



# EBSCOhost® Offers Enhanced Usability for Visually & Physically-Impaired Users

~ *New Technology and User Feedback Bring  
EBSCOhost Beyond Web Accessibility Standards* ~

EBSCO  
HOST

## When “Compliance” Isn’t Enough

Several years ago, EBSCO Publishing (EBSCO) released the EBSCOhost® Text-Only interface as one of the research database interfaces to comply with Web accessibility standards. The Text-Only interface met the standards for 508 compliance in the United States and similar international standards. However, the interface still incorporated various elements that presented roadblocks to functional usability for impaired researchers using screen readers.

With recent technological improvements, a Text-Only interface is no longer necessary. Instead, the full features of EBSCOhost and all *NoveList*® products are available to all users, including those with various physical and visual disabilities.

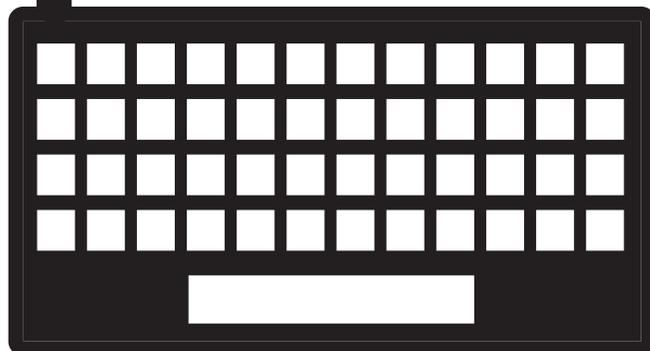
“EBSCO stands out as a company that has rejected the minimalist accessible repair approach used by many companies that may allow websites to pass automated accessibility tests; but are still unusable by many people with disabilities. EBSCO stands as a model of how collaboration on accessibility leads to benefits for everyone, especially people with disabilities.”

**Jon Gunderson, Ph.D.**

Director of IT Accessibility Services (CITES) and Coordinator of Assistive Communication and Information Technology (DRES), University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign

## Exceeding the Standards Working with Experts in Accessibility

The *EBSCO Accessibility Interest Group*, led by the Illinois Center for Instructional Technology Accessibility (iCITA) at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, is comprised of professionals from many colleges and universities who work in the area of Web accessibility for the disabled. Their suggestions, examples and guidance have helped EBSCO improve its service for all users.



## Going Beyond current standards to Improve the EBSCOhost Experience

EBSCO has invested time and resources to exceed Web accessibility standards by improving page orientation and navigation of EBSCOhost. This means that visually and physically impaired users can utilize the features of EBSCOhost and all *NovelList* products, and *all* EBSCOhost users benefit from the modifications. Notable improvements include:

- Elimination of most tables to improve searching with screen readers or keyboard controls
- Descriptive page titles, section header tags and selected link labels
- Redesigned form controls for easier tab navigation
- Streamlined code for simpler page structures
- Access keys support international keyboards functionality across multiple browsers
- Detailed alternative text image descriptions
- Visually and physically impaired users can perform most searches independently
- Decreased page size means shorter download times for *all* users

## EBSCO is focused on additional accessibility improvements for the future

EBSCO will continue to proactively address accessibility issues in future software releases, as well as work with the *EBSCO Accessibility Interest Group* and remain at the forefront of interface development.

[www.ebscohost.com/webaccessibility](http://www.ebscohost.com/webaccessibility)

“The new web interface to EBSCOhost resources is a perfect example of a universal design; a design without jeopardizing or compromising any functionality of the application where anyone can benefit from it including people with disabilities. The new web interface enables users with disabilities to conduct their researches independently anytime and from any place without waiting for assistants, which itself can improve their productivity.”

**Hadi Bargi Rangin**

Web Design and Accessibility Specialist, Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services  
University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign

“As a screenreader user, I was elated to note the vast improvements you’ve made! What a joy it is to interact with that website!”

**Christie L. Gilson,**  
MSW, Doctoral Candidate  
Department of Special Education  
College of Education, University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign

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