

IMPROVING AWARENESS OF AT TOOLS FOR INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT AT UAL

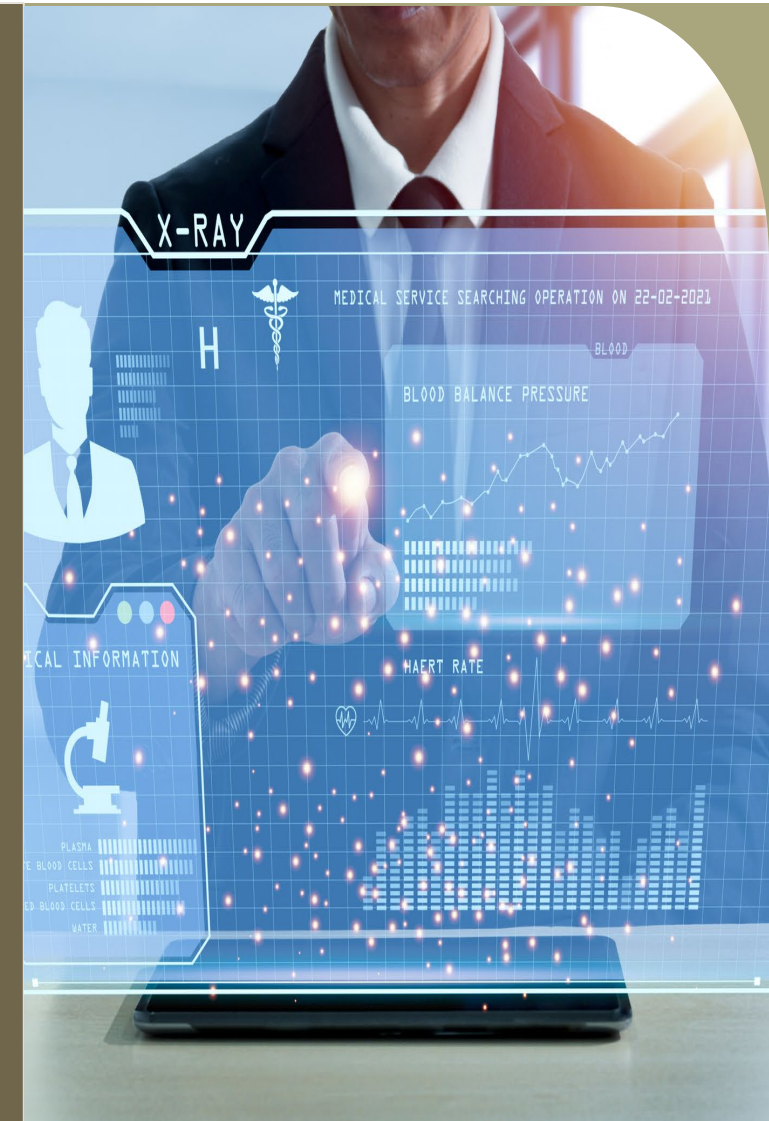
Assistive Technology Software
and Tools

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Research Question:

How can awareness and utilisation of Assistive Technology tools at UAL be improved to create a more inclusive learning environment for students with disabilities?



Background

- I work at the Learning Technology (LT) Department at LCF.
- Consistent inquiries reveal a lack of understanding about the range of Assistive Technology (AT) tools available at UAL.
- No clear ownership or communication pathway regarding the deployment, support, and management of AT software.
- AT-related information on the UAL website and Canvas platform is scattered and difficult to navigate, creating accessibility challenges.
- UAL provides a great selection of AT tools that can support diverse learning needs effectively—if utilised and communicated properly

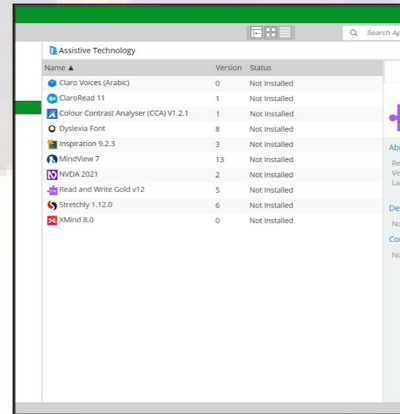
Rationale

- It is becoming quite challenging and overwhelming for students and staff to locate all the information about AT at UAL.
- A lot students are unaware about the existing of this software
- Gold standard, premium, full license are expensive



Screenshot of AT Software at UAL

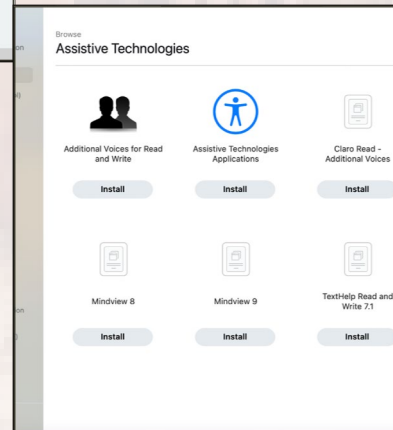
Windows



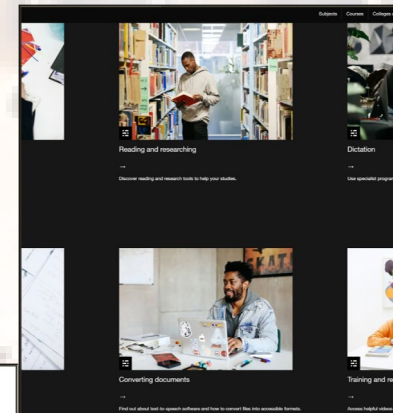
A screenshot of the Windows 'Assistive Technology' window. It displays a list of installed and available software. The list includes:

Name	Version	Status
Claro Voices (Arabic)	0	Not installed
ClaroRead 11	1	Not installed
Colour Contrast Analyser (CCA) V1.2.1	1	Not installed
Dyslexia Font	8	Not installed
Inspiration 9.2.3	3	Not installed
Mindview 7	13	Not installed
WIDA 2021	2	Not installed
Read and Write Gold v12	5	Not installed
Stretchly 1.12.0	6	Not installed
XMind 8.0	0	Not installed

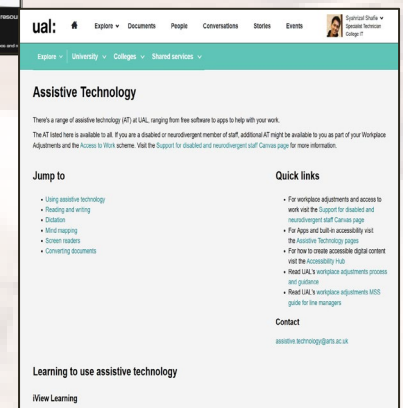
Mac



UAL Website



Canvas



Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology (AT) refers to any device, software, or system that helps individuals with or without disabilities or learning difficulties perform tasks that might otherwise be challenging or impossible.

In an academic setting, assistive technology (AT) refers to a range of tools, software, and devices designed to support students in accessing educational materials and participating fully in their studies. The goal is to reduce barriers to learning, accommodate diverse needs, and provide an inclusive learning environment that enables all students to succeed.

Assistive Technology Software

Note Taking – ClaroCapture, OneNote

Reading and Writing – Read&Write, ClaroRead

Proof Reading – Immersive Reader, ReadU&Write

Dictation – Dragon, Office365

Referencing – Zotero, RefWorks

Screen Reader – NVDA, Narrator

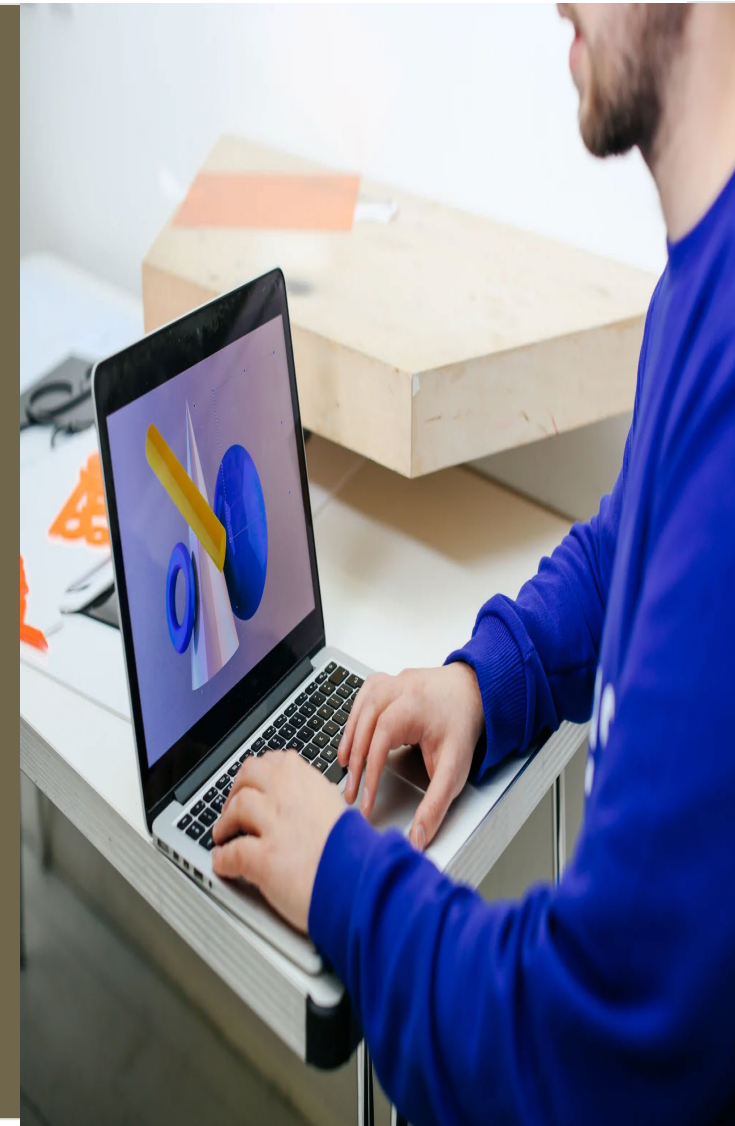
Planning – MindView, Inspiration, Xmind

Organising Tools – Trello, OneNote

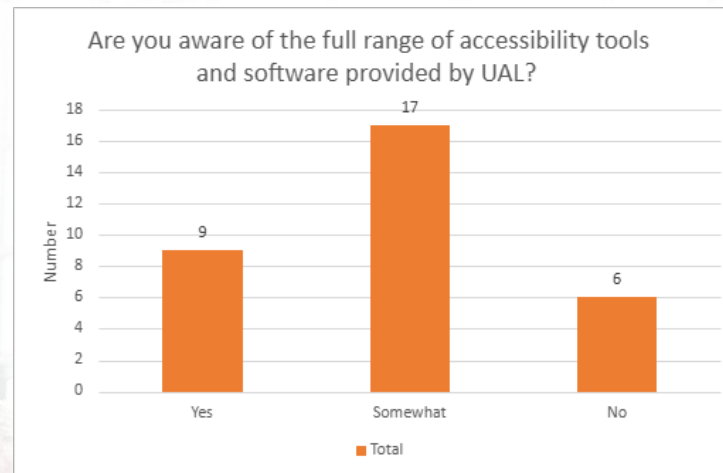
Converting Documents – SensusAccess, Adobe Acrobat Pro

Method of Data Collection

- Online Survey – Students and Staff at UAL
- Key Objective:
 1. **Assess students' awareness** of the digital accessibility tools and software available at UAL.
 2. **Understand how students learn** about these tools and the effectiveness of the communication and information provided by the university.
 3. **Evaluate the perceived effectiveness** of the accessibility tools they have used.
 4. **Identify challenges** students face when trying to find or access information about these tools.
 5. **Gather suggestions** on how to improve awareness and accessibility of the tools.



Summary of Findings



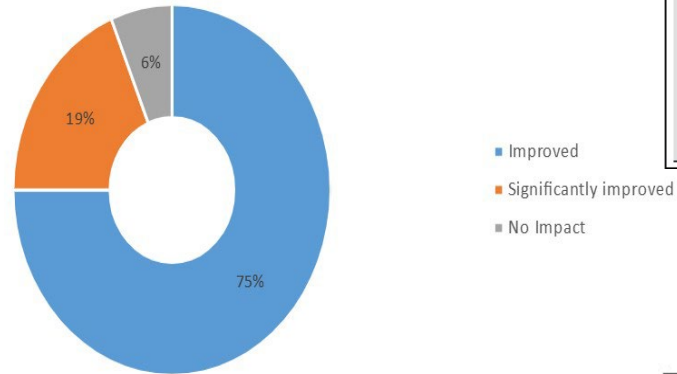
Level of Awareness

Q4				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Academic Support; Fellow Students;	1	3.1	3.1	3.1
i didnt know	3	9.4	9.4	12.5
Induction / Welcome Session;	11	34.4	34.4	46.9
Part of the LTS Department	2	6.3	6.3	53.1
UAL Website;Academic Support;	3	9.4	9.4	62.5
UAL Website;Induction / Welcome Session;	9	28.1	28.1	90.6
Lecturer / Tutor; Academic Support; Fellow Students;	3	9.4	9.4	100.0
UAL Website;Lecturer / Tutor;Academic Support;Induction / Welcome Session; Fellow Students;	3	9.4	9.4	100.0
Total	32	100.0	100.0	

How did you first learn about the accessibility tools available at UAL?

Summary of Findings

How have the accessibility software and tools impacted your learning experience at UAL?



How the AT impacted your T&L experience

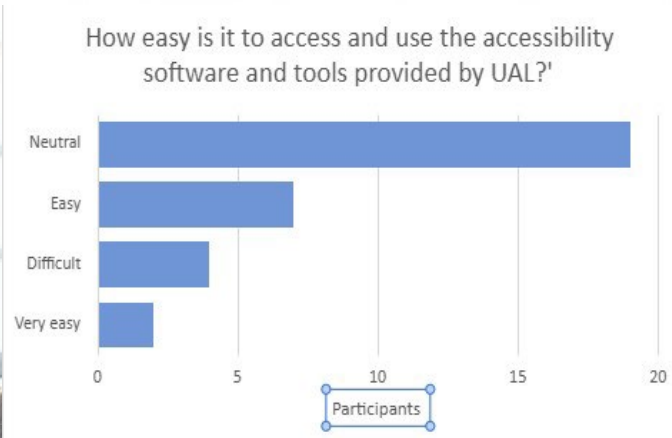
Q9				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Difficult	4	12.5	12.5	12.5
Easy	7	21.9	21.9	34.4
Neutral	19	59.4	59.4	93.8
Very easy	2	6.3	6.3	100.0
Total	32	100.0	100.0	

How easy to access and use the AT software

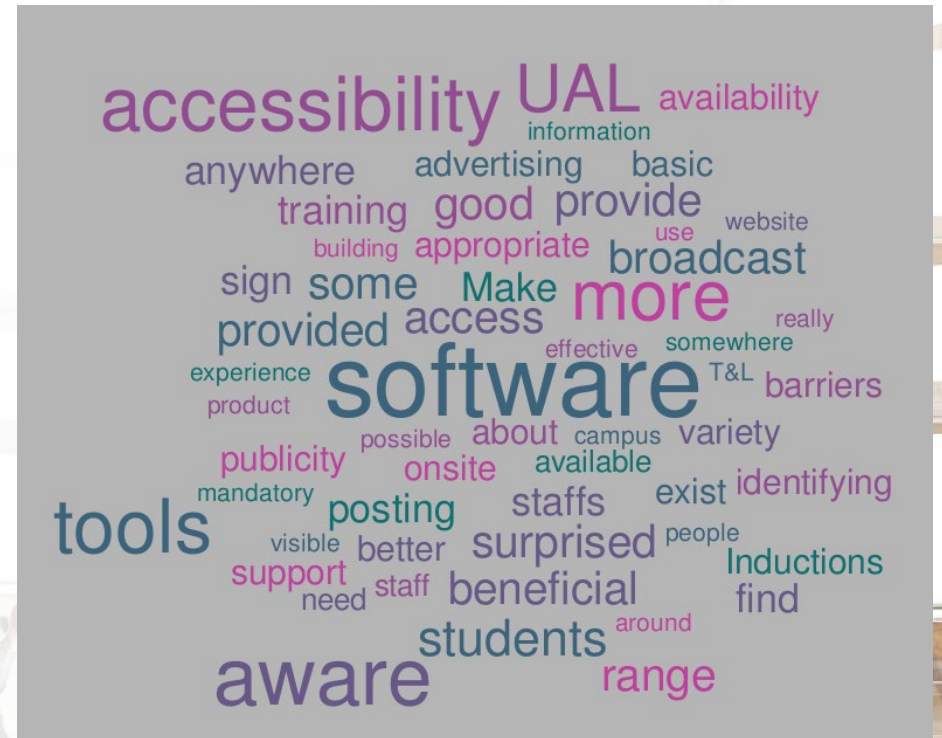
Q8				
	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Effective	22	68.8	68.8	68.8
Neutral	7	21.9	21.9	90.6
Very effective	3	9.4	9.4	100.0
Total	32	100.0	100.0	

How would you rate the overall effectiveness of the accessibility software and tools you have used?

Summary of Findings



How easy is it to access and use the accessibility software and tools provided by UAL?



Word Clouds Visualisation

AT Learning Hub

- Combines all AT information across various UAL platform such as UAL website, canvas, library and IT Services
- Using Technical Resources SharePoint – compatible with our current Microsoft365
- The page will make it easy to find available software and locate the machines where it is installed, allowing students to access and use it while in UAL buildings
- [AT Learning Hub](#)



Summary of Findings

<https://artslondon.sharepoint.com/teams/LTSCollegeIT296/SitePages/Assistive-Technology.aspx>

Software Availability

Here, you can quickly and easily search for the availability for the software you need for your projects. Whether you're looking for Adobe Creatr Cloud, Claro, or any other accessibility tool, simply enter the name of the software, and we'll show you the description and availability (free, req purchase or university purchased)

Software List and Availability

Start typing software name here

Adobe Acrobat Pro

The all-in-one PDF & e-signature solution with advanced tools to edit. Free with Adobe CC

ClaroCapture

A study skills tool to help you capture and organise text, audio and images. University purchased

ClaroRead

Text-to-speech software can be used to support those who struggle with University purchased

Dragon Naturally Speaking

Allows users to control their computers with their voice. Requires purchase

Immersive Reader

A tool to assist with reading and comprehension across 365 apps. Free with Office 365

Inspiration

Visual thinking and learning tool to plan, research and complete projects. University purchased

LCF Software Locator - search tool: by App

Browse Rooms

Start typing software name here

ActorCore

Maker Square EB_119

Adobe Creative Cloud

Maker Square EB_119, IT Teaching EB_404, IT Heart Space EB_430, Psychology Lab EB_506, IT Heart Space EB_523, IT Heart Space EB_620, News Room EB_622, IT Mac Open EB_721, IT Open Access EB_733(Non-Bookable), IT Heart Space EB_734, IT Open Access EB_735(Non-Bookable), Digital Design EB_829, Digital Design Print EB_901, Embroidery CAD/CAM EB_927, IT Heart Space EB_931, IT Teaching EB_1011, IT Teaching EB_1012, CAD/CAM EB_1101, CAD/CAM EB_1118, CAD/CAM

Agisoft Metashape Pro

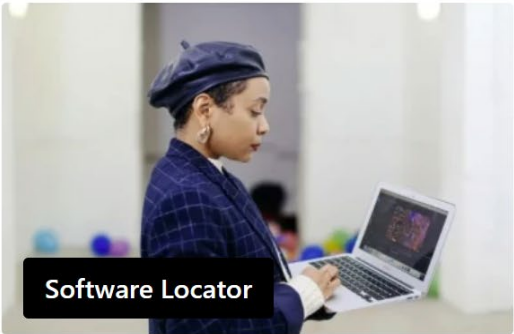
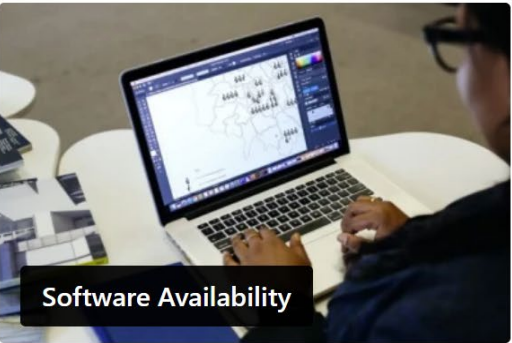
Maker Square EB_119

Agisoft Metashape Standard

Maker Square EB_119

Artec3D

no apps available



Limitation & Future Research

- **Limited Sample Size** – May not reached all relevant stakeholders, broad representative students, staff and departments
 - **Scope of Feedback** – Focus heavily on awareness and training but lack of challenges with software compatibility, licensing issue and infrastructure
 - **Limited Exploration of Training Implementation** - While training and inductions were identified as important, the survey may not delve deeply into how such programs could be effectively designed, delivered, and evaluated for maximum impact
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- Investigate how AT tools and software can be more effectively integrated into teaching and learning practices.
 - Providing information about designated rooms, spaces, and desktops equipped with AT software across UAL campuses.
 - A system where students can easily book training sessions or one-to-one tutorials on using AT tools directly through hub.

Thank you

Any questions

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