Trending Tech Tools - 2022 AHEAD Edition
What's New, What's Improved, and What's on the Horizon for AT & Accessibility Tools

Hello There!
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Today's Agenda
- Recap of what has happened
- Updates, developments and new tools
- What to watch for
- Updates from the group
Recap of What Has Happened

EDUCAUSE Horizon Report 2022
Key trends and technologies shaping teaching & learning.

- Post-Covid emergence - change is here to stay, the new normal.
- Trends: social, technological, economic, environmental, political.
- AI for Learning Tools and Learning Analytics, Hybrid learning, Micro-credentialing.

EDUCAUSE Horizon Report 2022 cont.
Key trends and technologies shaping teaching & learning.

- How does accessibility fit into the future direction of higher ed?
- Is accessibility being address in the forefront of these conversations?
- EDUCAUSE Horizon 2022 Report
3Play Media
Current State of Captioning Report 2022
Yearly research report of the state on captioning released in May.

- Industry landscape, future trends.
- Better video and hybrid environment accessibility due to Covid.
- Captioning needs will maintain or increase in future.
- The Current State of Captioning: A Report by 3Play Media

Mergers & Acquisitions
Trends in consolidation of companies with shared missions and visions.

- Level Access & eSSENTIAL Accessibility
- Texthelp & Don Johnston
- T-Base acquires CommonLook & Accessible360
- Vispero brand includes Enhanced Vision, Freedom Scientific, Optelec, and TPGi (TPG Interactive formerly The Paciello Group)

AT to support Long Covid
Assistive technology can support the impacts of Long Covid.

- Long Covid seen as a disability.
- AT can support the impact of Long Covid.
- Not a single list of AT that can benefit a learner.
- As always, focus on impact, S-E-T-T framework.
- How technology can support with symptoms of Long Covid
**AT to support Long Covid cont.**

Resource: How technology can support with symptoms of Long Covid

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**Students prefer online ed**

Student preference for online ed options grows.

- Preference for online learning continues - flexibility, disability, preference - completely online or hybrid.
- In order to stay competitive, higher ed will need to meet students where they are at.
- Certificate programs and micro-credentialing commonly discussed as future direction.

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**Online testing tool pain points continue**

Frustrations and struggles continue with students, faculty, and online testing tools.

- HonorLock & University of Alabama Study: Online Exam Anxiety - The Latest Research
- Fall '20 - students reported highest levels of depression & anxiety around test taking.
- Still work arounds and retroactive accommodations with these tech tools.
Online testing tool pain points continue cont.

Frustrations and struggles continue with students, faculty, and online testing tools.

- Will the use of these tools continue with more in-person learning?
- Will campuses or companies learn from the last few years and/or this research?
- Will these software programs work towards accessibility, equity, and inclusion?

Recap of what has happened

Continued focus on techquity

Increased focus on techquity over the last year.

- Intersectionality of technology and equity.
  - Inequitable access to technology, internet or necessary devices.
  - Implementing and harnessing the power of technology to create more equitable and inclusive learning environments.

Recap of what has happened

Continued focus on techquity cont.

Increased focus on techquity over the last several months.

- Coincides with UDL & D.E.I. initiatives on your campuses.
- Provide more holistic technology, practices, and policies across campus to support the variability of our learners, among our learners, and the barriers they are encountering.
Increase focus on student support
Renewed focus in supporting & retaining learners.

- Colleges hyper-focused on holistic student support for all learners.
- Supports retention & grad rates.
- Appealing for enrollment.
- Innovative technological practices and software adoptions.
- Are these accessible?

Developments, updates, and tools to be aware of

Screen reader & EPUB Updates
Recap of what has happened

NVDA 2022.2 near release

NVDA 2022.2 closer to being released.

- Release Candidate for NVDA 2022.2 open to market for testing.
- Ability to download, try and provide final feedback prior to release.
- Should be identical to the final release.
- News: NVDA 2022.2rc1 available for testing.

Recap of what has happened

Updates to EPUB file format

General updates to this commonly used file format.

- Kindles will read EPUB files without need to convert to other file types.
- EPUB 3.3 WC3 Candidate Recommendation Draft released July 12th: EPUB 3.3
- No major new features; 3.3 moving through WC3's process to be formally recognized.
- What Does EPUB 3.3 Mean For Accessibility?

Recap of what has happened

Literacy/Text-to-Speech/STEM Support
Help students understand, engage and express themselves - no matter where they are working.

Read&Write for Google Chrome Update
Rebuilt toolbar released for Read&Write for Google Chrome in April.

- More support in more places - new toolbar will work in more LMS & third party content.
- New toolbar look and feel.
- Edge update in progress.

the “rewrite” of Read&Write
- More Learning Management Systems
- More online course content
- More websites
- More support in Google Workspace
Read&Write for Windows Update

Updates to Read&Write for Windows Desktop computers.

- New Talk&Type/Dictation tool.
- Uses new Microsoft speech recognition service for faster and more accurate performance.
- Requires an internet connection.
- Speech Recognition legacy feature is still available for offline scenarios.
Create, convert, connect:
Take your documents to the next level

OrbitNote Features:

- Get reading, writing, comprehension support from Read&Write
- Create and share assignments and assessments easily for collaboration or completion
- Add text, drawing, shapes and voice
- Insert digital math and STEM with Equatio
OrbitNote built-in scanning

If a PDF is image-based, OrbitNote will prompt you to automatically scan and find the text without leaving the PDF.
OrbitNote Updates - coming soon!

Updates due out by Back-to-School!

- Insert images.
- Split & merge PDFs.
- Saving & burning annotations.
- D2L Brightspace integration - released last week.
- Insert digital signatures.

Make math digital

Equatio allows you to create equations, formulas, and more, digitally. Helping to make math and STEM classes more accessible and engaging for every student.

Full page math OCR in Equatio

Users can now OCR full pages of math in Equatio.

- Update allows for full page OCR of math content.
- Math can be sent directly into an Equatio Mathspace or a Google Doc (beta for Docs).
- Lays foundation and groundwork for OCR capability into other document types in the future.
Developments, new tools, and updates to be aware of

Full page math OCR in Equatio cont.

Users can now OCR full pages of math in Equatio.

- Easy and time saving conversion of textbooks, course materials, exams, or faculty content.
- Quality of document and scanner/camera will impact scan.
- How Equatio Mobile is rewriting the digital math experience

ExamMode for Equatio Desktop

Limit features and functionality during assessments.

- Limit features such as prediction or calculator during exams anywhere.
- Requested from pedagogical standpoint from faculty.
- Features can be limited using a Feature Config file.
- Introducing Exam Mode for Equatio

Equatio Respondus integration

Equatio now works with Respondus!

- Equatio for Windows Desktop can be used with Respondus.
- Screenshot Reader tool available for reading STEM content aloud.
- Highly requested integration for secure testing.
- Using Equatio Desktop With Respondus LockDown Browser
Coursera Equatio integration

Easily use Equatio within Coursera to create content.

- Equatio toolbar integrates into Coursera’s main content editor.
- Great for student or faculty creation using any of the tools on the Equatio toolbar.
- Must have an Equatio license for access to this integration.
Updates to Kurzweil

Developments during 2022 thus far.

- Creation of audio files from EPUBs.
- Read the Web: read text in input/text fields.
- Voice updates.
- OCR engine update.

Voice Dream Reader on Mac OS Desktop

Voice Dream Reader is available on macOS Desktop.

- Late April release.
- Most highly requested platform.
- Very similar to iOS version but designed with macOS in mind.
- iCloud sync for cross platform use.
- Introducing Voice Dream Reader for macOS

KNFB Reader becomes OneStep Reader

Transitioned to Sensotech for the future.

- Collaborative development between NFB, Raymond Kurzweil, and Sensotech since early 2000s.
- Continued development by Sensotech moving forward.
- KNFB Reader becomes OneStep Reader & OneStep Reader App (formerly known as KNFB Reader App).
Immersive Reader integrations

- Development for integrations in platforms, websites, and 3rd party apps.
- Integrations include: Canvas, Teams, Schoology, Pear Deck, Thinglink & Wakelet.
- Immersive Reader Partners

Notetaking Support

Livescribe’s Echo 2 Released

- New design, Bluetooth headphone compatibility, same notebook capability.
- Write, record & listen back with pen only.
- Transfer notes & audio to Windows, Mac, iOS, or Android device. Listen back on device.
- Share notes on Teams & Zoom or send to OneNote or Evernote.
Transcription Available in Glean

Launched in Spring 2022 for Glean for Education customers

- Hugely requested feature.
- Companion text to audio file available to users.
- Linked navigation to audio, labels and notes.
- Mindfulness is key with users using this feature - can be overwhelming.
- Intended to be used post-class.

Additional Glean Updates

More user requested features built-in.

- Focus timer for studying.
- Import PowerPoint slides (.ppt or .pptx).
- Insert images into notes.
- Create tasks within your notes easily view all at once.
- Audio Clean-Up with 5 built-in filters.

Updates to Otter.ai

Widening support to encompass support for work, life, and school.

- Increased support for professionals & hybrid workers.
- Otter assistant embeds into Zoom, Google Meet, & Teams.
- Using AI to make transcriptions “smarter”: speaker identification, custom vocab and summary.
Updates to Otter.ai cont.

Widening support to encompass support for work, life, and school.

- Key features haven’t changed: highlight, comment & insert images into notes.
- Search ability & summary keywords.
- Access notes from any platform: web, iOS, Android, Chrome Extension.
- New: Two-Factor Authentication.

Accessibility Updates

- Run the Accessibility Check in the background during content creation.
- Accessibility Reminder add-in for accessibility nudges for creators.
- Accessibility Ribbon - accessibility in one place.
- What’s new in Microsoft 365 accessibility features for Winter 2022
T-Base FastTrack Online Released
Easy to use subscription service tool built for education.
- Self-service product which transcribes documents into accessible format including STEM.
- Quick creation of reflowed accessible (large print) Word Docs, E-text, & accessible PDF.
- 2x faster, decreases wait time for accessible materials.
- Upload, click... and go!
- Introducing FastTrack Online

HECVAT Process Updates
Higher Education Community Vendor Assessment Toolkit for all.
- Standard questionnaire across higher ed to measure vendor risk.
- Measures data, security, & accessibility.
- Goal: standardization across high ed and vendors.
- Repository for completed HECVATs.
- Higher Education Community Vendor Assessment Toolkit

What to Watch For
Ongoing support for Long Covid

Specifically as it relates to Assistive Technology & Accessibility.

- Impacts of Covid are longstanding.
- What AT tools can support learners?
- What can we do to make our campuses more accessible to support these learners, especially given the increase in preference for online learning?

Digital literacy divide continues

Students are struggling with digital literacy at higher levels.

- Digital native does not equal digital literacy.
- Number of students struggling with digital literacy is growing.
- Campuswide issue but disproportionately impacting underrepresented populations such as those with disabilities.

Digital literacy divide continues cont.

Students are struggling with digital literacy at higher levels.

- We need to rethink if students are prepared for tech tools and if not, what to do.
- Is technology being built with this in mind?
- Think Digital Native Means Digitally Literate? Think Again.
Metaverse, disability & accessibility

Access, inclusion, and exclusion for people with disabilities in the metaverse.

- What potential does it provide access for people with disabilities?
- Benefit to those with physical disabilities, social anxiety, immunocompromised, unable to leave home.
- Uncertainty around what this could mean for inaccessibility. Will the platform be inaccessible innately?

Metaverse, disability & accessibility cont.

Access, inclusion, and exclusion for people with disabilities in the metaverse.

- What money is being invested into access and inclusion during development?
- The internet is starting to become accessible, but it took time. How long will this take for the metaverse?
- Does the metaverse increase equitable access or create a divide?

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 3.0

WCAG 3.0 is currently in a working draft form.

- Currently an incomplete draft seeking input from a variety of stakeholder groups who are impacted by these guidelines.
- Some are choosing to begin following 3.0 instead of 2.0 or 2.1.
- Target publication date of 2023 or later.
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 3.0 cont.

WCAG 3.0 is currently in a working draft form.

- Includes new standards and replaces leveled conformance with score-based outcomes.
- W3C Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 3.0
  W3C Working Draft 21
  December 2021.

PDF/UA-2 Continued Development

PDF/UA-2 development is ongoing and projected to be released in 2023.

- PDF/UA = PDF/Universal Accessibility.
- PDF/UA-1 released in 2020.
- PDF/UA-2 also known as ISO 14289-1.
- PDF/UA provides a way of making PDF files that align with WCAG for accessibility.
- ISO 14289 (PDF/UA)

PDF/UA Processor Liaison Working Group

Formation of understanding on how PDF files are processed.

- Working group to create understanding and standards around how PDF Viewers, Processors, & AT handle tagged PDFs.
- No standardization of how these tools interact with PDF files to date.
- Places PDFs are opened, rendered and includes various AT.
**PDF/UA Processor Liaison Working Group cont.**

Formation of understanding on how PDF files are processed.

- PDF/UA-1 has basic requirements, but recognition of development and standards is necessary.
- These standards will be separate from PDF/UA-2 and be its own requirement document.
- Introducing the PDF/UA Processor LWG & PDF/UA Processor LWG

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**Updates from the group**

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**What updates have you heard?**

**What do we need to watch for?**

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- NaturalReader updates?
Thank You!

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