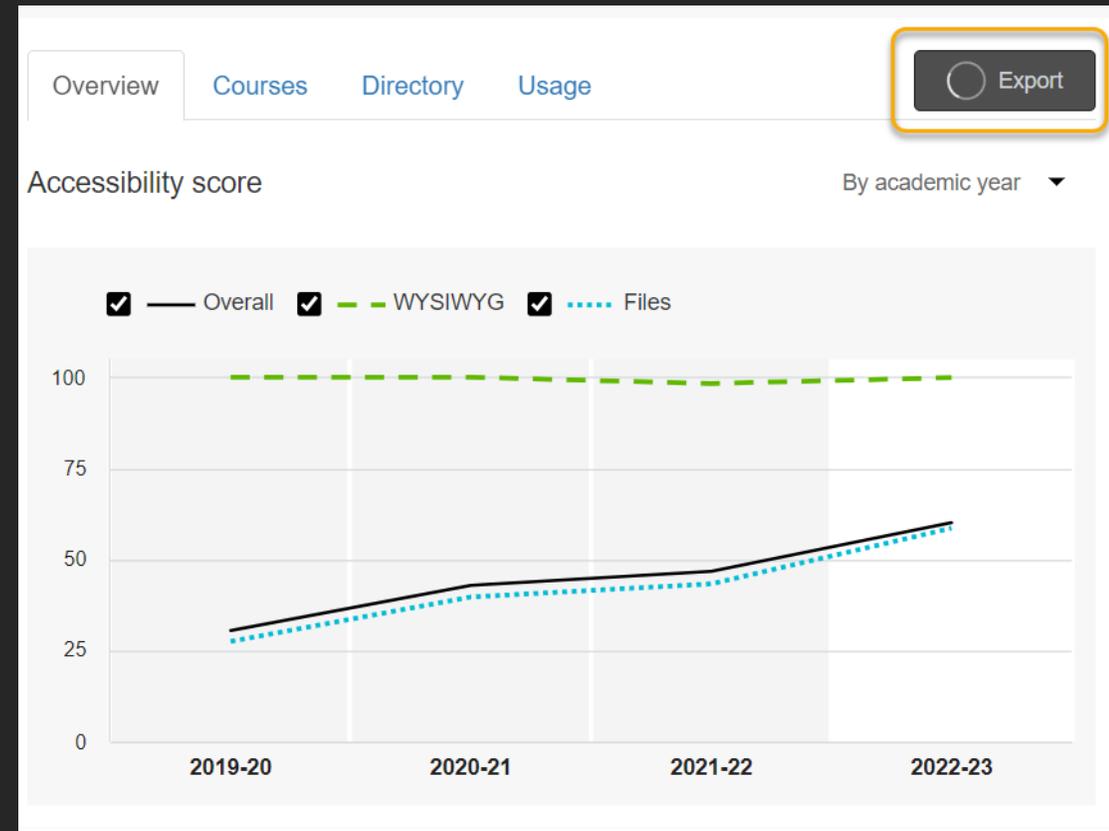
*Depends on what is currently available from the LMS but may include things like file type to start with



6+ MONTHS

Additional Ally for LMS Improvements

- CSV Exporting options: Provide greater control over what gets included in the CSV
- Extend Ally accessibility checks
- Generate video captioning
- Transform the File Transformer



PRIORITIZING



6+ MONTHS

Additional Ally for Web Improvements

- URL Filtering and sorting
- Domain scoring

Ally Configuration

Domain groups Users

Create domain group

Existing domain groups

↑ Name

Athletics 5 domains		
General Information 3 domains		
Help 1 domains		
Resources 6 domains		

PRIORITIZING

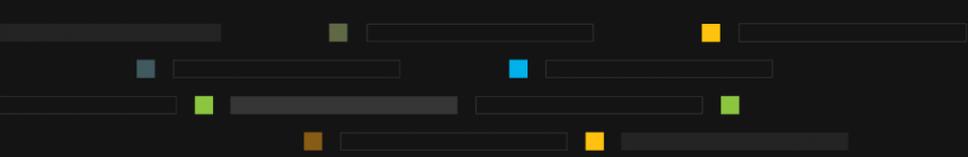


Connect with us!

Connect With Us!

There are multiple opportunities to engage with the Ally team about our product initiatives:

- User Group Forums
 - Product and Feature Surveys
 - User Group Office Hours
 - Anthology Idea Exchange
- 



ANTHOLOGY
Idea Exchange

Submit your ideas today!

