

Ally Roadmap – February 2026 Summary

The February Ally roadmap focuses heavily on **PDF accessibility improvements, AI-assisted remediation, report clarity, and deeper Blackboard integration**. Development is grouped into three timeframes:

- **Now (1–3 months)** – Active development, high confidence
 - **Next (3–6 months)** – In progress / refining
 - **Later (6+ months)** – Exploratory / strategic expansion
-

● Coming Soon (1–3 Months)

1. Simple PDF Quick Fixes

Improves Instructor Feedback for PDFs by enabling:

- Fix missing document language
- Fix missing document title
- OCR scanned content
- Save changes directly within Ally (no external tools required)

Impact: Reduces dependency on Acrobat and simplifies basic PDF remediation for instructors.

2. Improved PDF Language Quick Fix

When Ally detects a document’s language during analysis:

- Language will be pre-selected in the dropdown
- Instructors avoid scrolling through the full language list

Impact: Faster remediation and fewer incorrect language settings.

3. Filtering UNSAFE_HTML Files from Blackboard

HTML snippets created in Blackboard Documents currently appear as separate “UNSAFE_HTML” files in Course Reports.

Ally will:

- Remove UNSAFE_HTML files from Course Accessibility Reports
- Reduce confusion and reporting noise

Impact: Cleaner, more accurate course accessibility reports.

4. Document Processing Improvements

Exploring upgrades or alternatives to LibreOffice to improve:

- Alternative format processing
- Fidelity of converted formats
- Instructor feedback preview reliability

Impact: Better alternative format quality and more consistent document handling.

● Mid-Term (3–6 Months)

5. PDF Tagging (Auto-Tagging Workflow)

Enable instructors to:

- Apply auto-tagging to untagged PDFs
- Review and approve suggested tags
- Save the remediated PDF back into the course
- Feature configurable on/off by administrators

Impact: Moves PDF remediation closer to scalable, in-platform solutions.

6. AI Alt Text Assistant for PDFs

Enhances alt text creation by:

- Providing AI-generated contextual suggestions
- Supporting more complex images
- Writing approved alt text back into the file

Impact: Significant time savings for instructors when reviewing image accessibility.

7. Decorative Image Workflow

Improves image handling by allowing:

- Identification of decorative images
- Bulk selection within a PDF
- Clear workflow separating decorative vs. meaningful images

Impact: Reduces unnecessary “image without description” flags.

8. OCRred PDF Guidance

Provides additional guidance after OCR is applied:

- Helps instructors improve structure beyond basic OCR

- Supports moving from partial accessibility (e.g., 67%) toward full compliance
- Enhances student experience in structured PDFs

Impact: Focus shifts from “OCR complete” to “structurally accessible.”

9. Filtering Published vs. Unpublished Content in Course Reports

Dependent on LMS APIs.

Goal:

- Distinguish accessibility scores for published vs. unpublished content
- Provide clearer instructor visibility

Status:

- In progress due to LMS API limitations

Impact: More meaningful course scores based on content students actually access.

● Longer-Term (6+ Months)

10. Course Accessibility Report Enhancements

Planned improvements include:

- Clearer breakdown of file issues vs. WYSIWYG content
- More streamlined navigation
- Location tracking within courses
- Potential student impact metrics (e.g., alternative format downloads)

Impact: Shifts reporting from raw scores to actionable insights and student usage data.

11. Updated PDF Support

Researching expanded standards support, including:

- PDF/UA
- PDF 2.0
- LaTeX-generated PDFs

Impact: Stronger compliance alignment and improved support for technical/STEM documents.

12. Enhanced Blackboard Document Support

Continued integration with the Blackboard Rich Content Editor:

- Ongoing Instructor Feedback improvements
- Improved alternative format interactions
- Better handling of images and alt text within Documents

Impact: Aligns Ally functionality with Ultra-first course design.

13. Video Caption Scoring & Guidance

Enhancements to how Ally handles video content:

- Scores videos lacking captions
- Scores automatically captioned videos
- Provides guidance on reviewing auto-captions
- Detailed guidance for YouTube, HTML5, Vimeo, and other supported types

Impact: Encourages review and quality improvement of captions, not just presence.

Overall Themes from the Roadmap

Across the presentation, several strategic priorities were clear:

1. Reduce Friction for Faculty

More in-platform fixes, fewer external tools.

2. Improve PDF Workflows

Heavy investment in tagging, alt text, decorative image handling, and OCR refinement.

3. Increase Report Clarity

Cleaner course reports (UNSAFE_HTML removal, published filtering).

4. Leverage AI Responsibly

AI used to assist, not replace, instructor judgment.

5. Strengthen Blackboard Integration

Ongoing improvements specific to Blackboard Documents and LMS-driven reporting.

Big Picture

The February 2026 roadmap represents a strong shift toward:

- **Scalable PDF remediation**
- **Cleaner and more actionable reporting**
- **AI-assisted accessibility workflows**
- **Deeper Ultra integration**

For institutions using Blackboard Ultra heavily, many of these changes should meaningfully improve instructor experience and reduce accessibility friction.