

# Introduction to Content in OCA Learn

An Introduction to content creation and organisation in the Open College of the Arts' Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

The OCA Learn VLE has been developed with the aim of enabling the college to make deeper explorations into the possibilities afforded by digital online technologies, and in so doing open up the study experience to a wider audience. To ensure we can meet the needs of a wider audience, the accessibility of the learning and supporting materials has to meet a minimum standard of accessibility. For OCA, we have determined this to be [WCAG 2.1 AA standard](#).

## Accessibility & Inclusivity

A primary consideration in the development and subsequent use of the OCA Learn VLE, is in ensuring that both the VLE itself, and all the content housed within it is accessible to a broad audience. To ensure this, the college has put in place an accessibility auditing and enhancement service called Ally (by Blackboard). Ally provides an accessibility score, together with recommendations for improvement, which can be used by Course Developers to ensure their content meets the college's requirements regarding accessibility.



Accessible steps - a gentle slope with elegantly intersecting steps, leading up to St. Paul's Cathedral, depicting the benefits of accessibility by design.

## Alternative Formats - Flexibility

All also provides uploaded content in alternative formats, such as Ebook, Audio, Electronic Braille and Docx, wherever possible. Although these can help mitigate against the effects of inaccessible content, they should only be considered as a temporary stop-gap measure until the primary content can be made accessible. The additional formats also help in providing learning materials in forms more to a student's liking, or needs; for example a student who commutes every day will possibly find the Audio versions a useful take-away.

This article is a stub for the purpose of demonstrating how Blackboard Ally works.