

JULY 2024 Digital Accessibility Report



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Background


In a groundbreaking move, the State of Colorado took the lead as the first state in the U.S. to legally mandate website and digital service accessibility for state and local governments. In our vibrant community of Jefferson County, digital accessibility isn't just a concept—it's a commitment to inclusivity. At Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL), we strive to be an essential destination for everyone, no matter their abilities. As part of our ongoing efforts to meet our community where they are, we are committed to making library digital resources as accessible as possible, from our buildings and programs to our digital services. The catalyst for further change was Colorado House Bill 21-1110 (HB21-1110), passed in July 2021. This legislation mandates that state and local public agencies establish accessibility standards for their websites and digital services, emphasizes reasonable accommodation for people with disabilities, and ensures equal access to government websites and other digital services.

Summary of Efforts - Enhancing Accessibility

Because a user-friendly experience benefits everyone, regardless of ability, our library is actively evaluating and implementing accessibility enhancements across our digital platforms. As of July 1, 2024, JCPL has achieved several milestones:

1. Program Management
 - a. The Digital Accessibility Program was added to the JCPL 2024 Portfolio, Building Inclusive Community.
 - b. Formation of an Accessibility Working Group. This cross-functional team oversees and implements accessibility improvements.
2. Accessibility Statement
 - a. Adopted a clear digital accessibility statement which was deployed on our internal and external websites.
3. Pathways for Inquiries



- a. Provided multiple pathways to facilitate digital accessibility requests or concerns from staff and patrons, including a dedicated telephone number, email address and online form.
 - b. Created an Inquiry Response Team and identified processes for addressing requests.
 4. Content Updates
 - a. Initial assessments of internal and external content for compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1, level AA criteria.
 - b. Evaluated content areas of high impact and priority, namely high-use public-facing web content.
 - c. Initial updates to Web Content Strategy, with attention to designing and testing for accessibility.
 - d. Initial web improvements to select pages to ensure better ease of use for all users.
 - e. Ongoing discussions and evaluation of next steps to further integrate best practices across content platforms.
 5. Staff Training and Awareness
 - a. Identified priority training requirements and resources for staff to ensure they're well-versed in accessibility matters.
 - b. Created a draft training and development plan, with a scaffolded approach to digital accessibility for staff and content creators.
 - c. Assigned mandatory accessibility training to all JCPL staff.
 - d. Created a landing page of resources and further reading about digital accessibility and HB21-1110 for all staff and internal content creators.
 - e. Provided talking points and FAQs to assist staff in navigating questions and conversations surrounding HB21-1110.
 6. Communication and Branding
 - a. Created a communication plan with ongoing deliverables for internal and external engagement and awareness.
 - b. Launched internal awareness campaign including presentations to Executive Leadership Team and Combined Management Teams, staff-facing updates and internal landing pages.
 - c. Evaluated current branding guidelines with attention to accessibility standards regarding images and graphics, font sizes and colors and color contrast.
 - d. Began development of updated Digital Accessibility Guidelines for content creators.
 7. Audit and Evaluation
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- a. Conducted a comprehensive inventory of all digital services and software and documented current compliance status where available and applicable.
 - b. Conducted a review of all internal and externally posted pdfs to track remediation needs.
 - c. Created an audit rubric to measure compliance for external-facing webpages.
 - d. Identified key areas for further assessment.
8. Preparation for Future Work
- a. Submitted 2025 Budget Requests to support ongoing Digital Accessibility efforts.
 - b. Created draft list of deliverables and projects in support of the Digital Accessibility Program.

Current Statuses and Benchmarks

As this Program evolves, so will the data we are able to report on and collect. As of July 1, 2024:

- Number of Inquiries Received: 0
- Inventory of Digital Platforms Impacted: 138
- Identified PDFs Requiring Remediation:
 - o Internal: 1098
 - o External: 1127

Conclusion

At JCPL, digital accessibility isn't an afterthought; it's woven into our digital fabric. We have made significant progress in improving the digital accessibility of our digital services. While our efforts are ongoing, our commitment to continuous improvement is paving the way for a more inclusive and accessible digital experience. We will continue to prioritize accessibility in all our web-related activities and continue to work on ensuring our digital presence is accessible to all users. Together, let's continue building an environment where all generations connect, discover and create.

For further information or to provide feedback, please contact our Digital Accessibility team at digital.accessibility@jeffcolibrary.org or by calling 303-275-2209.

