



FRESH FROM THE JAR

LRC NEWSLETTER

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Is Your Course ADA Compliant? Angela Vaughn, Distance Education Staff Assistant

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was signed into law in 1990. The law is intended to remove barriers for people with disabilities. Around 54 million Americans have some type of disability, including cognitive, visual, motor, or hearing disability. For some disabled persons, the opportunity to participate in distance education courses is both appealing and convenient. The law states that our courses must be accessible to all students, and well-designed courses benefit everyone, not just those who have disabilities. Blackboard is ADA compliant, but the content added by instructors may not be. When adding content to a course, instructors must remember that students may use different technologies to access material. Visually impaired students may use software, such as JAWS, that reads the screen. A student with reduced vision may use ZoomText to magnify the screen. A student with a learning disability or a reading disability may use Kurzweil 3000, which reads the information to them.

Some typical problems with course content include the following:

- **Documents not posted in an accessible format** – Post documents in an alternative text-based format such as HTML or RTF, in addition to PDF.
- **Use of excessive colors or patterns** - Ensure that all information conveyed with color is also available without color. Avoid subtly contrasting text and heavily patterned backgrounds.

Posting videos, clipart, and other multimedia without accessible features - Provide audio and text captions of images. Text captions should be synchronized with video images. When adding content to your courses, remember to minimize blinking, flashing, or other distracting features. When you do use these features, make sure they can be paused or stopped. When designing forms, be sure to include descriptive HTML tags.

For more information on making your course content ADA compliant, please visit the Web Accessibility Initiative website, <http://www.w3.org/WAI/guid-tech.html>. Look for workshops from the Distance Education staff in the near future on ADA and accessibility. Please contact the DE staff if you have questions or need additional information.

Virtual Library Resources and Services Vanessa Nwanze, Reference Librarian

Libraries have transformed their image from buildings with books into cyber information vehicles that will enhance both students' and community's knowledge. Our online resources and services can be found on our website. Click on "Databases" to explore our electronic databases, or click on "Online Forms" to use one of our many online forms. The Learning Resources Centers at PCC have numerous online resources and services including:

eAudiobooks—Downloadable audiobooks narrated by professional actors. Go to "Databases" to explore and enjoy eAudiobooks from the NetLibrary database.

eBooks—Digital versions of books

eJournal—Digital versions of serial publications such as magazines, journals, and other regularly published materials

Electronic Databases—Search thousands of journal, magazine, and newspaper articles, images, maps, and government documents. Go to "Databases" to explore various types of databases in different subjects: education, business, humanities, literature, history, and more.

Off-Campus Access—Enjoy using our resources from home. Simply apply for an off-campus password by filling out the form found under "Online Forms".

Online Forms—Numerous online forms are available through our website. You can apply for a library card, an off-campus password to the electronic databases, suggest library materials, and more.

Visit Us Online at
www2.piedmontcc.edu/lrc

My Mother, My Best Friend Wanda Rogers (student)

When I was a child, I believed my mother was the worst mom in the world. Even though I loved her and could not stand to be without her, I still felt she was mean because her favorite word for me was NO! I could never go places with my friends, and they could go anywhere they wanted. I felt a lot of times that she didn't care. As I got older and finished school and went straight to PCC, I graduated and got a job, but many of my friends had dropped out of school, gotten married early, and had children, so as I looked back, I was really glad that my mother cared enough about me to say no. After growing up and being able to take care of myself, we had a beautiful relationship, and I really appreciated all she had been to me. She prepared me for life, and she was my very best friend.

Virtual Library Resources and Services Cont.

Remember, eBooks are digital versions of a book. You can view the whole book straight from your computer. The LRC owns 10 reference sources that will help you to find information on certain topics. A selected list of eBooks appears below.

Encyclopedia of Clothing and Fashion—tracing the stylistic and functional threads that unite clothing across time and cultures

Encyclopedia of Crime & Justice—dealing with not only law but also sociology, psychology, history and economics

Encyclopedia of World Cultures—describes more than 1,500 global cultures as a source for historical, social, political, economic, linguistic, religious, and other information

Gale Encyclopedia of E-Commerce—features 470 comprehensive and detailed essays on topics related to emerging world of e-commerce

Harlem Renaissance—presents the people, places, and times that defined an era and documents the launch of cultural development among African Americans in 1920s Harlem

History of the American Cinema—considers the film industry from its early roots in the 19th century up to 1990

Please contact the reference librarian for more information at (336) 599-1181 x235

Check Out the New Materials

1. *201 Killer Cover Letters*
2. *Alliance of Enemies: The Untold Story of the Secret American and German Collaboration to end World War II*
3. *The Battle for Islam (video)*
4. *Brave Men*
5. *Careers for Born Leaders & Other Decisive Types*
6. *Endangered Oceans: Opposing Viewpoints*
7. *Woman's Identity and the Quran: A New Reading*
8. *Intelligent Design vs. Evolution (video)*
9. *Liberation Historiography: African American Writers and the Challenge of History, 1794-1861*
10. *Machete Season: The Killers in Rwanda Speak: A Report*
11. *Sarah Laughed: Modern Lessons from the Wisdom & Stories of Biblical Women*
12. *Rwanda Means the Universe: A Native's Memoir of Blood and Bloodlines*
13. *Forensics Demystified*
14. *Niccolo Machiavelli (video)*

My Strength Tammy Chappell (student)

I was inspired by my husband and myself to attend college; this wonderful man always stands by me no matter what I choose to do. I married Brent on November 1st of 1997, and from that day on he has given me lots of support and motivation. About two years ago I really had my mind set on being a nurse, so I decided to start working on my career after I had my son. My husband doesn't let anything stand in the way, and that means we work as a team taking care of Bryce, cleaning the house, washing clothes, and cooking dinner. I will succeed with a strong husband by my side. I look forward to spending the rest of my life with this magnificent man.

Snatchburg Road Toni Clayton (student)

I moved to Caswell County about three and a half years ago, and I absolutely love it. My house payment is two hundred dollars less than my singlewide payment. My home now is a doublewide, and it sits on an acre and a half of beautiful land, and there is plenty of room outside for my kids to play. My singlewide was in a trailer park, and there wasn't very much room between my trailer and the others, no more than five or six feet; no privacy, but now I have plenty. The school system is wonderful, and the people in the county are very polite and friendly. Milton also has the best pizza I think in the whole world, and that would be no other than Aunt Millie's. I'm glad to have found my little place in Milton, down Snatchburg road.