Blackboard

Ally

Making course content accessible

Problems

Institution

Instructor

Student

Institutional Problems

No insight into how institution is doing

Difficult to track and identify what to focus on

Manual remediation workflow

Lawsuits because of legal requirements

Instructor Problems

Lack of awareness of what to do

Lack of understanding on how it can affect students

Lack of guidance on how to improve accessibility

Student Problems

Explicit alternative format requests

Long delays on receiving requested format

Excludes many students

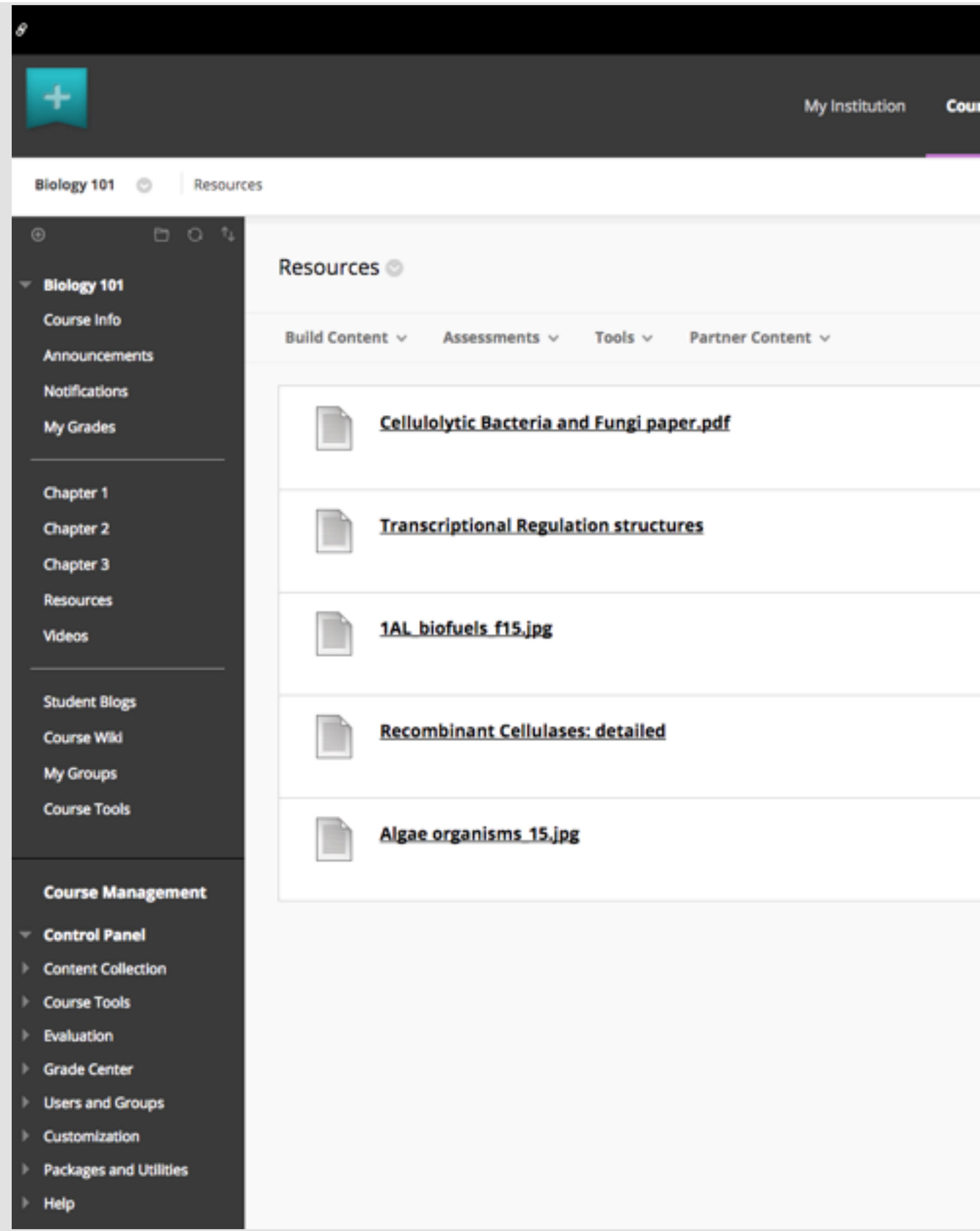
Closely related to quality and usability

Learning Management System

- The Learning Management System is an important player in this
- Committed to providing Ally to everyone, including non-Blackboard products
- Potential for other integrations

Workflow

- Instructor adds course content to course site



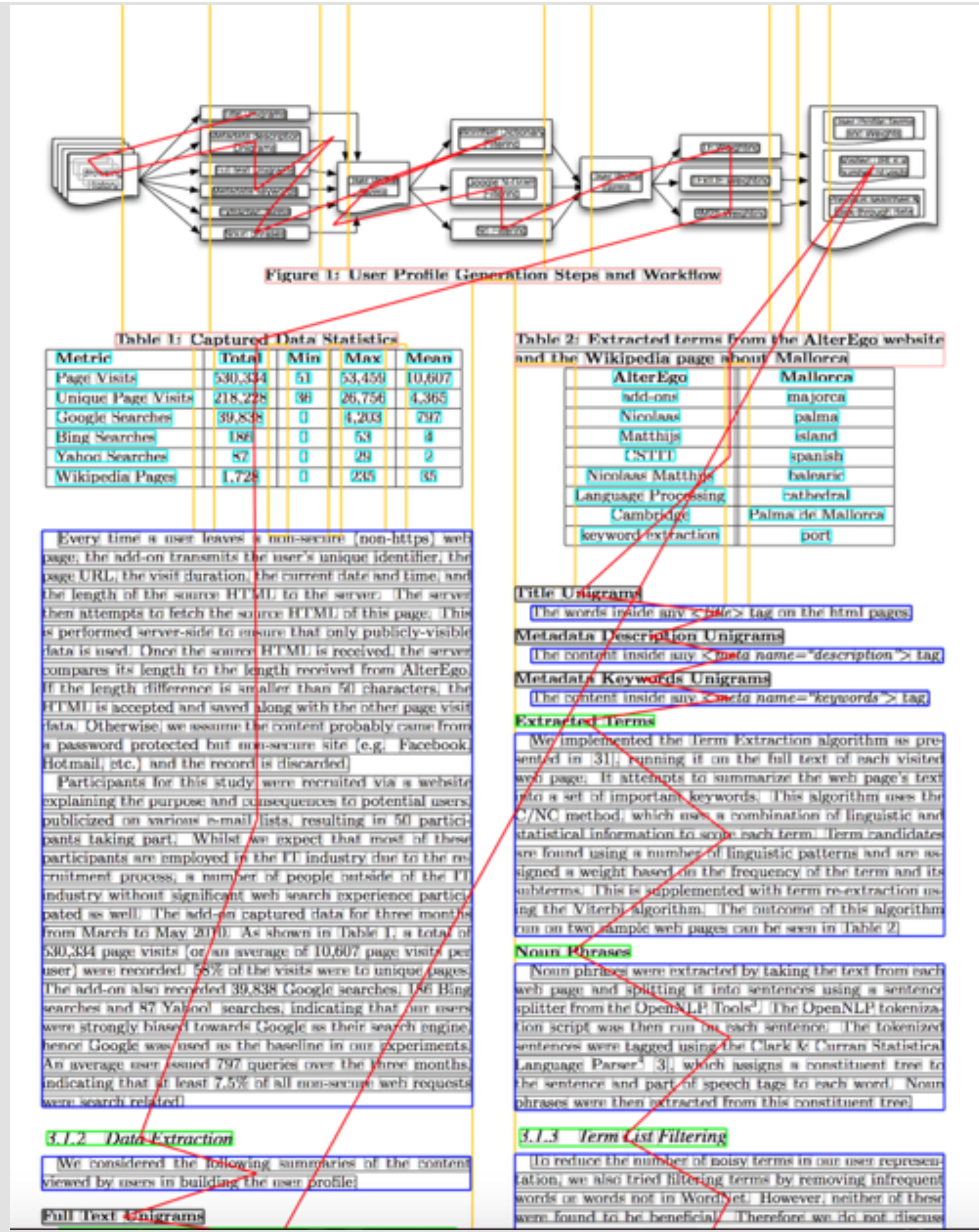
Automated Accessibility Checklist

- Automated accessibility checklist based on content type
- Based on WCAG 2.0 AA

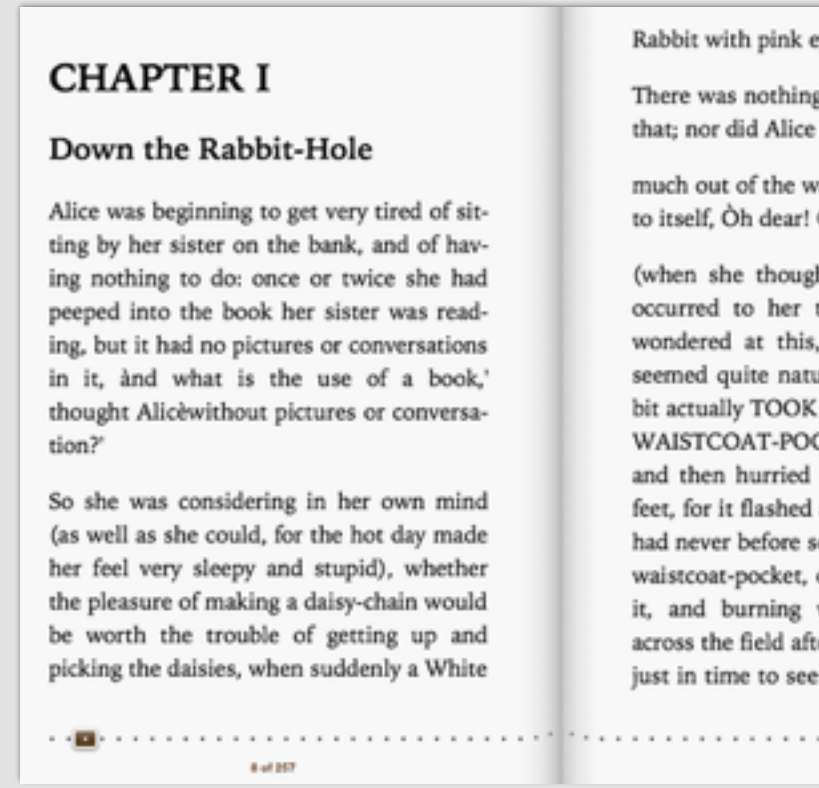
Machine Learning Algorithms

- Full structural and visual analysis to learn semantics of document

- Identify headings, heading structure, paragraphs, footers, tables, lists, mathematical formulas, etc.



Alternative Accessible Versions



HTML

High quality semantic HTML version of the content

Enhance original

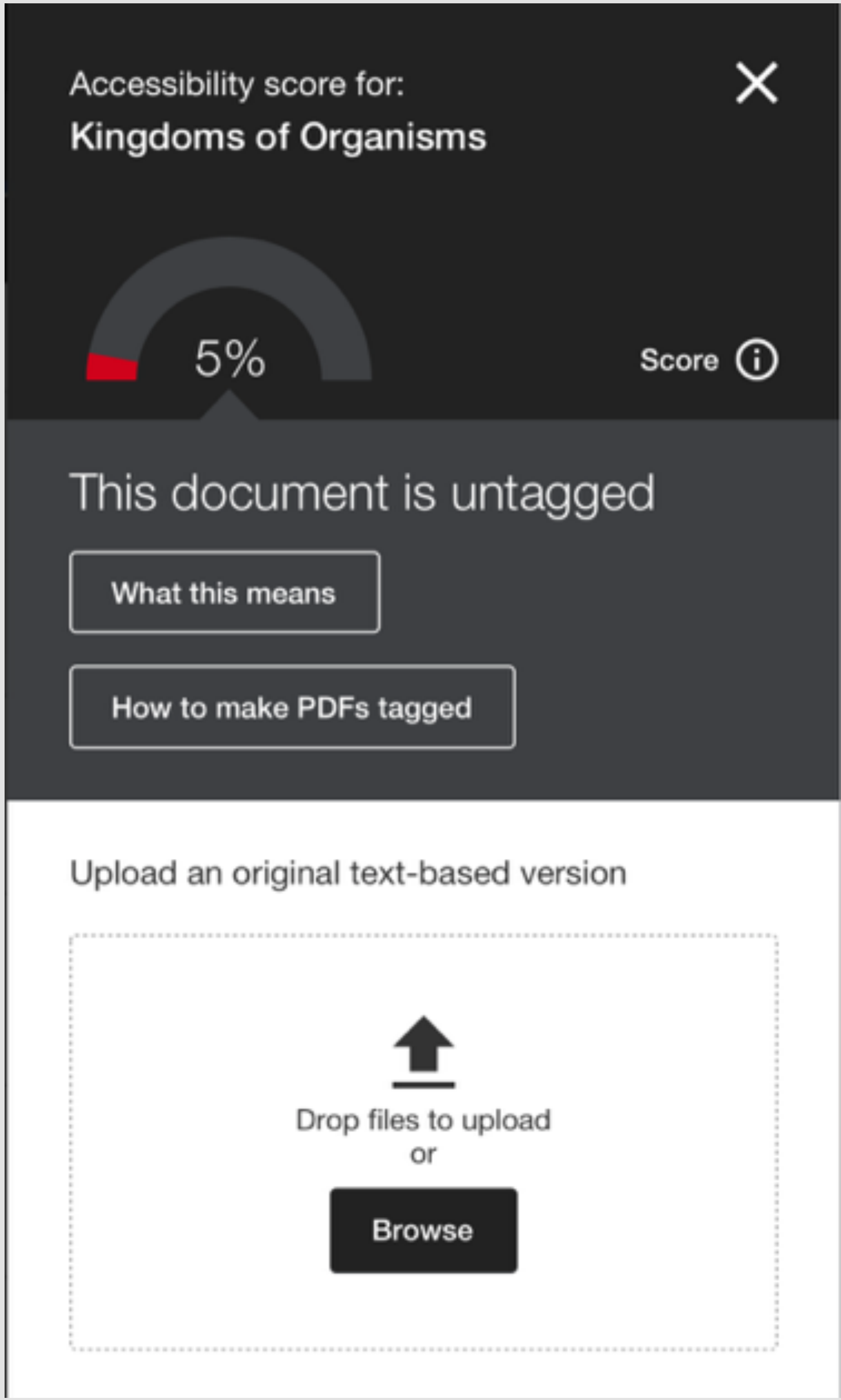
Automatically inject fixes into the original document

Other alternative formats

ePub, audio, electronic braille, etc.

Instructor Feedback

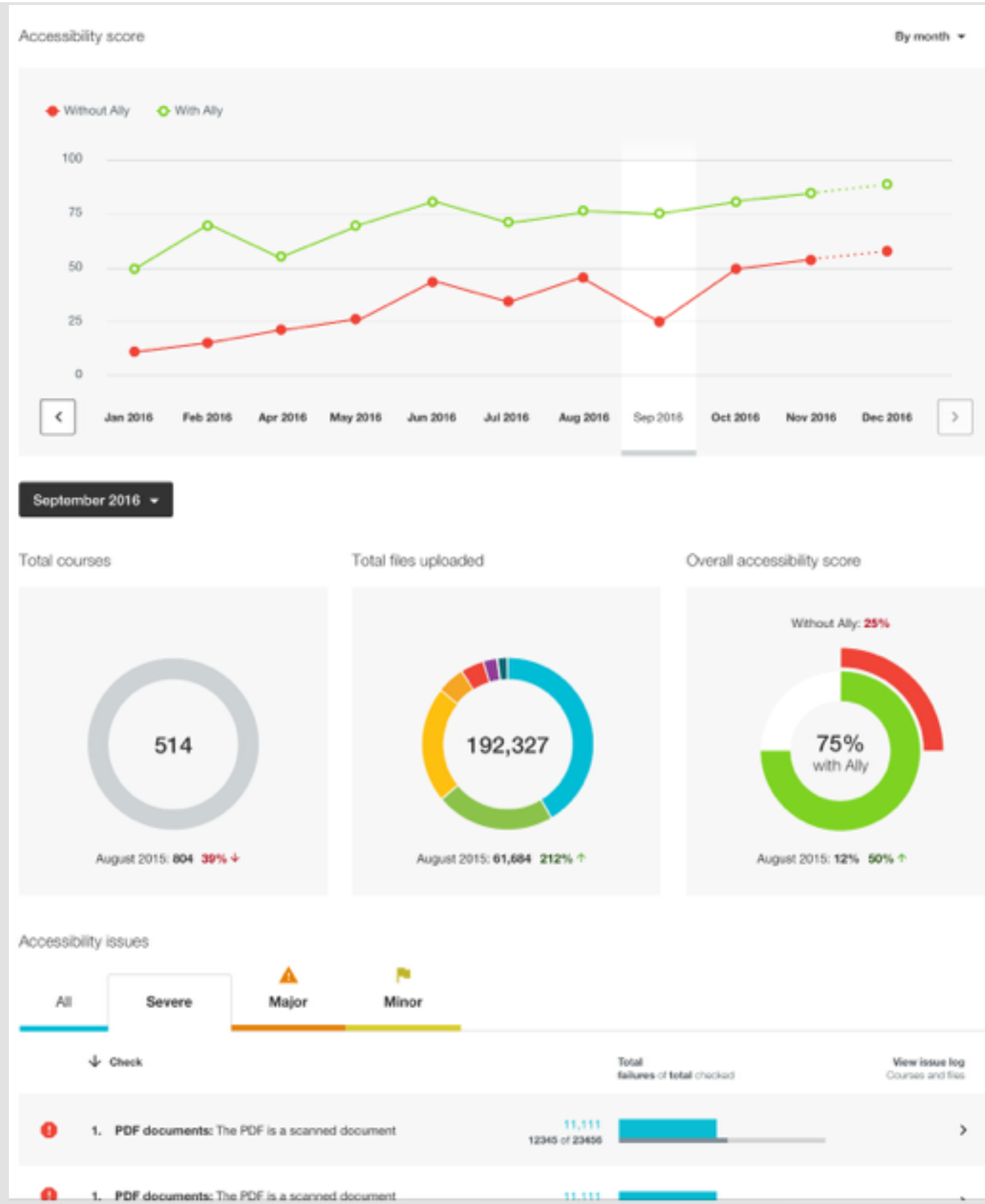
- Provide feedback to instructors about accessibility of their course content
- Provide guidance on how to fix accessibility issues
- Aims to generate change in behavior over time



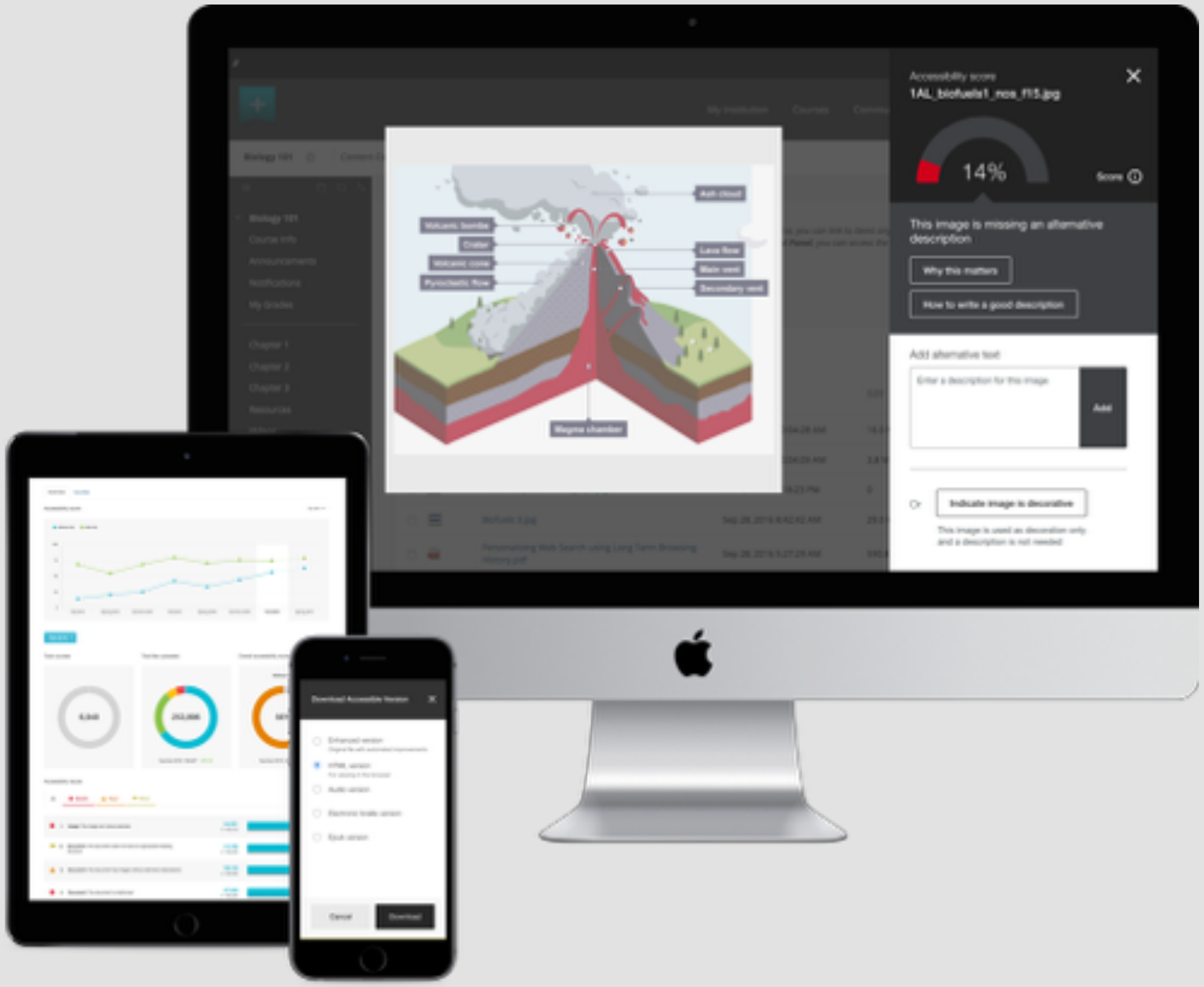
Institutional Report

- Provide detailed understanding of how institution is doing

- Helps identify where problem areas are, what to focus on, who to target, etc.



Demo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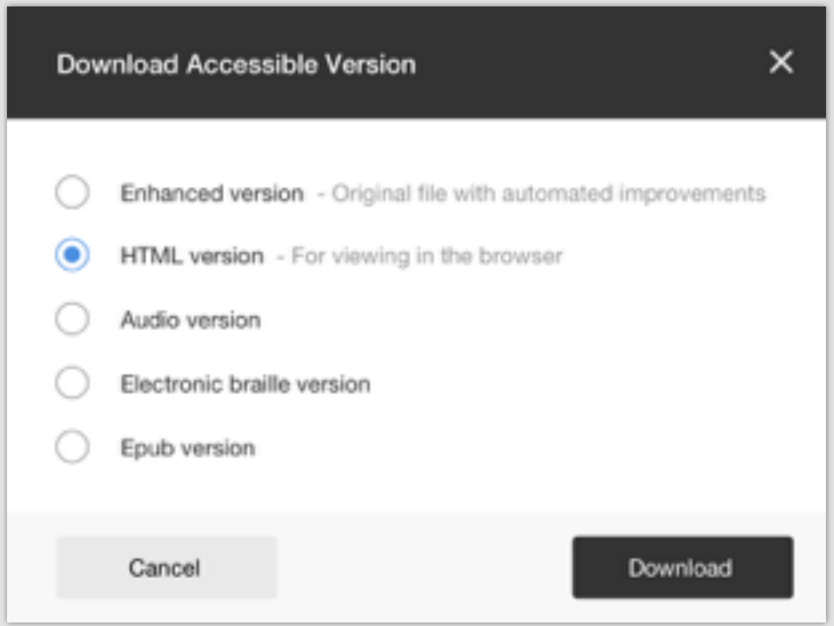
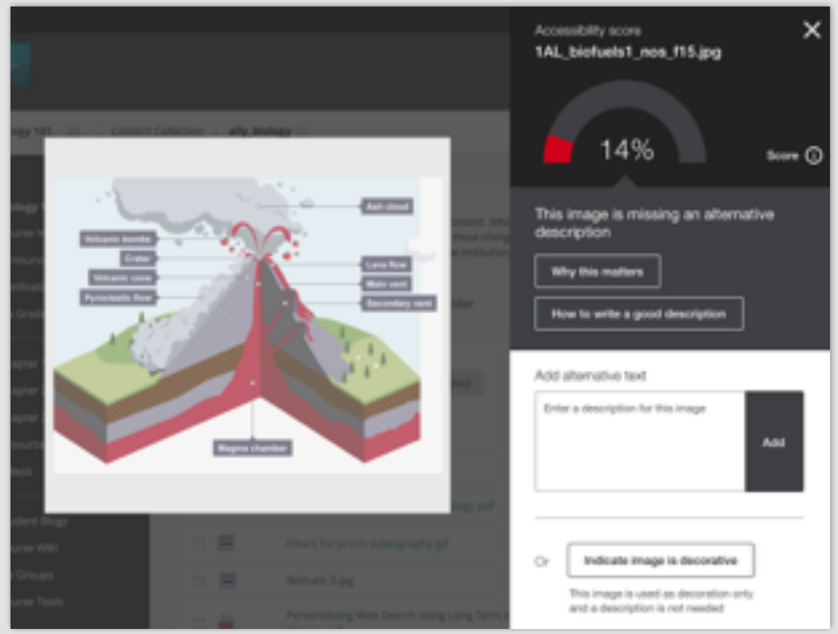
Why this matters
How to write a good description
Add alternative text
Indicate image is decorative



Alternative Accessible Versions

Automatically checks for accessibility issues and generates alternative accessible formats



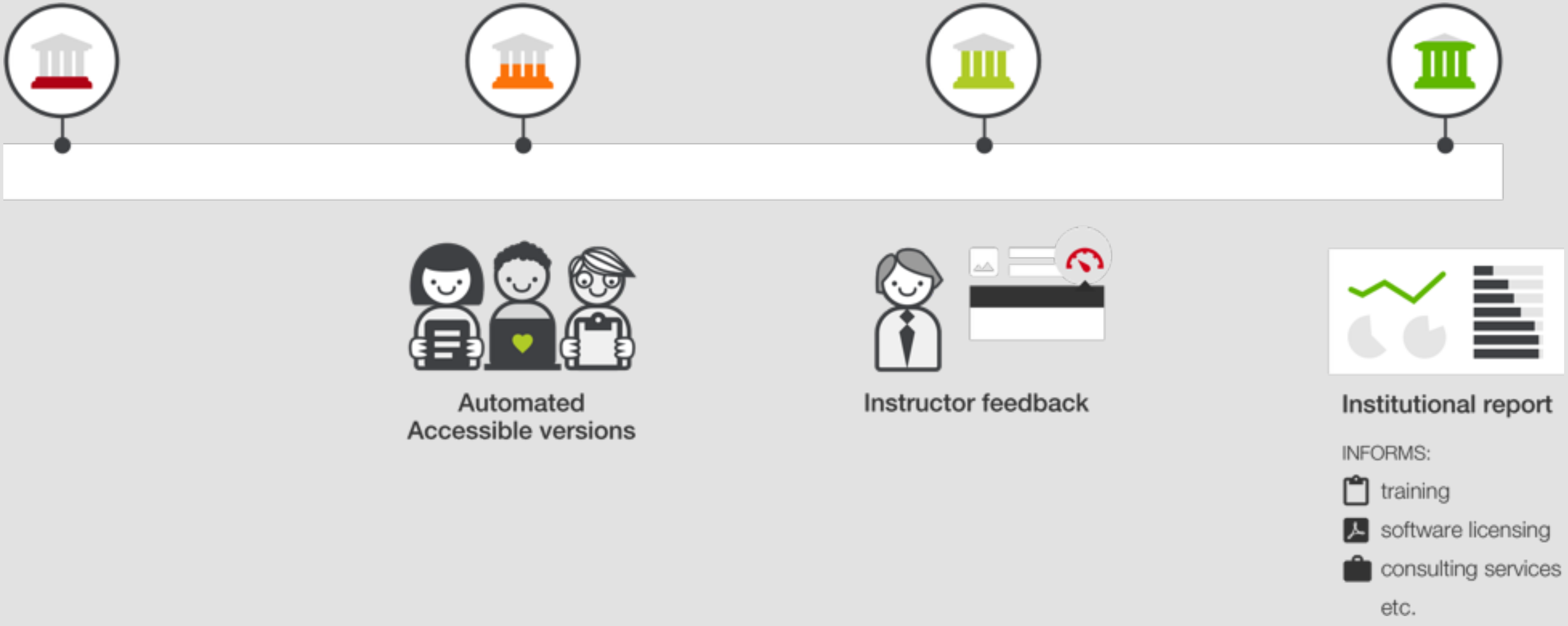
Instructor feedback

Guides instructors on how to improve the accessibility of their course content and alters future behavior

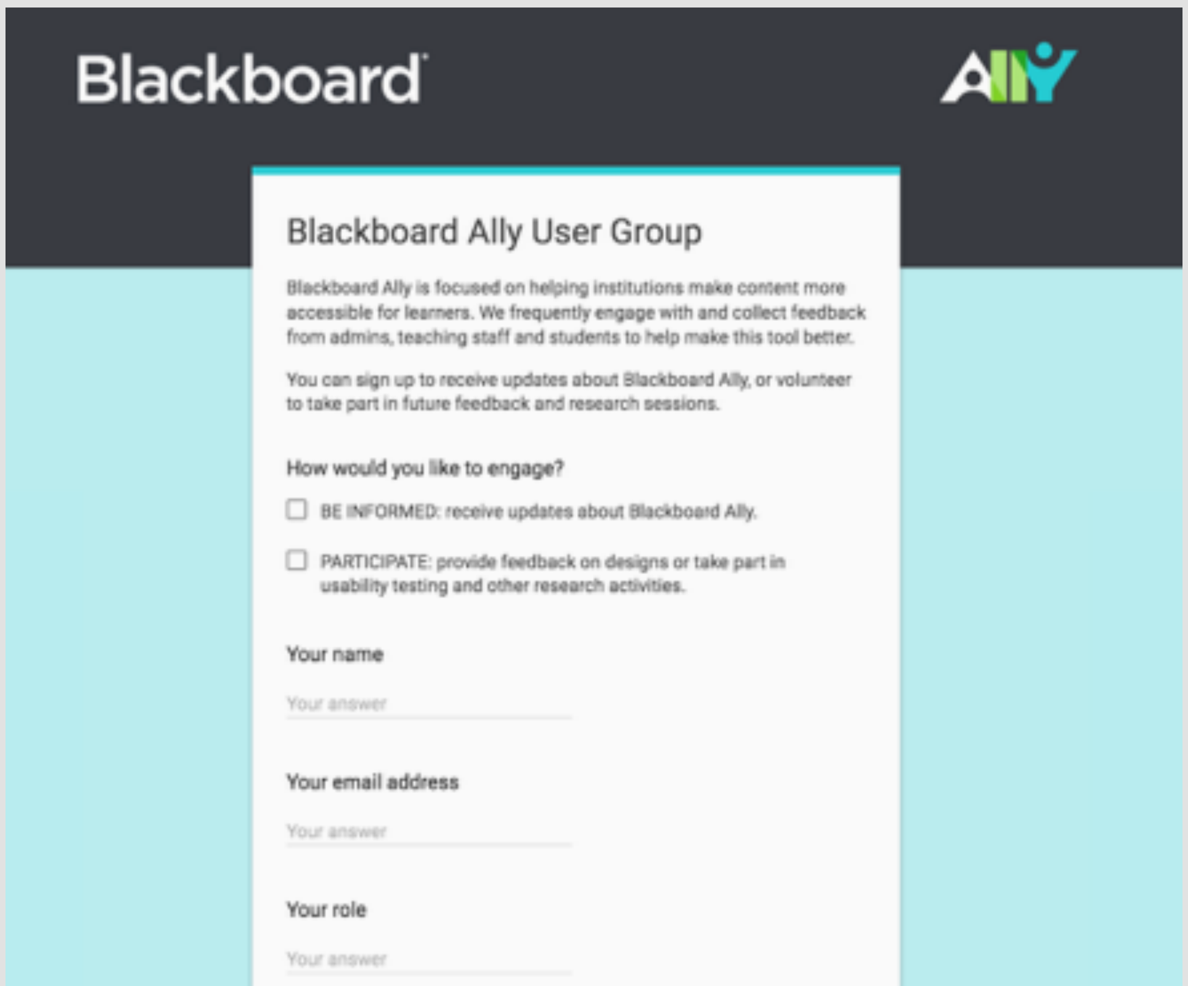
Institutional report

Provides detailed data and insights to help further improve course content accessibility at the institution

Accessibility Spectrum



Ally User Group


Blackboard
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Blackboard Ally User Group

Blackboard Ally is focused on helping institutions make content more accessible for learners. We frequently engage with and collect feedback from admins, teaching staff and students to help make this tool better.

You can sign up to receive updates about Blackboard Ally, or volunteer to take part in future feedback and research sessions.

How would you like to engage?

- [ ] BE INFORMED: receive updates about Blackboard Ally.
- [ ] PARTICIPATE: provide feedback on designs or take part in usability testing and other research activities.

Your name

Your answer

Your email address

Your answer

Your role

Your answer

- Receive updates about Blackboard Ally
- Participate in UX research, usability testing, early access, etc.

Sign up at http://tinyurl.com/blackboard-ally-user-group

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