

UW-IT Accessible Technology Services

2022: A Year in Review

Director, Sheryl Burgstahler, Ph.D.

The University of Washington's Accessible Technology Services (ATS) promotes the success of people with disabilities, using technology as an empowering tool. ATS leads two groups: The Information Technology Accessibility Team (ITAT) and the Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology (DO-IT) Team. Together, these teams amplify their impact at the UW and beyond.

IT Accessibility Team

Manager, Terrill Thompson

ITAT (uw.edu/accessibility) works to ensure the technologies provided for UW students, faculty, and staff are accessible to people with disabilities. ITAT staff promote the accessible design of websites, documents, videos, software, and other technologies. Each year, they collaborate with more than 30 technology companies to help meet UW accessibility standards.

The team

- develops and maintains the Accessible Technology website,
- leads the IT Accessibility Task Force,
- hosts a monthly online web accessibility/usability meetup,
- offers Accessible Technology webinars,
- provides custom trainings and workshops,
- coordinates the IT Accessibility Liaisons Network, and
- offers captioning and accessibility remediation services for high impact videos and PDFs.

**Learn more about ITAT accomplishments
in 2022 on pages 2 – 3.**

Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology

Manager, Scott Bellman

DO-IT (uw.edu/doit) empowers people with disabilities through technology and education. It promotes awareness and accessibility—in both the classroom and the workplace—to maximize the potential of individuals with disabilities and make our communities more vibrant, diverse, and inclusive.

In 2022, hundreds of students engaged in mentoring, college-preparation programs, and internships. DO-IT also worked with organizations around the world to adapt evidence-based practices to

- promote the success of people with disabilities in college studies and careers;
- advance the development and use of technology for people with disabilities; and
- promote the universal design of instruction, physical spaces, technology, and services.

**Learn more about DO-IT accomplishments
in 2022 on pages 4 – 5.**



IT Accessibility Team

933 PDF Docs Remediated

ITAT staff provided free remediation of UW PDF documents that are highly visible, high-impact, multiple use, and/or strategic. In 2022, ITAT staff remediated 933 documents totaling 6,032 pages, positively affecting thousands of students, faculty, staff, and visitors as they access public-facing documents. Examples of high-impact documents remediated include the ADA Transition Plans for Seattle, Tacoma, and Bothell from Compliance Services, many onboarding forms linked from central HR, and petitions for graduating from the Office of the Registrar. For additional information about document accessibility, see uw.edu/accessibility/documents.

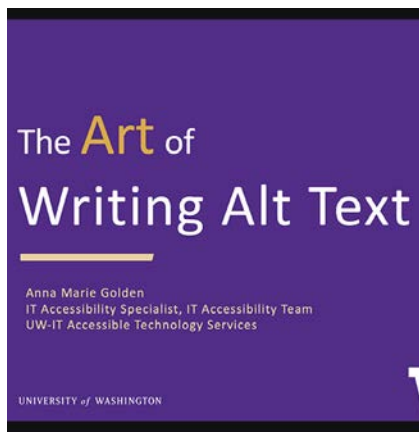


518 Videos Captioned

ITAT staff provides free captioning of UW videos that are highly visible, high-impact, multiple use, and/or strategic. In 2022, ITAT staff captioned 518 videos with over 150 hours of run time, estimated to impact over 130,000 viewers. Examples of high impact videos captioned include videos for Global Health courses that are viewed by students around the world for many of whom English is a second language, and videos for several UW YouTube channels. ITAT staff also helped UW video owners add audio description to their videos, a standard technique that makes highly visual video content accessible to individuals who are unable to see the video. Of the 518 videos, 9 videos were audio described. For additional information about video accessibility, including ITAT's free captioning service, see uw.edu/accessibility/videos.

30 Vendor Partnerships

ITAT staff work collaboratively with many of the technology vendors with whom the UW does business, in order to help them improve the accessibility of their products and services. Key partnerships in 2022 included Articulate, Epic MyChart (UW Medicine), Microsoft, Mural, Kaye-Smith (UW Physician Billing), Trumba, Workday, and Zoom.



100+ Presentations and Events

ITAT staff host standing monthly activities such as the online Web Accessibility/Usability Meetup and Accessible Technology Webinar Series. They also provide three half-day trainings per year to the network of IT Accessibility Liaisons and deliver customized trainings, workshops, and presentations on request to campus units and departments. ITAT staff are globally recognized for their expertise on IT accessibility, and, in 2022, they gave presentations at several regional and national conferences, including the Building Bridges Technology Conference, CSUN Assistive Technology Conference, and Accessing Higher Ground (Accessible Media, Web and Technology Conference).

ITAT Collaborator Spotlights

Lynn Magill, Procurement Services

Lynn Magill is the assistant director for contracting and sourcing within Procurement Services. She is a strong advocate for accessibility when negotiating contracts with IT vendors. She actively participates on the UW's IT Accessibility Task Force and is a regular co-presenter of the Accessibility in Procurement webinar, which is offered twice a year in ITAT's Accessible Tech Webinar Series. She also works to educate her colleagues nationwide through the National Association of Educational Procurement (NAEP), presenting on contracts and risk management in webinars and at their annual meeting. In her presentations, she talks about how the UW is building in accessibility as a process standard and how that intersects with the institution's diversity efforts.



Elliott Stevens, University Libraries

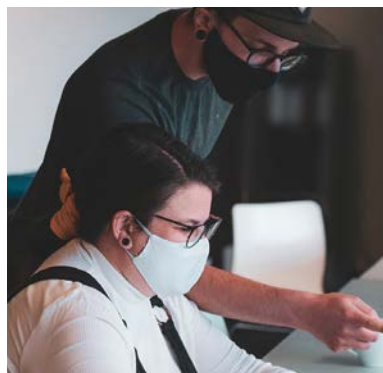
Elliott Stevens is the English studies and research commons librarian for University Libraries. He initiated and led a collaboration for over five years with the makers of Manifold, a platform for accessing and publishing books electronically, to help them improve their accessibility. Several of ITAT's student employees joined the Manifold collaboration during its five-year span, and Elliott was very helpful in teaching them about Manifold and bringing them on board to the project. He also engaged other library colleagues in discussions of accessibility, raising their awareness and helping them to improve the accessibility of their services.

ITAT 2022 Highlights

Launched a freshly redesigned UW Accessible Technology website at uw.edu/accessibility.



Continued the Accessible Technology Webinar Series with at least one webinar per month on popular topics in IT accessibility.



Helped web designers and developers solve many technical challenges through our monthly Web Accessibility and Usability Meetup.



Hired Mary-Colleen Jenkins to work closely with faculty to support them in making their online courses more accessible.

The DO-IT Team

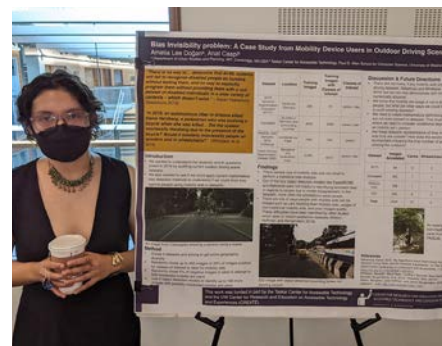
Celebrating 30 Years of Grant-Funded Projects



In 2022, DO-IT published *DO-IT Retrospective: Our First 30 Years*. Throughout the year, DO-IT staff worked on many projects funded by the NSF. Ongoing NSF projects included *AccessComputing*, *AccessCSforAll*, *AccessADVANCE*, *Creating and Testing Data Science Learning Tools for Secondary Students with Disabilities*, *Neuroscience for Neurodiverse Learners*, and two subawards: *The Alliance for Identity-Inclusive Computing Education* and *The Alliance of Persons with Disabilities and Intersectionality for Inclusion, Networking, and Transition Opportunities in STEM*. DO-IT also finalized the *AccessCSforAll2.0*, *Access to Informal STEM Learning* and *AccessINCLUDES* grants. In 2022, DO-IT received funding for a subaward from the University of Minnesota. Staff also managed DO-IT's state-funded *Scholars* program as well as maintained resources, activities, and collaborations related to legacy projects.

50+ Internships

DO-IT participants engaged in over 50 internships with a majority being paid internships in STEM fields. Locations included Nike, Northrup Gruman, Microsoft, Intel Labs, Comcast, Apple, Meta, Google, Amazon, Nordstrom, the Argonne National Laboratory, the Children's National Medical Center, and several universities. Through internships, students build their professional networks, learn about career fields, improve strategies for requesting job accommodations, apply academic learning to real-world environments, and access state-of-the-art equipment.



1,000+ Participants

DO-IT serves over 1,000 students with disabilities in our programs. Activities in 2022 included workshops, networking events, mentoring, disability advocacy events, and five weeks of online and on-site college-preparation summer programs. Through these activities, students build job seeking skills, improve their resumes, learn how to be successful in college, gain access to assistive technology, and much more.

DO-IT's Reach Since 1992

- Almost 600 *DO-IT Scholars* and *Ambassadors* from 258 high schools in Washington and 29 states across the US
- 66 institutional partners, 23 organizational partners, and 11 industry partners serving over 300 *AccessComputing* students nationwide
- Leadership activities in national alliances, such as the Alliance for Identity Inclusive Computing Education and the TAPDINTO STEM Alliance
- DO-IT Center hosted in Japan, DO-IT partnerships in Malaysia and South Korea



DO-IT Participant Spotlights

Kelly Mack, University of Washington

Kelly Mack, a Ph.D. student at the UW Allen School, works with researchers to take accessibility and disability into account in their research methods and design processes. She has carried this accessibility mindset into her work with industry work with Snap Inc. and Girls Who Code. Mack's dissertation will focus on building technology that supports people with disabilities who have fluctuating access needs and disability identities, and she recently received the 2022 Dorothy L. Simpson Leadership Award. "AccessComputing has been awesome because you have a shared community of fellow disabled students in STEM who are going through similar things" said Kelly, who joined *AccessComputing* in the spring of 2019. "Having a community to go to for support and advice is invaluable."



Allegra Keys, University of Washington

Allegra Keys is a *DO-IT Scholar* from 2009, poet, and author. Keys attended University of Washington for a year before taking a hiatus to focus on her writing and other aspects of life. DO-IT taught her to self advocate for herself and speak up for those with disabilities, which she does in her ongoing blog. In 2019, she returned to the University of Washington and in June 2023, Allegra will graduate from UW Seattle with an English degree in creative writing with departmental honors. She hopes to be accepted into the UW Master of Fine Arts program focused on poetry. Her poetry has been featured in multiple collections, and she published her first book, *Knotted Strings*, in 2013. Through her writing she aspires to make narrative spaces for people with disabilities.

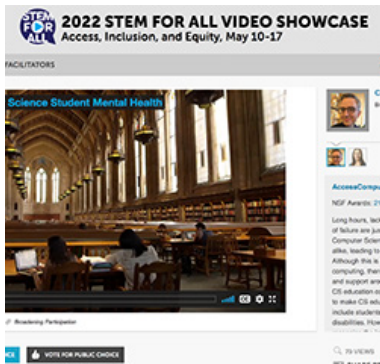
DO-IT 2022 Highlights

DO-IT successfully ran two summer studies, *DO-IT Scholars* and *Neuroscience for Neurodiverse Learners*.



AccessComputing Co-PI Stacy Branham gave the keynote at Tapia, which was well-received and has been shared widely online.

DO-IT developed and delivered a training program to promote hiring people with disabilities in the Yakima Valley; many employers received the training, included the City of Yakima and Yakima County.



AccessADVANCE, *AccessComputing*, and the NSF INCLUDES TAPDINTO-STEM Alliance each submitted a video to the STEM for All video showcase.



Funding

The IT Accessibility Team is supported by the University of Washington. DO-IT is funded by National Science Foundation, Washington state, and other donors; visit uw.edu/doit/about/funding-and-support to learn more about DO-IT's funders and opportunities to contribute.

Lasting Impact and Consultation

ATS increases the success of individuals with disabilities in academic and career fields through on-campus support and off-campus interventions for people with disabilities, faculty, staff, employers, and other stakeholder groups. Its impact continues long past the duration of each interaction and activity by developing the knowledge and skills of individuals and creating and widely distributing related resources.

Engage with ATS

Reach out to our teams for consultation, resource-sharing, advocacy activities, and more!

Find resources and contact us online:

DO-IT at uw.edu/doit (or email doit@uw.edu)

IT Accessibility Team at uw.edu/accessibility (or email help@uw.edu)

