VitalSource®

Accessibility

Delivering education that is accessible to learners of all abilities is a challenging yet critical goal for educational institutions around the world. Institutions need responsive, thoughtful, and intelligent solutions that evolve to meet the needs of every learner.

At VitalSource, our goal is clear: to build global learning platforms that ensure everyone can seamlessly access the tools and learning experiences they need anywhere, anytime. Since our founding, VitalSource has led the industry in our unrivaled commitment to accessibility. A commitment to accessibility is a commitment to our users that we'll continue to lead, stay current, and go beyond expectations to provide the best possible learner experience.

OUR PLEDGE

At VitalSource, we have always committed to:

- Exceeding industry and international accessibility standards
- Working with industry partners to continue moving initiatives and transparency forward
- Continuously improving our learner-facing platforms to provide highly functional and usable solutions for all
- Servicing the widest possible range of users and their accommodations
- Remaining deeply active in the accessibility community and innovating based on the trends and emerging technologies we see

ACCESSIBILITY BY DESIGN

Truly committing to accessibility means accessibility by design; it is building products and platforms with consideration for the accessibility needs and features of users. Our digital content platform, Bookshelf, works with your assistive technology to enable these important accessibility functions:

- Simple access to the reading view of the content
- Navigation through the content with common accessibility shortcuts in our scrubber bar, table of contents, and search
- Compatibility with screen readers (such as Microsoft Narrator, JAWS (including scripts), NVDA, TalkBack, VoiceOver, and more), our app on your iOS or Android device, your Mac or Windows computer, or inside your browser

ACCESSIBILITY BY DESIGN (CONT'D)

- Visual adjustments of the content through our content controls, including altering screen colors, night mode, and font size/magnification
- Integrated study aids, including flashcards
- Documentation for WCAG conformance, keyboard shortcuts, and other items at support.vitalsource.com
- Built-in functionality for Read Aloud that uses the voices on your device
- Choice of fonts, including OpenDyslexic fonts, so users can read in comfort

SUSTAINED TRANSPARENCY

VitalSource demonstrates conformance with international standards through regular publishing of our WCAG checklist and by making independent third-party evaluations available. Our commitment, however, goes beyond mere conformance—we are transparent about our capabilities because users and partners need to know how we meet their needs with the content they are reading, as well as with our application.

It is critical that students who require accessibility features for successful learning be able to find the content to suit their needs. We launched a first-in-the-world transparency initiative that lets users know the accessibility support publishers have included in a title before making a purchase, so users have confidence that the accommodation they need is available. Then, when users read the title with Bookshelf's award-winning capabilities, they can truly engage with the content and excel in their learning.

LEADING THE WAY IN THE INDUSTRY

Through decades of leadership and advocacy, VitalSource has become a trusted industry partner when it comes to accessibility. It is important to go beyond simply adhering to industry standards; we are actively involved in helping create those standards with key accessibility partner organizations. We have also been a long-term advocate for mainstreaming learning experiences to ensure each of our users receives the same content, on the same platforms, through the same channels.

VitalSource works with organizations such as the W3C, DIAGRAM Center, Book Industry Study Group, and ASPIRE. We also collaborate with consultants and advocacy groups, such as the National Federation of the Blind, JISC, The Paciello Group, and others to grow the community and the capabilities of each part of the system.

CONFORMANCE

VitalSource has a long-standing commitment to developing and documenting our conformance to international and domestic standards, including those from the World Wide Web Consortium (WC3) and WCAG standards.

CONCLUSION

Since our inception, VitalSource has led the industry in our unrivaled commitment to accessibility. Our vision is forward-thinking and long-term: accessibility is a journey, not a destination. It's not enough to focus on what's easy or immediate. We must innovate, push the industry forward, and build each product with accessibility in mind.

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