

Accessible Digital Books and UDL

Whilst the ePub 3 international standard has accessibility criterions, not all eBook readers have the capacity to take advantage of that functionality. What follows is a suggested benchmark for the eBook device and reader app.

Functionality Required	eBook Reader Features	Content Features
Open and close books	Go to book library when launched (setting)	Graphic cover with readable text for title, author, publisher, etc.
Book Table of Contents (& index)	Go to TOC button	Structured TOC
Return to last and selected locations	Return to last reading position Button to go to page of selected bookmarks/chapters/sections	Section / Page numbering, book marking and live text
Read, highlight and copy text	Text resizing (and content reflow) or page zoom option and controls (larger, smaller) Font selector (serif and sans serif fonts) User text highlighting (manual, sustained) Text reading w/ TTS with highlighting by word, chunk, sentence, paragraph, and line. Use highlighting for pacing without voice, use TTS rate but with voice off (not audio off) Controls for TTS rate and volume Controls for TTS step back and jump ahead Read from top or selected location on page Search all content for word "or words"	Live and properly formatted text
Logical reading order	Follow tagged reading order with TTS	Tags for reading order
Live numbers and equations	Read and navigate math content	Math ML or other readable content
High contrast display	Text color and background color select Background brightness controls	Live text on plain background
Heading navigation	Navigate by heading – forward & back	Heading levels (H1, H2, etc.)
Location indicator – where am I	Progress bar (all and chapter) Page number display and selector	Section / Page numbering
Image text provided as text	Show in place of images option, readable with TTS support	Include image text in alt text
Brief image descriptions	Show in place of images option, readable with TTS support	Alt text and/or image descriptions Includes charts, graphs, etc.
Voice control	Speak to control application	Speak to record digital text
Stereo track combining = mono	Select mono audio option for stereo	Stereo or mono audio file
Text for audio	Show and hide feature	Live text option when audio is used
Video captions (closed captions)	Show/ hide feature for closed captions	Video captions (open or closed)
Music audio and sheet music	Show and hide feature	Alt sheet music content display
Alternative controls	Keyboard, screen swipe & switch controls Tool bar option for reading controls	None
Options selection window	Drop down or pop-up window with accessible selections	None
Help pages	Organized intro, features and controls	Structured live text

View key ideas, critical features	Display or highlight key ideas.	Tagged key idea content
Vocabulary support	Show definition of key words. Glossary (linked multimedia terms, concepts & definitions)	Provide key word definitions
Outline view of content	Display outline view of document, chapter and/or page	Prepared outline view of content
Mind-map view of content	Display mind-map view of document, chapter and/or page	Access to outline view and connections
External resource support	Support for external links to web	Live web links
Study and research supports	Collect and display highlighted text. Highlighter - 3 colors with optional user generated labels.	Live text
Note taking (text and/or audio)	Positional note taking blocks or sidebar Or use of recorded audio with position links. Could also be used for recording goals	Flexible, reflowable content Display of saved note indicators
Explicit goals for reading	Support for display of pre-established and teacher authored goals/objectives	Inclusion of goals established by the content authors and modification
Periodic progress checking	Data gathering and summary presentations	Q&A, open ended responses, inclusion of summaries.
Response to questions	Support for form fields, radio buttons, etc.	Embedded assessment items
Expandable Information Areas (Additional info such as Concept development and background information)	Organizational features that content authors can place on each page, enabling learners to visually hide or show information. These features allow users to control the volume of information shown on the page at any one time. By clicking on the arrow buttons in front of content or feature titles, the information areas either expand or collapse.	Embedded or linked rich media or items such as widgets. Hidden background content Multiple examples of concept development