



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: Media Studies 101 – A Creative Commons Textbook
Format of Textbook: HTML

Assistive Technology (AT) Evaluation Score: Overall	8.4 (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	9.2 (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:	Did not find any information about Merlot's Formal Accessibility Policy.
B. The organization providing the online materials has an accessibility statement.	Fail
Additional Information:	Did not find any information about Merlot's Accessibility Statement.
C. An Accessibility Evaluation Report is available from an external organization.	Fail
Additional Information:	Did not find any information about Merlot's Accessibility Evaluation Report.

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:	2/2 chapters passed, all content within the book were successfully translated to audio. While normal text was read properly, images were translated in a way that was not easy to understand, and lacked a sufficient amount of detail.

3. Text Adjustment

A. Text is compatible with assistive technology.	Pass
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Additional Information:	Regular text and images were easily zoomed in (to 150%) and out (to 33%) without any disruptive alteration to either text or images (Chps. 6, 7). However, when zooming in past 150% the individual would have to scroll horizontally to see full text.
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).	Fail
Additional Information:	0/2 chapters passed. Using Care for Your Eyes on Google Chrome, font and background did not change color when nightmode was selected (Chapters evaluated 4, 13).

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:	30/30 pages passed for reflow of text. Page numbers checked include (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2,3.3,3.4,4.1,4.2,4.3,4.4,4.5,5.1,5.2,5.3,5.4,5.5,6.1, 6.2,6.3.6.4,22.1,22.2,22.3,22.4,22.5).
B. If the digital resource is an electronic alternative to printed materials, the page numbers correspond to the printed material.	N/A
Additional Information:	Unable to find alternative format of textbook.

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.	N/A
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Additional Information:	2/2 chapters passed, all contents within the book were successfully translated to audio. While normal text was read properly, images were translated in a way that was not easy to understand, and lacked a sufficient amount of detail.
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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).	Pass
Additional Information:	2/2 chapters passed. You were able to navigate through the text, among headers, lists, links, and tables, by using the NVDA hotkeys. Chapters checked (5 and 13).
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).	Pass
Additional Information:	10/10 lists passed. You were able to navigate through the lists by using the NVDA hotkeys and the content within the lists were conveyed in a logical manner. Chapters checked 5 and 13.
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 eReader application in this evaluation.



7. Tables

<p>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).</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Additional Information:</p>	<p>No tables found within text.</p>

8. Hyperlinks

<p>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.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Additional Information:</p>	
<p>B. Live hyperlinks take you to any website or webpages external to the book.</p>	<p>Pass</p>
<p>Additional Information:</p>	<p>19/20 live hyperlinks functioned properly and took the reader to the expected websites on the internet and/or to figures, examples, and solutions within the textbook. (Chapter 2 checked, 19/20 links functioned properly. The one that did not function properly was a youtube link that took the reader to a non existent channel). 0/20 live hyperlinks had a proper descriptions of the hyperlinks (Chapter 2 checked, 19/20 lacked a proper description). URLs were found throughout the chapter; futhermore links were presented as just one word, the reader could tellt hey were a link due to the fact that they were in a different color, bolded, and underlined, but there needed to be more description.</p>
<p>C. Live links take you to the correct webpage that is functioning properly.</p>	<p>Pass</p>
<p>Additional Information:</p>	<p>19/20 live hyperlinks functioned properly and took the reader to the expected websites on the internet and/or to figures, examples, and solutions within the</p>



	textbook (Chapter 2 checked, 19/20 links functioned properly. The one that did not function properly was a youtube link that took the reader to a non existent channel.)
D. Live links are descriptive enough for the users to know where it should take them.	Fail
Additional Information:	0/20 live hyperlinks had a proper descriptions of the hyperlinks (Chapter 2 checked, 19/20 lacked a proper description). URLs were found throughout the chapter; futhermore links were presented as just one word, the reader could tell they were a link due to the fact that they were in a different color, bolded, and underlined, but there needed to be more description.

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:	Throughout the text, headers were consistently a dark red blue color against a cream background, hyperlinks were not only dark red against a cream background but were also underlined, and normal text was consistently black against a cream background. In regards to size, headers were always larger than normal body text and italicized. Checked chapters and subchapters 8,13. all text passes the AA standard.
B. Information is conveyed from the sub-categories for contrast.	Pass
Additional Information:	Section heading, sub heading, and text passed (Chapters and subchapters checked 8 and 13).
C. Contrast for headers passed WCAG AA standards for large texts (contrast ratio 3:1).	Pass



Additional Information:	Section heading passed (Chapters and subchapters checked 8 and 13).
D. Contrast for text passed WCAG AA standards for normal texts (contrast ratio of 4.5:1).	Pass
Additional Information:	All text passed (Chapters and subchapters checked 8 and 13).
E. Contrast for simple images (for example, images of atoms) passed WCAG AA standards (contrast ratio of 4.5:1).	N/A
Additional Information:	All images within the text are complex.

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.	Pass
Additional Information:	"lang="en-us" code found.
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:	No passages found in foreign languages.

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
Additional Information:	When searching for image alt"" in the code, no alternative names and descriptions are given. Chapters and subchapters checked 2 (0/1 non-decorative images have good descriptions within image alt ""), 9(0/1 non-decorative images have



	good descriptions within image alt"). 0/2 Chapters passed, when NVDA encountered images, it did not read off any description, the reader would not understand that meaning behind the images.
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:	There were no decorative images found. Chapters and subchapters checked 3.3 (no decorative images), 4.1 (no decorative images), 9.1 (no decorative images), 22.4 (no decorative images), 32.3 (no 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).	Fail
Additional Information:	When searching for image alt" in the code, an alternative name is given; furthermore, there is an abundance of description for the image. Chapters and subchapters checked 2 (0/1 complex images have good descriptions within image alt "), 9(0/1 complex images have good descriptions within image alt"). 0/2 Chapters passed, when NVDA encountered images, it did not read off any description, the reader would not understand that meaning behind the images.

12.Multimedia

A. A synchronized text track (e.g. open or closed captions) is provided with all video content.	Pass
Additional Information:	2/3 videos pass. Closed captioning was provided with the video, reader would be able to follow along. Chapters evaluated, 8 (1 video), 9 (2 videos).
B. A transcript is provided with all audio content.	Fail



Additional Information:	0/3 videos pass. No transcript was provided along with video content. Chapters evaluated, 8 (1 video), 9 (2 videos).
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:	Not using an assistive player during this evaluation.

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 content.

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 STEM content found within text.
B. STEM graphs have appropriate markup that indicates that the image is a graph.	N/A
Additional Information:	No STEM content found within text.
C. STEM equations have appropriate markup that indicates that the image is an equation.	N/A
Additional Information:	No STEM content found within text.
D. STEM tables have appropriate markup that indicates the image is a table.	N/A
Additional Information:	No STEM content found within text.
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 STEM content found within text.



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 STEM content found within text.
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 STEM content found within text.
H. Assistive technology used can access the content from the STEM tables.	N/A
Additional Information:	No STEM content found within text.

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.	Pass
Additional Information:	Successfully navigated through 2 chapters and subsections (7, 14) by using the TAB and ENTER keys on the keyboard.
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 markup 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 text 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:	Not found
B. The organization providing the online materials has an accessibility statement.	Fail
Additional Information:	Not found
C. An Accessibility Evaluation Report is available from an external organization.	Fail
Additional Information:	Not found

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:	2/2 chapters works with text to speech on google chrome. Chapters 2 and chapter 5 were checked.

3. Text Adjustment

A. Text is compatible with assistive technology.	Pass
Additional Information:	2/2 chapters work. Chapter 2 and 5 were checked.
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).	pass



Additional Information:	2/2 chapters work with save your eyes on google chrome. Chapter 2 and 5 were checked.
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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:	2/2 chapters reflow when zooming in and making web browser smaller. Chapter 2 and 5 were checked.
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 of pdf version found.

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.	N/A
Additional Information:	Non AT Tech only.

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).	N/A
Additional Information:	Non AT Tech only.



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).	N/A
Additional Information:	Non AT Tech only.
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:	Non AT Tech only.

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:	Non AT Tech only.

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 links in HTML.
B. Live hyperlinks take you to any website or webpages external to the book.	Pass
Additional Information:	Average Score



C. Live links take you to the correct webpage that is functioning properly.	Pass
Additional Information:	20/20 links work. Links are found on table of contents and within the text.
D. Live links are descriptive enough for the users to know where it should take them.	Pass
Additional Information:	20/20 links pass.

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:	When color is used a code for links, the link is also underlined.
B. Information is conveyed from the sub-categories for contrast.	Pass
Additional Information:	Average Score
C. Contrast for headers passed WCAG AA standards for large texts (contrast ratio 3:1).	Pass
Additional Information:	Headers are either black or red with a white background.
D. Contrast for text passed WCAG AA standards for normal texts (contrast ratio of 4.5:1).	Pass
Additional Information:	Text is black and background is white.
E. Contrast for simple images (for example, images of atoms) passed WCAG AA standards (contrast ratio of 4.5:1).	N/A
Additional Information:	Simple images not 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.	Pass
Additional Information:	2/2 chapters have proper language code. Chapters 2 and 5 were checked.
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:	No other language was found.

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).	Pass
Additional Information:	2/2 chapters pass when checked with w3c. Chapters 2 and 5 were checked.
B. Decorative images are marked with null alternate text or contain markup that allows them to be ignored by assistive technology.	Pass
Additional Information:	2/2 chapters pass when checked with w3c. Chapters 2 and 5 were checked.
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 comple 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:	10/10 chapters pass. Chapters 1-11 where checked.

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 stem figures found.
B. STEM graphs have appropriate markup that indicates that the image is a graph.	N/A
Additional Information:	No stem graphs found.
C. STEM equations have appropriate markup that indicates that the image is an equation.	N/A
Additional Information:	No stem equations found.
D. STEM tables have appropriate markup that indicates the image is a table.	N/A
Additional Information:	No stem 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 stem 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 stem 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 stem equations found.
H. Assistive technology used can access the content from the STEM tables.	N/A
Additional Information:	No stem 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
Additional Information:	Non-Assistive Technologies only.
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:	Non-Assistive Technologies only.
C. All instructions, prompts, and error messages necessary to complete forms are conveyed as text to assistive technology (or are rendered	N/A



by an application such as a browser, media player, or reader that offers this functionality).	
Additional Information:	Non-Assistive Technologies only.

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