



# An Overview of Resources to Support Inclusive Practice

# JISC

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## MAKING BETTER USE OF WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW

JISC TechDis Accessibility Essentials Series has been designed to give practical step by step information to incorporate small yet significant strategies to ensure that Microsoft Word and PowerPoint documents are created in and accessible manner. These guides provide simple, easily understood instructions and also provide short animated 'how to' exemplars at the bottom of the web page.

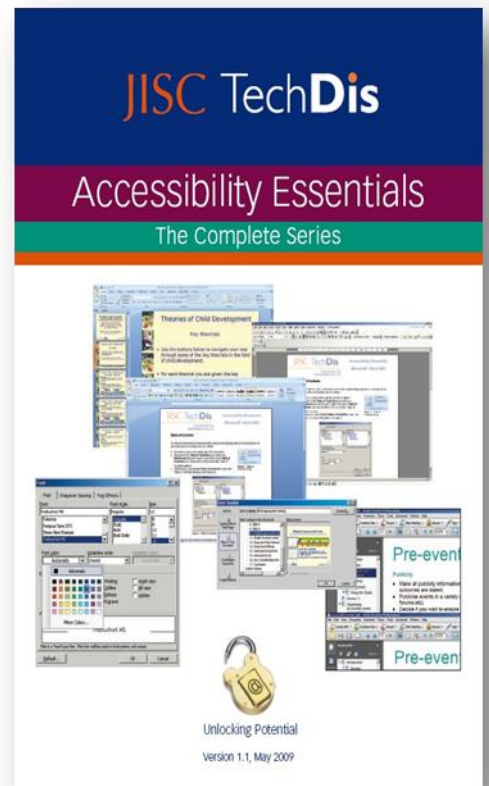
They also provide information on how to make MS Word more readable and advice on how to amend the look and feel of a document into a style which suits them. The final guide highlights strategies to create accessible PDFs and how to make the most of Adobe Readers' accessibility features when reading PDF documents.

Over 1 million JISC TechDis resources have been download this academic year alone. (2009/2010)

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WHERE CAN YOU FIND THESE RESOURCES?

[www.techdis.ac.uk/accessibilityessentials](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/accessibilityessentials)



**Figure 1: JISC TechDis Accessibility Essentials**

## ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES: Good Quality Freebies

Free assistive technology resources have not been created to replace existing commercial assistive technology tools; but to provide parity of access to those who are not eligible for Disabled Students Allowance or for those who would benefit from assistance because of literacy or language support needs or students who might have particular learning styles or study skills support needs. These free tools can be downloaded onto a learners desktop, alternatively many are portable, can be used anywhere and do not need to be installed and can be opened from a pen drive. They include the following genres

- Memory, planning and organisation.
- Tools to support visual needs.
- Reading and writing resources.
- Tools to create materials in alternative formats.
- Alternatives to mouse and keyboard access.
- Free alternative to Microsoft Office Suite



Figure 3: MyStudyBar Menu

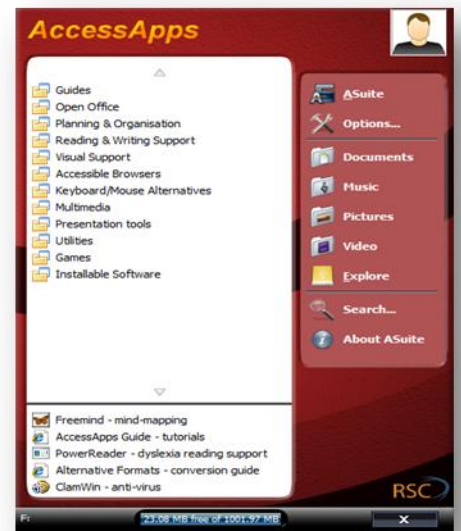


Figure 2: AccessApps Menu

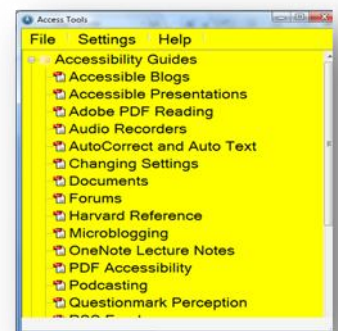


Figure 4: AccessTools

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## WITH GOOD QUALITY FREEBIES YOU CAN MAKE A PODCAST FOR LEARNERS

Without being an expert you can use DSpeech, a free and portable text to speech tool which can convert text to MP3 using the built in Windows voices.

Alternatively you could try Portable Audacity which creates audio recordings. It is free and easy to create classroom podcasts and MP3s where the students get to hear, edit and publish independently, it promotes ownership and is extremely motivating. RoboBraille is another web based tool which can create Braille format, DAISY (digital talking books) and MP3's by emailing a document which is ultimately returned to you in the appropriate format.

[www.robobrainle.org/frontpage](http://www.robobrainle.org/frontpage)

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## WITH GOOD QUALITY FREEBIES YOU CAN MAKE A VIDEO WITHOUT A VIDEO CAMERA

Without being an expert you can create a screen cast using Camstudio or Jing, you can add digital images into the free Windows MovieMaker resource or embed a piece of video into Windows PhotoStory and add captions to create an accessible video.



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WITHOUT BEING AN EXPERT YOU CAN MAKE MOBILE LEARNING WITHOUT BUYING SOFTWARE

There are many advantages to using mobile learning content:

- Most people own a mobile device (e.g. mobile phone or PDA) they are popular with young people and can therefore provide an incentive to learn.
- Mobile devices allow for privacy and learner can access mobile learning materials without the need for other people to know what they are doing.
- Materials can also be accessed anytime, anywhere and can fill time when other learning materials would not be suitable (i.e. on the train or bus).
- Many mobile devices already contain prompts (alarms, calendars etc) and so this is seen as acceptable by the user.
- Mobile learning can be made context-specific (e.g. horticulture-themed materials could be accessed whilst in a field) whereas other learning materials may not be appropriate.

Using UnFREEz (a free application from EduApps) and PowerPoint you can [create prompts or animated reminders](#) for learners which can be sent to their mobile devices.



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WITHOUT BEING AN EXPERT YOU CAN GIVE STRUGGLING READERS HELP  
WITHOUT BEING THERE

Teach learners how to use Dspeech which speaks back and tracks the words as it reads back. The text read on DSpeech can be saved as MP3 to listen to on an iPod or other mobile devices.

Created by CALL Scotland WordTalk is a free plug in for MS Word custom made to bring speech into MS Word documents by adding an additional menu bar onto your screen.

T-Bar, RapidSet and ssOverlay all provide different ways of changing the colour of the screen which can be particularly helpful for people with scotopic sensitivity. Some include a line/bar to underline lines to make them easier to read. VU-Bar will also provide this same function.

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YOU CAN DEFINE VOCABULARY WITHOUT BEING THERE

With the Lingoes dictionary and multi-language translator you can help students identify the meaning of words as well as letting them hear the options. Particularly good for students with dyslexia who often struggle to identify correct spellings by viewing the drop down list on the spellchecker. This will be of benefit to language learners also.

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YOU CAN GIVE POOR SPELLERS PROMPTS WITHOUT BEING THERE.

LetMeType is free word prediction software that can have a customised vocabulary imported.

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WHERE CAN YOU FIND THESE RESOURCES?

**EduApps** <http://www.eduapps.org/>

**MyStudyBar** <http://tiny.cc/studybar>

**AccessTools (Beta)** <http://tiny.cc/accesstools>

**RoboBraille** [www.robobrace.org/frontpage](http://www.robobrace.org/frontpage)

**TechDis** [www.techdis.ac.uk/getfreesoftware](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/getfreesoftware)

**Word Bar** [www.wordtalk.org.uk/Home/](http://www.wordtalk.org.uk/Home/)

**Jing** <http://www.jingproject.com/>

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CASE STUDIES - USING THESE FREE ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES IN PRACTICE

**RSC SW Scotland and Coatbridge College**

<http://tiny.cc/coatbridge>

**RSC West Midlands and local FE staff**

<http://tiny.cc/midlands>

**RSC Wales & Coleg Gwent**

<http://tiny.cc/wales906>

**RSC NE Scotland and Borders, NewBattle Abbey and Carnegie Colleges**

<http://tiny.cc/northeast>

## JISC LEXDIS: IDEAS FOR e-LEARNING



**Figure 5: LexDis logo - courtesy of EA Draffan**

LexDis, a JISC funded project based at the University of Southampton uses participatory methods to explore disabled students use and experiences of technologies and e-learning at the University of Southampton. The overarching aim is to increase the understanding of the many complex issues and interactions

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introduced by disabled learners; requirements for accessible e-Learning, compatible assistive technologies and effective learning support.

Six key recommendations have been drawn out from the results of the LexDis project that will inform the practice of lecturers, support staff in colleges and universities. The majority of these recommendations are based around recognition of where difficulties lie for disabled students:

1. Improve and increase the availability of desktop personalisation across institutional networks: so that students can log in with their own colour, font and accessibility options.
2. Increase the level of provision for online material
3. Raise awareness and understanding for all those staff concerned with implementing and using Virtual Learning Environments regarding accessibility issues caused by cross- course differences and inconsistencies
4. Increase the level of awareness for the use of alternative formats:
5. Be prepared to recognise the digital literacy skills that many disabled students have
6. Design and develop learning opportunities and support systems that recognise the significant factors that influence disabled students use of technology, notably time.

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WHERE CAN YOU FIND THIS RESOURCE?

[www.lexdis.org.uk/tour](http://www.lexdis.org.uk/tour)

## **MAKE HIGHLY ACCESSIBLE LEARNING OBJECTS: WITHOUT THE KNOW HOW**

The Xerte content creation tool was created by the University of Nottingham in collaboration with JISC TechDis and offers the chance to create accessible content. Resources created by Xerte offer the following accessibility benefits:

1. All content is keyboard accessible using the tab, space, arrow and enter keys.
2. The user can choose from a number of different colour schemes, text sizes and font types.
3. A range of media types, interactivities and self-assessments cater for different learning preferences.
4. Text-to-speech has been implemented for all textual content in the learning object.

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### WHERE CAN YOU FIND THIS RESOURCE?

[www.techdis.ac.uk/getxerte](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/getxerte)

## MAKE YOUR WEBSITE MORE ACCESSIBLE: WITHOUT BEING AN EXPERT



Figure 6: JISC TechDis Toolbar

This free application can be installed on a website or downloaded onto an individual PC, working seamlessly across all operating systems to provide significant benefits for everyone using the internet, especially those involved in education or with a disability.

### WHERE CAN YOU FIND THIS RESOURCE?

[www.techdis.ac.uk/getToolBar](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/getToolBar)

## WEB 2.0 TOOLS: HOW ACCESSIBLE ARE THEY?

This resource created by JISC TechDis and The University of Southampton aims to help those making decisions about their use of freely available 'Web 2.0' interactive and collaborate e-learning tools. If you are involved in teaching and learning and want to supplement or make more use of Web 2.0 services in your e-learning activities, this may be useful to you.



Figure 7: Web2Access Logo

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WHERE CAN YOU FIND THIS RESOURCE?

[www.web2access.org.uk](http://www.web2access.org.uk)

## HOW DID YOU DO THAT? SHARING YOUR PRACTICE

### **JISC TechDis Generic Case Studies**

[www.techdis.ac.uk/index.php?p=3\\_7](http://www.techdis.ac.uk/index.php?p=3_7)

### **JISC TechDis Library Case Studies**

<http://tiny.cc/library356>

### **JISC TechDis Higher Education Assistive Technology (HEAT) Scheme**

<http://tinyurl.com/yo3yzd>

### **JISC TechDis Specialist Colleges Case Studies**

<http://tinyurl.com/specialistcolleges>

### **RSC SW Scotland - Case Studies**

<http://tinyurl.com/bestofwest>

<http://tinyurl.com/goodpractice>

### **RSC SW Scotland Podcasts**

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[www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/podcast/Podcasts.htm](http://www.rsc-sw-scotland.ac.uk/podcast/Podcasts.htm)

## **RSC Yorkshire and Humber Excellence in Inclusivity**

<http://inclusivity.rsc-yh.ac.uk>

## **Excellence Gateway Case studies on good e-practice**

<http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=casestudies>

## **SHARING KNOWLEDGE: BEST OF THE BLOGS**

### **RSC NE Scotland Inclusion Blog**

[www.rsc-ne-scotland.org.uk/e-inclusion/](http://www.rsc-ne-scotland.org.uk/e-inclusion/)

### **CALL Scotland Blog**

[www.callscotland.org.uk/About-Us/Blog/](http://www.callscotland.org.uk/About-Us/Blog/)

### **BRITE Initiative Blog**

<http://briteblog.wordpress.com/>

### **Students with Learning Difficulties Blog**

<http://studentswithlearningdifficulties.blogspot.com/>

### **Teacher Training Videos**

[www.teachertrainingvideos.com/elt.html](http://www.teachertrainingvideos.com/elt.html)

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## **Abilitynet Podcasts**

<http://www.abilitynet.org.uk/podcast/>

## **JISC TechDis Blog**

<http://techdis.ac.uk/blog/>

## **Inclusion Forum**

<http://inclusive.ning.com/>

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