# Anthology **Ally**

Ally Roadmap & Vision

August 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.

Anthology Ally

The Vision

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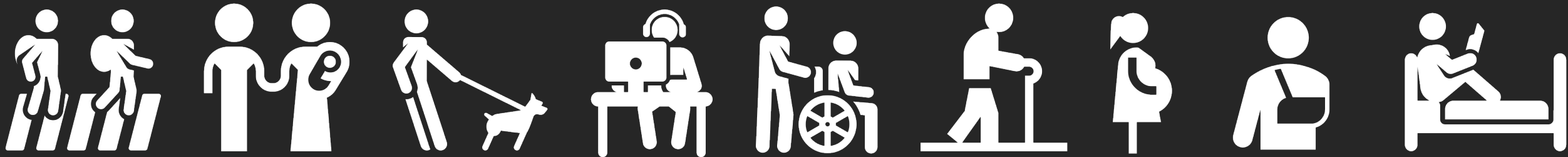
Supporting diverse 21st century learners by unlocking
the power of flexibility and choice

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Recent Progress

Previous Releases - Highlights

2023

Ally for LMS

- Learn Ultra Alternative Formats Progress Tracking
- Course configuration messaging improvements
- LibreOffice updates
- Password-protected accessibility check for MS Office and LibreOffice documents
- Translated version now supports up to 60,000 characters
- Audio alternative format now supports up to 200,000 characters
- New guidance flows:
  - Password-protected files
  - What and Why for videos with no captions
  - HTML files containing links with missing text
  - HTML files containing text with insufficient contrast
- Chinese traditional language (zh-TW) now supported in Ally User Interface

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Moodle 4.1 Support
Ally for LMS

- Self-hosted environments are supported.

- OpenLMS environments are subject to maintenance windows scheduled for summer 2023.
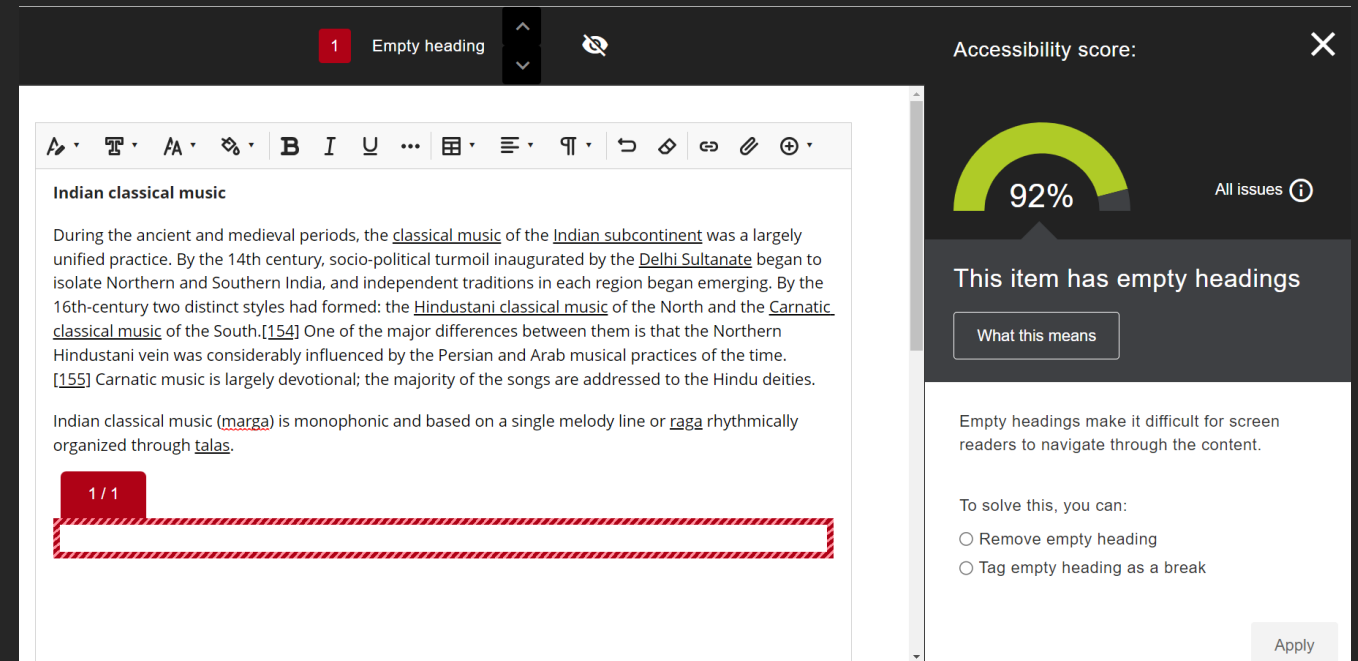
Available Now

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Ultra Accessibility Checker Powered By Ally
Ally for LMS

- Exclusively available for Ultra: All Learn Ultra Instructors will have Ally as the default accessibility checker for supported WYSIWYG content within Ultra Docs.

- Allows Instructors to take advantage of part of the power of Ally to help address accessibility issues in their content.

| 1 | Empty heading | | |

Accessibility score:

92%   All issues ⓘ

This item has empty headings

What this means

Empty headings make it difficult for screen readers to navigate through the content.

To solve this, you can:
○ Remove empty heading
○ Tag empty heading as a break

Apply

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 Delhi 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: 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.

1 / 1

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
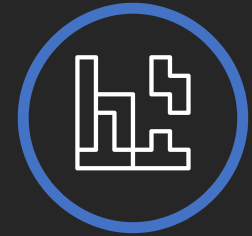- Support Tickets
- Product Usage
- (NEW) Surveys

Market Research

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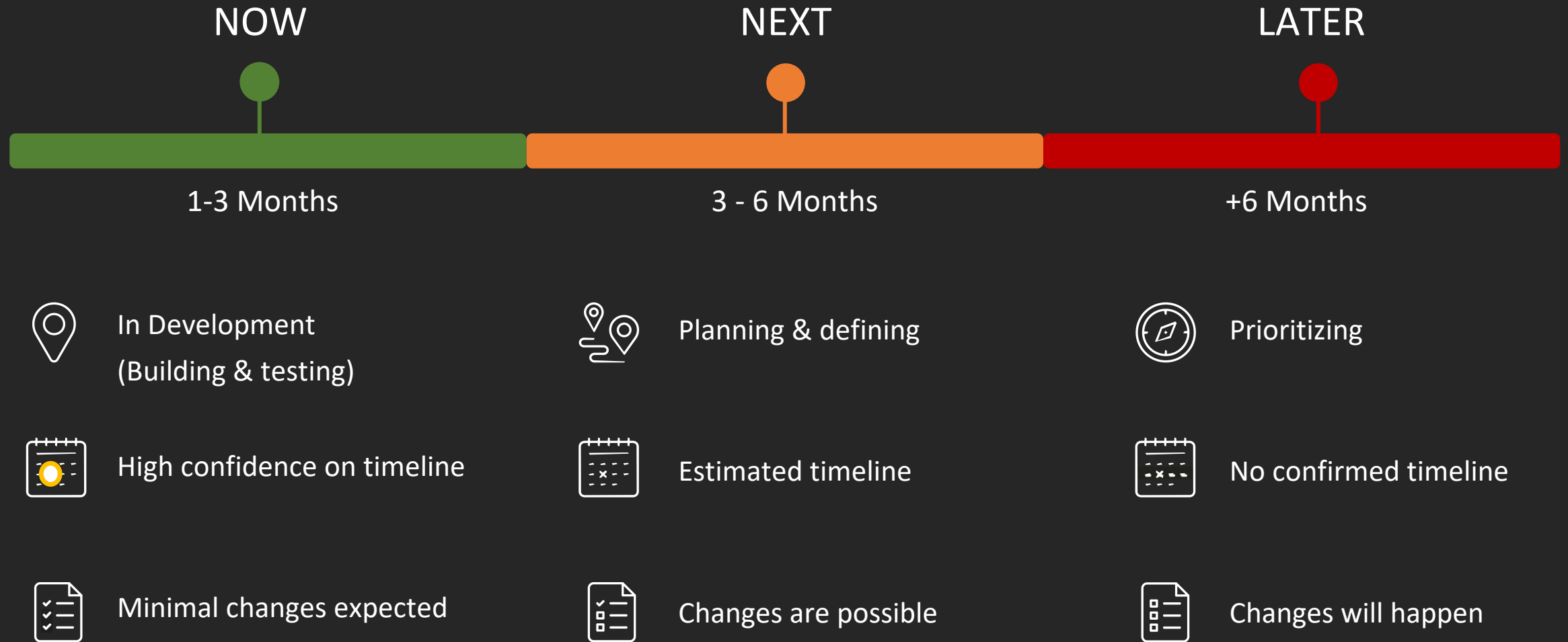- Associations & Conferences

Regulatory & Legal

- Data Privacy & Protection
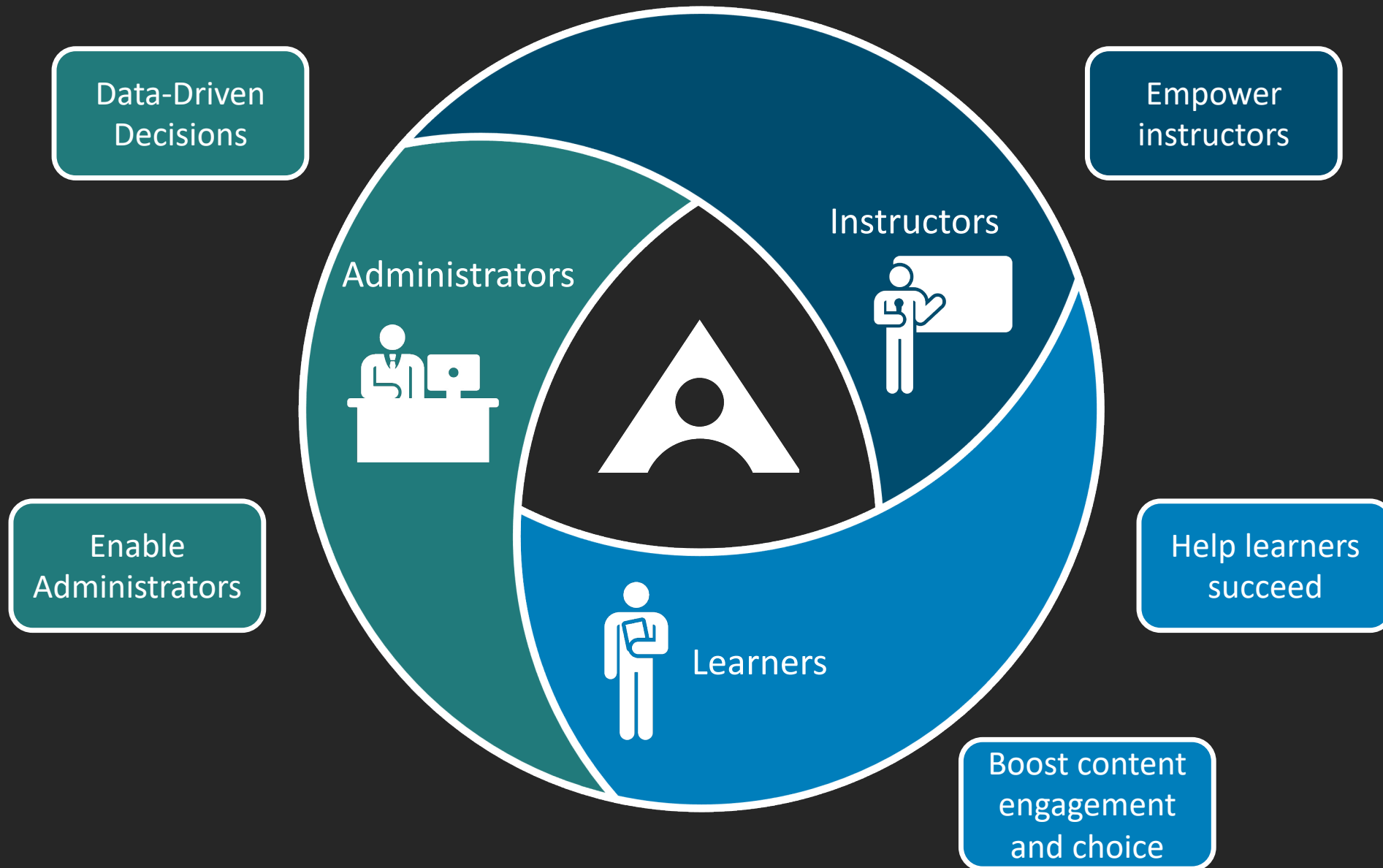- Security
- Accessibility

Business Alignment

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

How do we think about the roadmap?

NOW	NEXT	LATER
1-3 Months	3 - 6 Months	+6 Months

In Development (Building & testing)	Planning & defining	Prioritizing
High confidence on timeline	Estimated timeline	No confirmed timeline
Minimal changes expected	Changes are possible	Changes will happen

2023 Development Themes

Data-Driven Decisions

Empower instructors

Instructors

Administrators

Enable Administrators

Help learners succeed

Learners

Boost content engagement and choice

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Empower Instructors

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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

Overview | Content

All course content
- PDF document   15
- Word document   13
- Videos   5
- Ultra document 5
- Presentation   2
- HTML file   1

41

View

Content with the easiest issues to fix
12   Start

Fix low scoring content
13   Start

Remaining issues

↓ Severity | Issue | Content affected

❗ The document is scanned but not OCRed   📄 3 ›

⚠️ The video does not have captions   📄 16 ›

⚠️ The document has tables that don't have any headers   📄 9 ›

IN DEVELOPMENT

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D2L WYSIWYG Content Guidance
Ally for LMS

Live Demo

- 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

2   Text fragments with insufficient contrast

History of Music

Although definitions of music wildly throughout the world, every known culture partakes in it, and music is thus considered a cultural universal. The origins of music remain highly contentious; commentators often relate it to the origin of language, with much disagreement surrounding whether music arose before, after or simultaneously with language. Many theories have been proposed by scholars from a wide range of disciplines, though none have achieved wide approval. Most cultures have their own mythical origins concerning the invention of music, generally rooted in their respective mythological, religious or philosophical beliefs.

Prehistoric

The music of prehistoric cultures is first firmly dated to c. 40,000 BP of the Upper Paleolithic by evidence of bone flutes, though it remains unclear whether or not the actual origins lie in the earlier Middle Paleolithic period (300,000 to 50,000 BP). There is little known about prehistoric music, with traces mainly limited to some simple flutes and percussion instruments. However, such evidence indicates that music existed to some extent in prehistoric societies such as the Xia dynasty and the civilization. Upon the development of writing, the music of literate civilizations—ancient music—was present in the major Chinese, Egyptian, Greek, Indian, Persian, Mesopotamian, and Middle Eastern societies. It is difficult to make many generalizations about ancient music as a whole, but from what is known it was often characterized by monophony and improvisation. In ancient song forms, the texts were closely aligned with

1 / 2

Accessibility score for:
History of Music- The beginning

74%   All issues ⓘ

This item contains text with insufficient contrast

What this means

Try one of these colors instead:

☐ Apply to all **2** occurrences

Apply

❓ Help

Anthology **Ally**
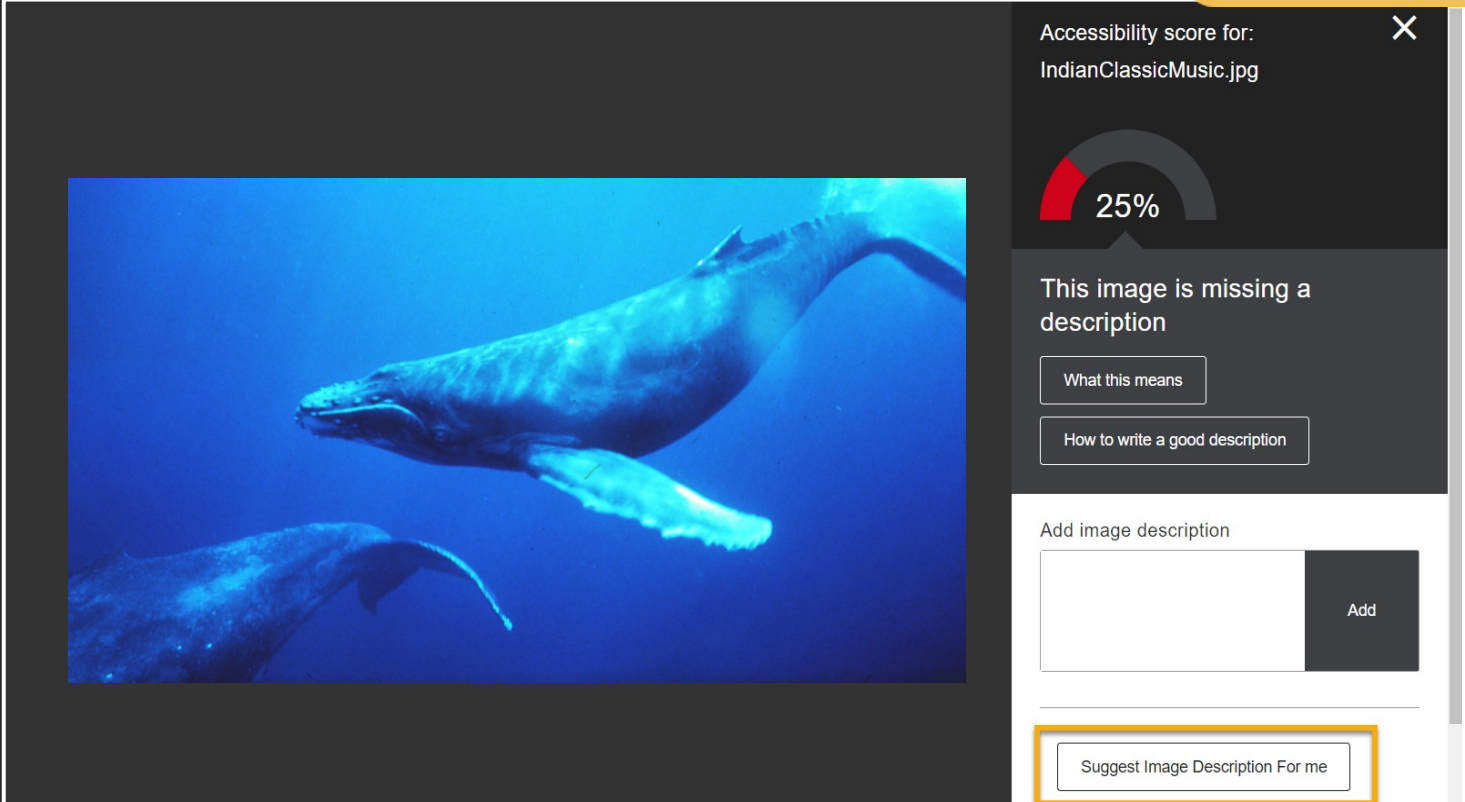
Suggest Alternative Text For Images
Ally for LMS

Live Demo

- Provide suggestions for potential alternative text options for images to help instructors address this issue in Ally's Instructor Feedback flow

- The instructor would still have full control to change or approve the suggested alternative text

Accessibility score for:
IndianClassicMusic.jpg

25%

This image is missing a description

What this means

How to write a good description

Add image description

[   ] Add

Suggest Image Description For me

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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

HTML Content Preview
Ally for LMS and Ally for Websites

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

- Allows for better and easier identification of issues in the HTML content without having to pull up the HTML file separately

Browse

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

94%

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

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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

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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

PRIORITIZING

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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

Course accessibility score

83% My Course

Overview   Content

All course content

14

HTML file	9
Module	2
Quiz	2
Word document	1

View

Fix low scoring content
1   Start

Fix major issues
7   Start
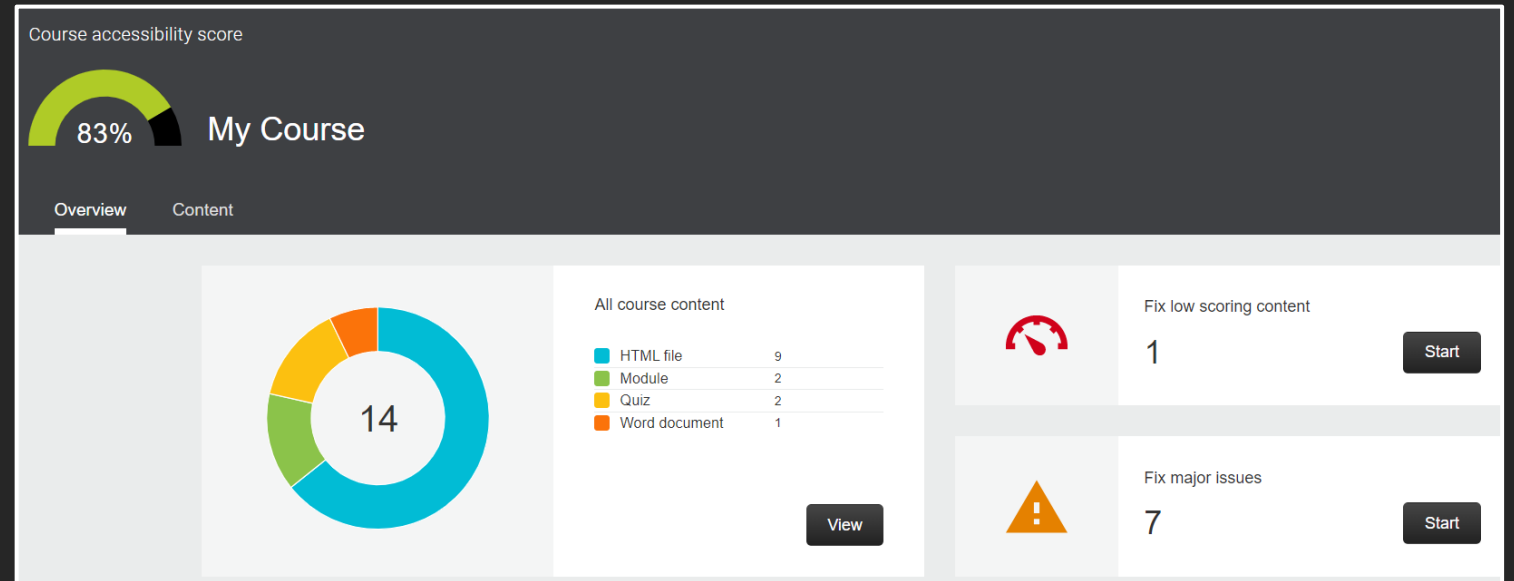
Help Learners Succeed
Boosting Engagement and Choice

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Improved WYSIWYG Alternative Formats in Learn Ultra
Ally for LMS

- Improve how Ally handles resources embedded as links in WYSIWYG and HTML content

- Allow for better support of this type of content coming from the Content Collection when generating Alternative Formats

Anthology **Ally**
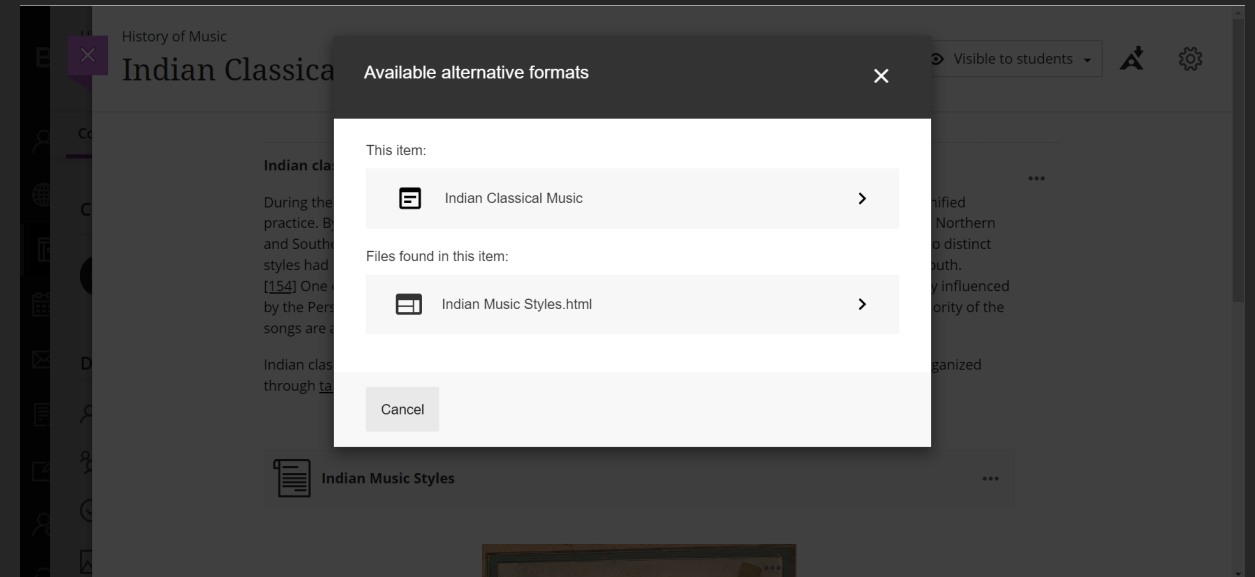
Original File as an Alternative Format
Ally for LMS

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

- Provide an easy way for students to recall the original file if they need it for reference when working with Ally's Alternative Formats

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

❓ <u>Link</u>

By downloading an alternative format, you agree to the <u>Terms of Use</u>

[Back] [**Download**]

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Handwriting Recognition Support
Ally for LMS

- Identify handwritten files through Optical Character Recognition

- Provide better conversion for handwritten files when generating Alternative Formats and improve the overall student experience for this type of content

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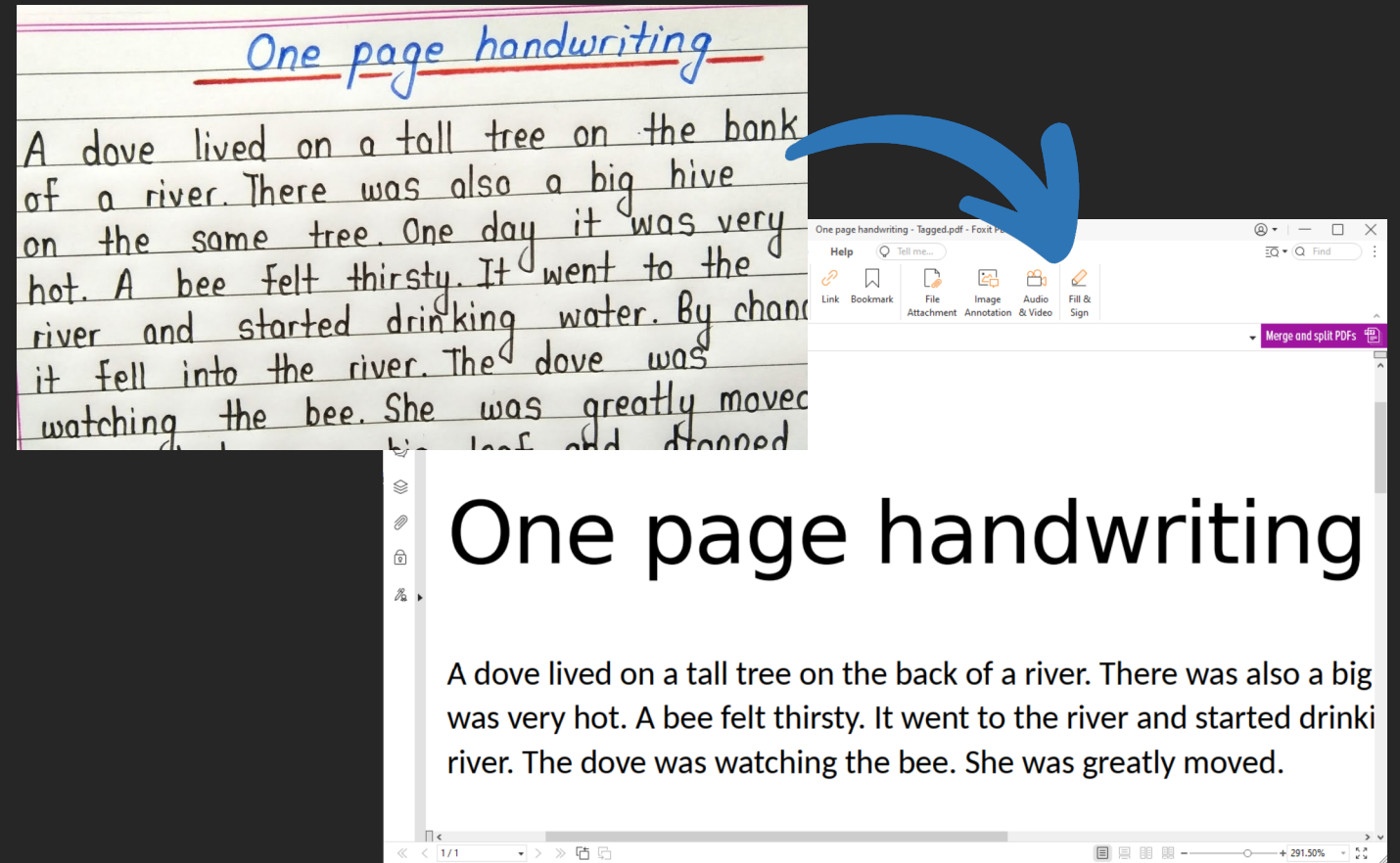
Transcript for Video Content
Ally for LMS

- Generate Transcript for YouTube videos

  - Get transcript for captioned videos

  - Generate transcript without captions

Although definitions of music vary wildly throughout the world

PRIORITIZING

Anthology **Ally**
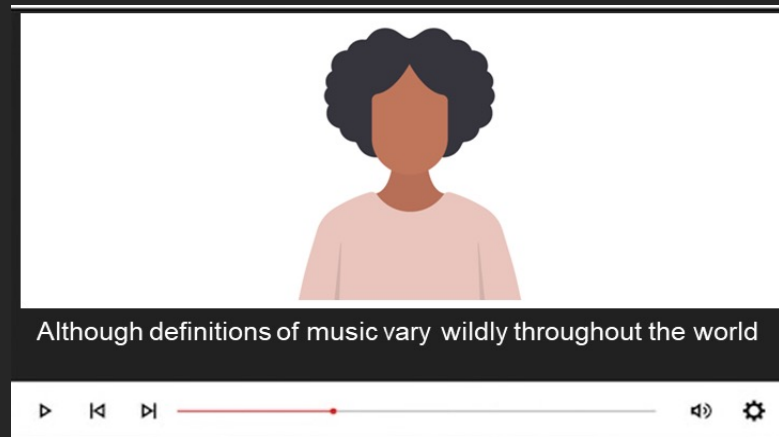
Alternative Formats for Video Content
Ally for LMS

- 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

Although definitions of music vary wildly throughout the world

Transcript.docx

Although definitions of music vary wildly

throughout the   known cultur

partakes in it,   onsidered a

cultural universal. The origins of music re

highly contentious; commentators often r

music

Text Size

aA   42   aA

Increase Spacing

Font
- Calibri
- Sitka
- Comic Sans

Themes

Aa   ✓   Aa

Aa   Aa   Aa

More colors

PRIORITIZING

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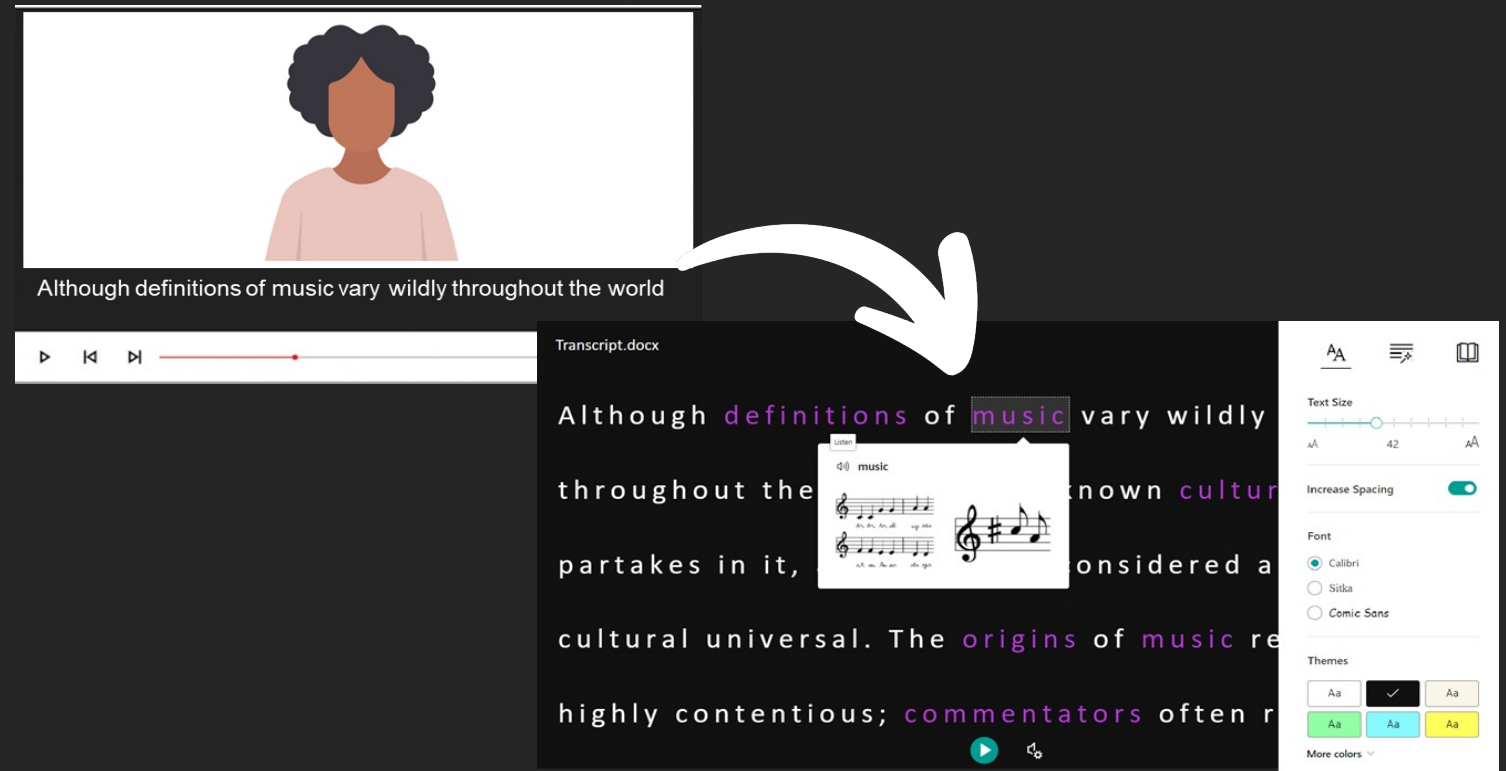
Expanded STEM Support
Ally for LMS

- Start to support a wider range of content that often poses challenges for users looking for alternative ways to engage

- Better detection and handling of STEM content within documents
  - Starting research with MS Office

- Provide better conversion of math equations to MathML
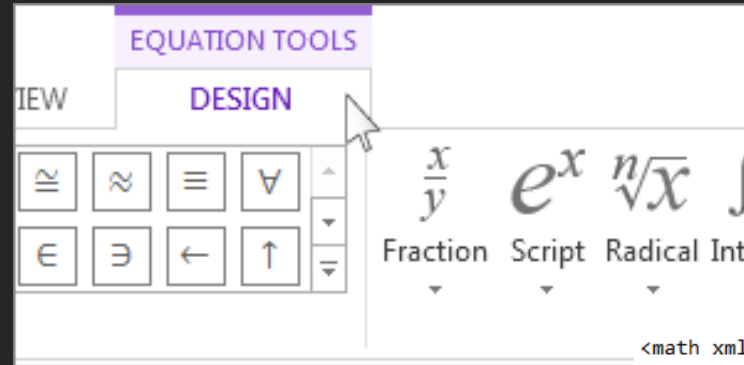
```
<math xmlns='http://www.w3.org/1998/Math/MathML'>
 <semantics>
  <mrow>
   <mfrac>
    <mn>1</mn>
    <mn>2</mn>
   </mfrac>
   <mo>=</mo><mfrac>
    <mn>1</mn>
    <mn>4</mn>
   </mfrac>
  </mrow>
  <annotation encoding='MathType-MTEF'>MathType@MTEF@5@5@+=
feaahqart1ev3aqatCvAUfeBSjuyZL2yd9gzLbvyNv2CaerbuLwBLn
hiov2DGi1BTfMBaeXatLxBI9gBaerbd9wDYLwzYbItLDharqqtubsr
4rNCHbGeaGqiVu0Je9sqqrpepC0xbbL8F4rqqrFfpeea0xe9Lq=Jc9
vqaqpepm0xbba9pwe9Q8fs0=yqaqpepae9pg0FirpepeKkFr0xfr=x
fr=xb9adbaqaaeGaciGaaiaabeqaamaabaabaaGcbaWaaSaaaeaaca
aIXaaabaGaaGOmaaaacqGH9aqpdaWcaaqaaiaaigdaaeaacaaI0aaa
aaaa@3A0A@
  </annotation>
 </semantics>
</math>
```

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Transforming the File Transformer
Ally for LMS

- Incorporate the ability for students to generate alternative formats outside of the class

Anthology Ally
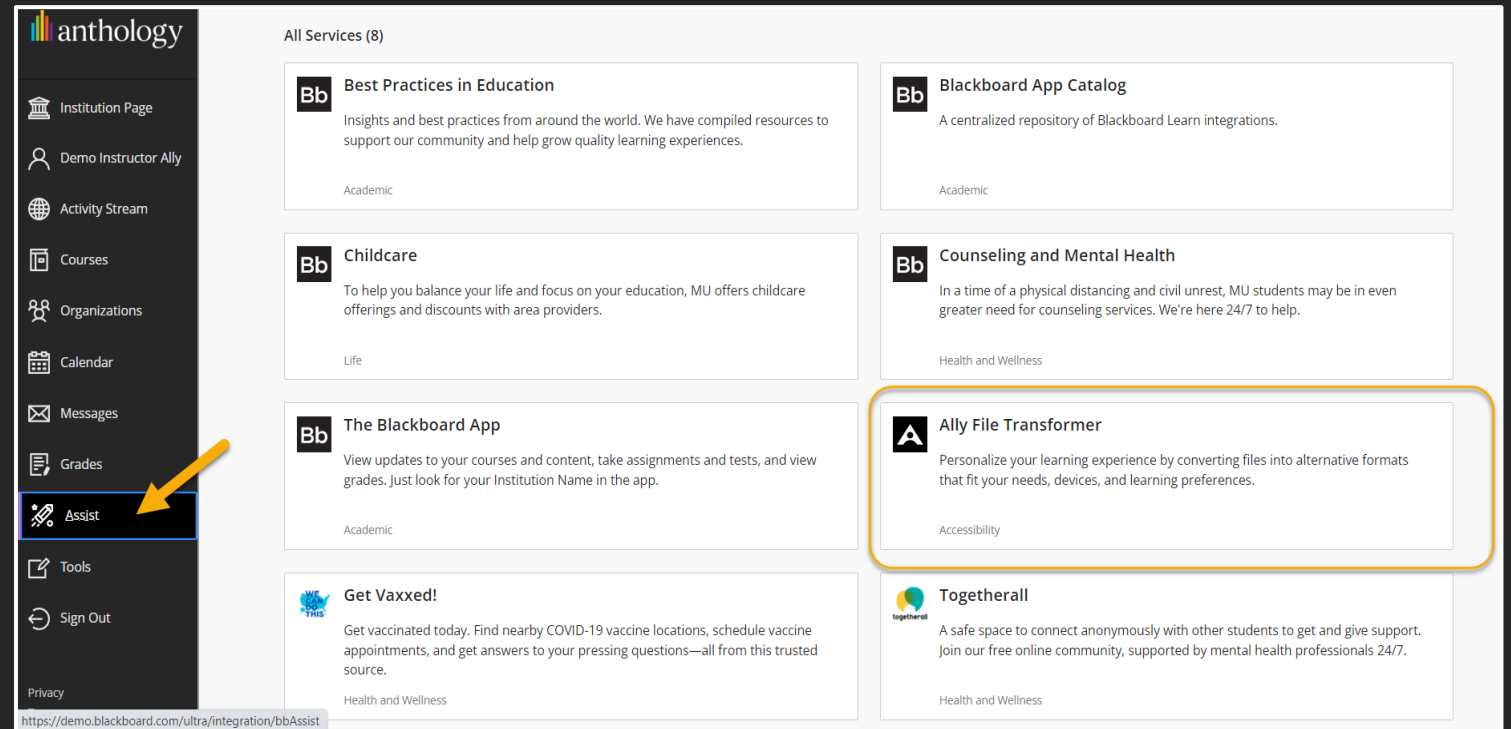
Enhanced HTML Alternative Format
Ally for LMS, for Websites and WCM

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

PRIORITIZING

Anthology **Ally**

Enable Administrators
Data-Driven Decisions

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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.

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.
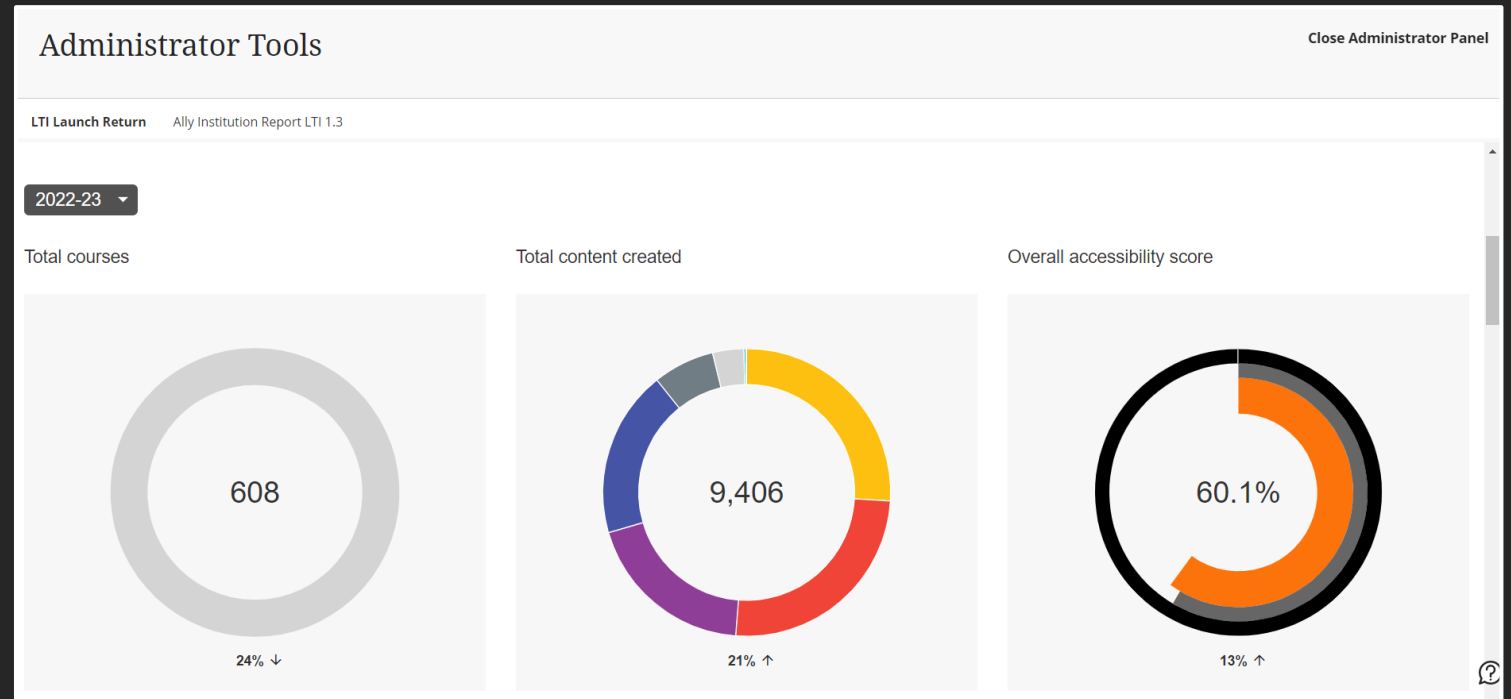
Translated version
Not available for this course

Institutional Report Improvements
Ally for LMS

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

Institutional Report Filtering
Ally for LMS

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

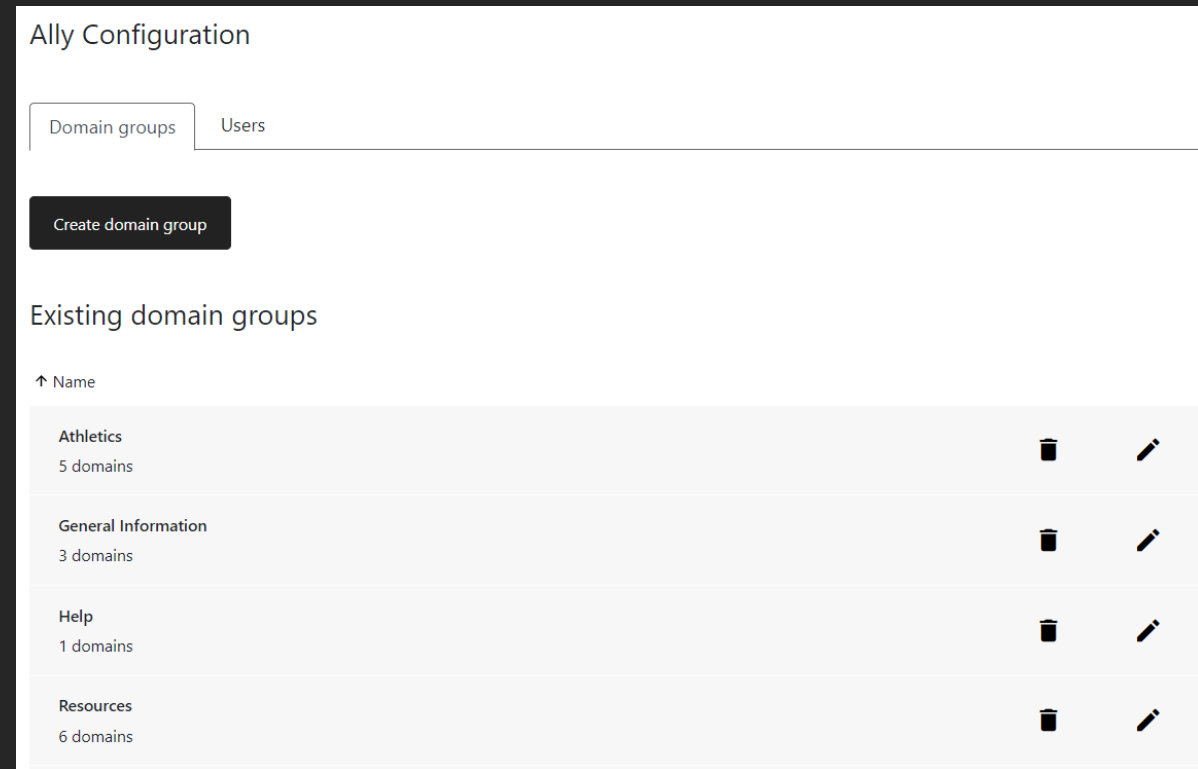*Depends on what is currently available from the LMS but may include things like file type to start with
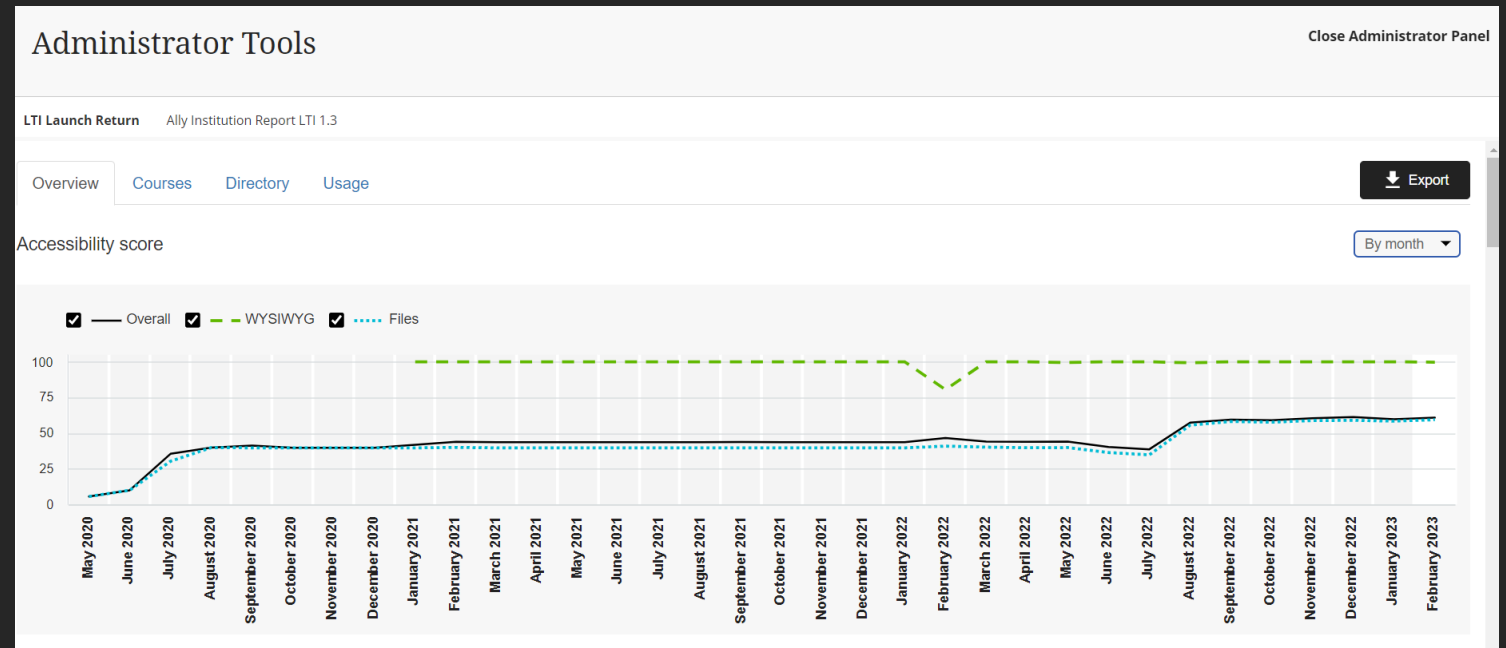
Domain Configuration
Ally for Websites

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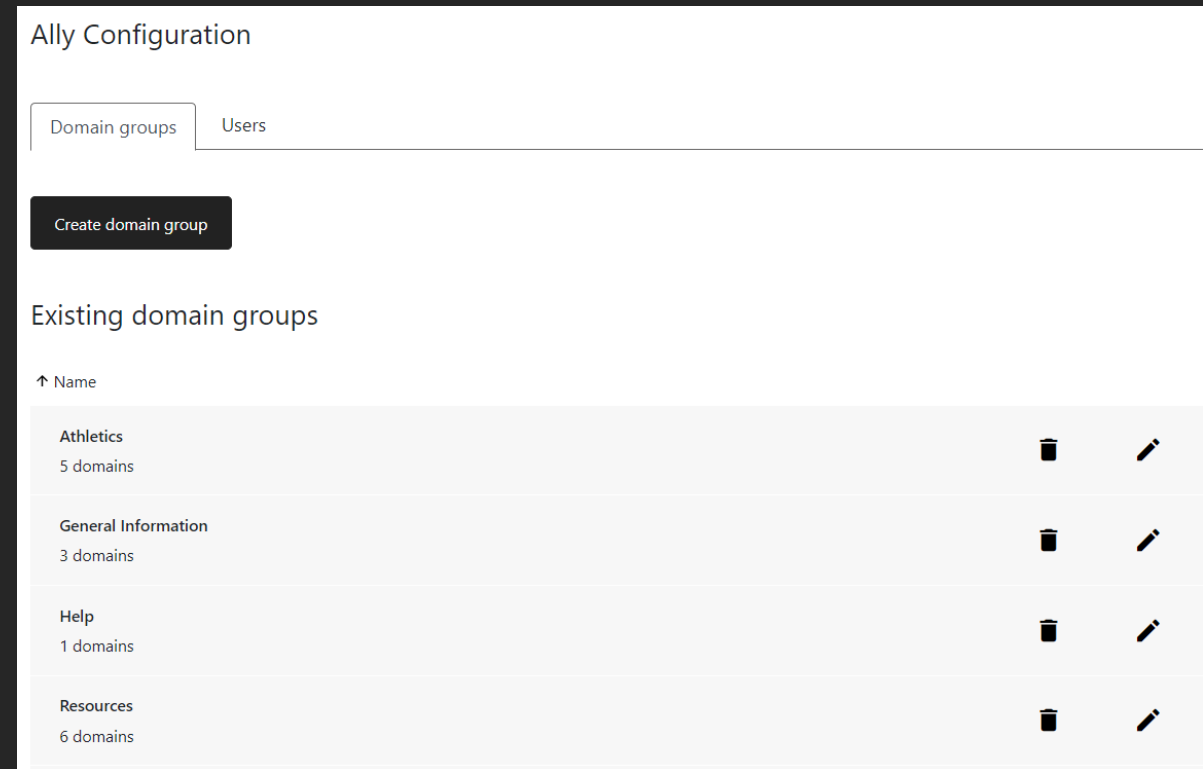
Ally Configuration

| Domain groups | Users |

Create domain group

Existing domain groups

↑ Name

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

PLANNING & DEFINING

Anthology **Ally**

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

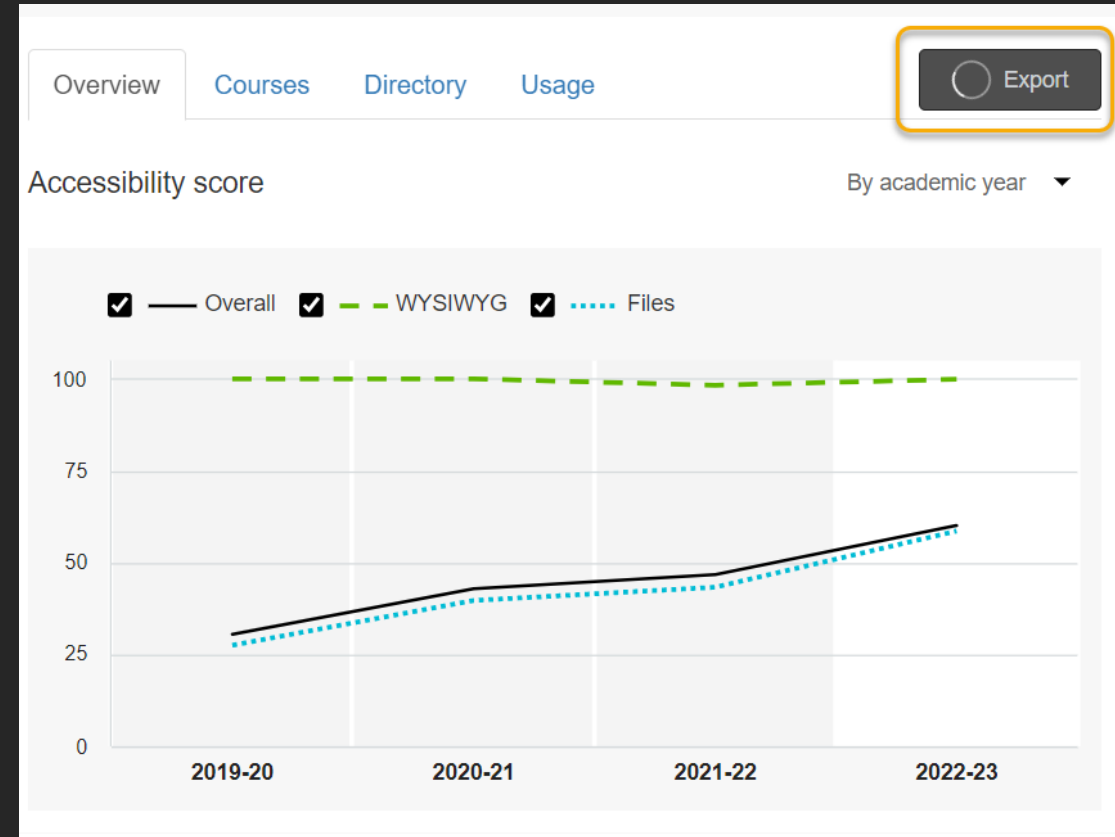**General Information**
3 domains

Help
1 domains

Resources
6 domains

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

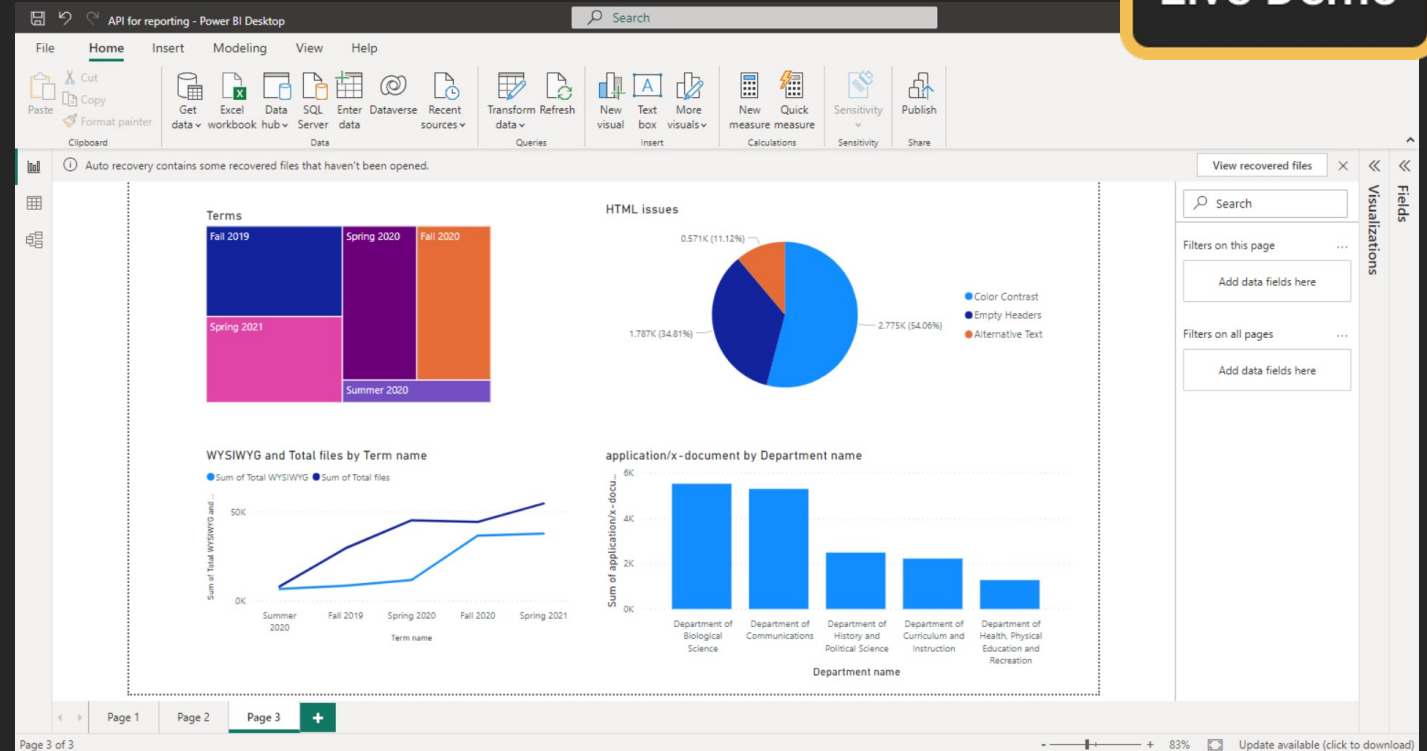Anthology **Ally**

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)

- Include sorting and filtering options

- Easy integration with Power BI and other reporting tools

Live Demo

Institutional Report Exports

- Expand your analysis of issue level data:
  - How many departments have Contrast image issues?
  - How many courses have HTML empty headers?

- Tailor your insight into the score:
  - 'All institution' reports
  - Courses with overall score greater than 70%
  - Departments with files score less than 70%
  - Term to Term Course score comparisons

Anthology Ally

Connect with us!

Connect With Us!

Ally Monthly Meetings

- Office Hours
- User Group

User Group Community

- Ally User Group

  o https://usergroup.ally.ac

- Anthology Community
  o https:// community.anthology.com

Share Product Ideas

- Idea Exchange
  o http:// community.anthology.com/ idea-exchange