



BIROn - Birkbeck Institutional Research Online

Havemann, Leo and Peake, Sarah-jane (2016) Birkbeck for All: designing for accessibility. In: M25 Learning Technology Group, Nov 2016, London, UK. (Unpublished)

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Birkbeck for All

Joined-up thinking on Accessibility



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M25 Learning Technology Group, 29 November 2016, KCL #m25ltg

Initial project brief and funding

Context: lack of specific support for accessibility of lecturer-authored learning materials.

We didn't have very much in the way of guidance.

Barbara Denton, then Assistive Tech specialist at Birkbeck, applied to our Alumni fund for some project funding, and was successful.

Leo 'inherited' the 'Accessible Learning Materials' project and did further work on the brief but we needed to find someone to carry out the work.

Via Rob Martin we were able to recruit Sarah-Jane and Lee from Launchpad Assistive Technology.

Introducing Launchpad

- Assistive Technology trainers working one-to-one with students.
- We work with Assistive Tech companies on a range of projects.
- You can find us on YouTube.
- SJ recently became a Certified Professional in Accessibility Core Competencies. (CPACC)

Building Birkbeck for All

Xerte allows interactive content with rich media and high accessibility.

Launchpad's first task was getting to grips with Quick and Dirty Xerte...



Building Birkbeck for All

- Tutorials were created in Xerte Learning Objects.
- These Learning Objects were housed in the Xerte Bootstrap.
- This has all been created using Xerte Online toolkit. So no real CSS customisation.
- However, we did use a Xerte Theme Generator (developed by James Roscoe and Joel Reed at Nottingham University).

Key issues and messages

Accessibility is relative, but not too complex to do anything about. People need to be able to find key information on demand.

Digital formats are more accessible to more people - resources in digital form allow students to make use of assistive technology.

Working towards inclusive practice means less adjustments later and more usable materials for all students.

Demonstration

www.bbk.ac.uk/birkbeck-for-all

- Overview - navigation
- Accessibility basics: rationale and content
 - Text and images > choosing the right font video
- Microsoft Word - overview
 - Word's built-in accessibility checker video
- Other tutorials in brief

Next steps

We feel there is definitely scope to expand the project:

- Influenced by feedback or requests from staff.
- Include more interactivity.
- Content dedicated to specific department (e.g. Maths and Science accessibility).
- More videos. Interviews with students and staff to gain more insight.