



Ally Roadmap & Vision

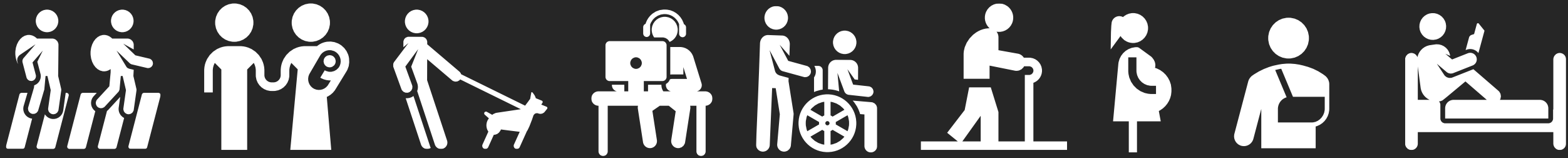
May 2023

Forward-Looking Statement

Statements regarding our product development initiatives, including new products and future product upgrades, updates or enhancements represent our current intentions, but may be modified, delayed or abandoned without prior notice and there is no assurance that such offering, upgrades, updates or functionality will become available unless and until they have been made generally available to our customers.

The Vision

Accessibility and Universal Design



Supporting diverse 21st century learners by unlocking
the power of flexibility and choice

Recent Progress

Previous Releases - Highlights

2023

Ally for LMS

- Learn Ultra Alternative Formats Progress Tracking
- Course configuration messaging improvements
- LibreOffice updates
- Translated version now supports up to 60.000 characters

Ally for Web

- Ally for Web Scanning On Demand for individual domains from the Accessibility report

Ally for Web Community Manager

- Scanning sections on demand directly from the institutional report

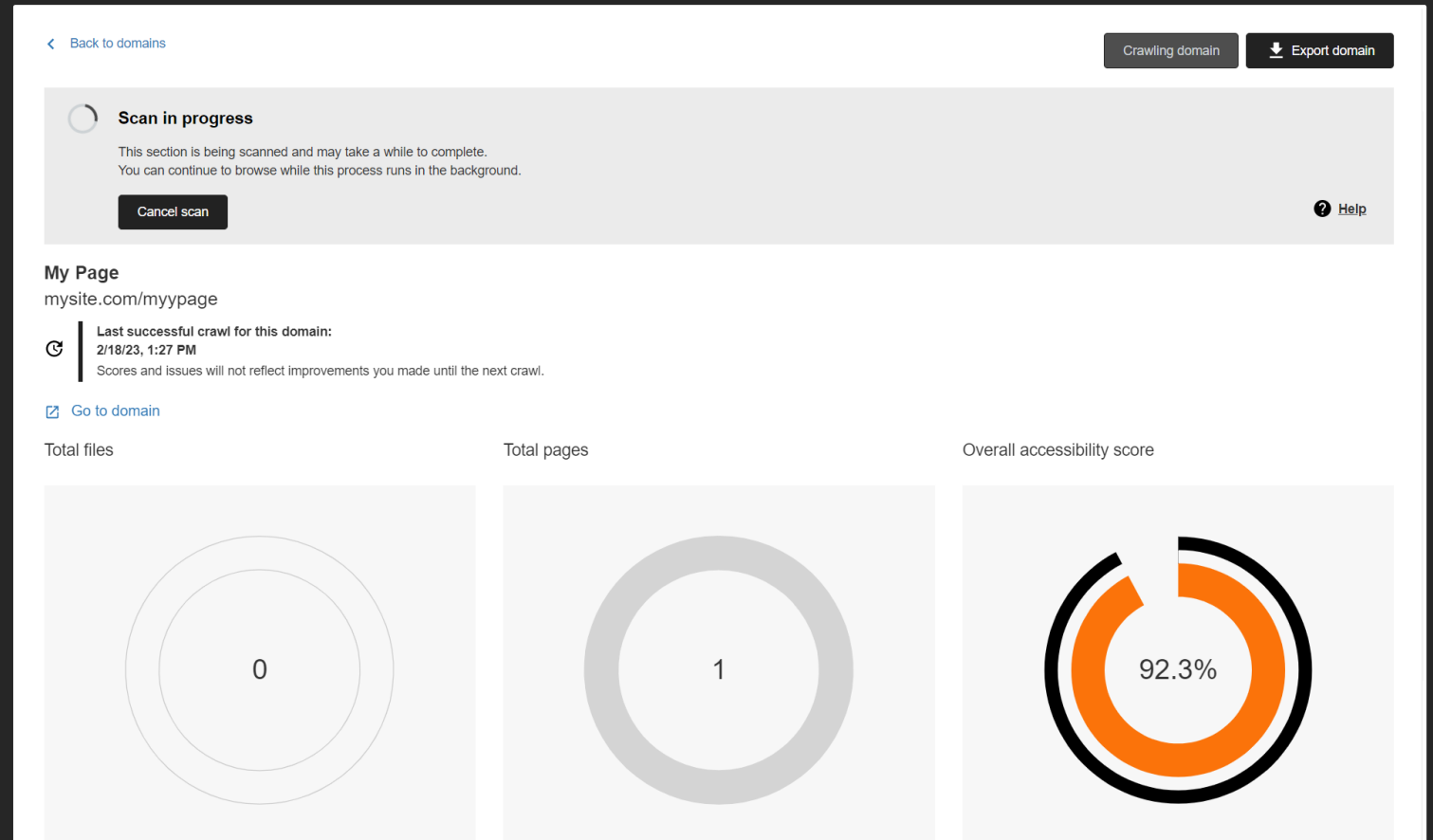
NOW

Scanning On-Demand

Ally for Websites, Web Community Manager

- Provide greater flexibility when tracking and fixing content issues
- Scan in between the normally scheduled scans to pick up on recent updates

AVAILABLE NOW



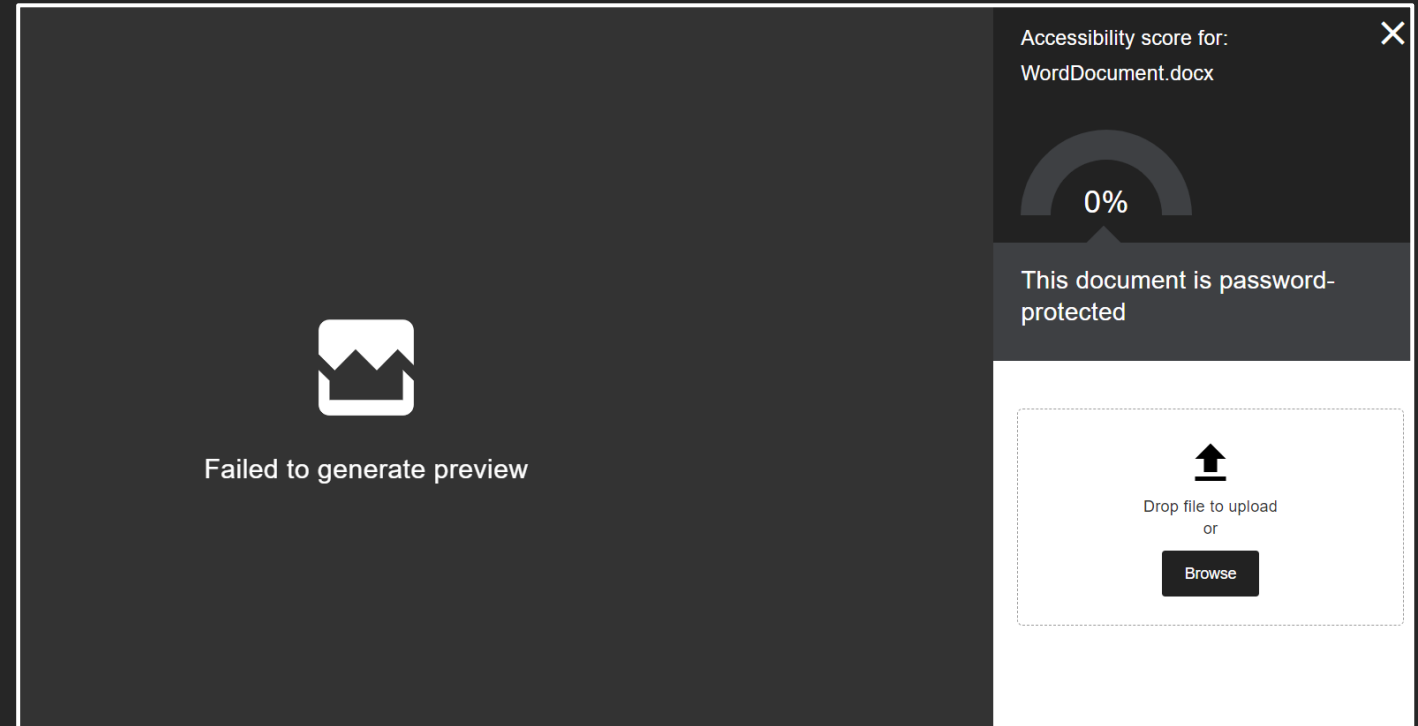
NOW

Password Protected Office and LibreOffice Docs

Ally for LMS

- Ally currently flags and scores password-protected PDF documents with a 0% score.
- This expands this check to include password-protected Microsoft and Libre Office documents and will flag and score those files with a 0% score.

*This would be a go-forward change affecting the score ONLY for new content (since the moment of the release).



AVAILABLE NOW

NOW*

Expanding LMS Guidance Flows

Ally for LMS

- Replace “Guidance not yet available” for HTML file content
 - Text with insufficient contrast
 - Indiscernible link text

12
Text fragments with insufficient contrast


History of Music

Although definitions of music vary wildly throughout the world, every known culture partakes in it, and music is thus considered a cultural universal. The origins of music remain highly contentious; commentators often relate it to the origin of language, with much disagreement surrounding whether music arose before, simultaneously with language. Many theories have been proposed by scholars from a wide range of disciplines, though none have achieved wide

1 / 1 Most cultures have their own mythical origins concerning the invention of music, generally rooted in their respective mythological, religious or philosophical beliefs.

Prehistoric

The music of prehistoric cultures is first firmly dated to c. 40,000 BP of the Upper Paleolithic by evidence of bone flutes, though it remains unclear whether or not the actual origins lie in the earlier Middle Paleolithic period (300,000 to 50,000 BP). There is little known about prehistoric music, with traces mainly limited to some simple flutes and percussion instruments. However, such evidence indicates that music existed to some extent in prehistoric societies such as the Xia dynasty and the civilization. Upon the development of writing, the music of literate civilizations—ancient music—was present in the major Chinese, Egyptian, Greek, Indian, Persian, Mesopotamian, and Middle Eastern societies. It is difficult to make many generalizations about ancient music as a whole, but from what is known it was often characterized by monophony and improvisation. In ancient song forms, the texts were closely aligned with music, and though the oldest extant musical notation survives from this period, many texts survive without their accompanying music, such as the Rigveda and the Shijing Classic of Poetry. The eventual emergence of the Silk Road and increasing contact between cultures led to the transmission and exchange of musical ideas, practices, and instruments. Such interaction led to the Tang dynasty's music being heavily influenced by Central Asian traditions, while the Tang dynasty's music, the Japanese gagaku and Korean court music each influenced each other.



43%

Types of contrast issues

Avoid specific color combinations


Certain colors can be hard to distinguish for people with color blindness. Using these colors by themselves is typically fine, but becomes problematic when used in combination with other colors or to convey meaning.

Use a tool such as [the Paciello Group Contrast Analyzer](#) to verify.


Regular vision:

Causes of deforestation in the Amazon, 2000 - 2005

Cattle ranches: 60%
Small-scale agriculture: 33%
Commercial agriculture: 7%



Seen by someone with red-green color blindness:



AVAILABLE NOW


What's Next?

How do we build the roadmap?

Ally Product Vision



User Feedback

- Idea Exchange 
- Design Focus Groups
- Ally User Group
- Anthology User Group
- Support Tickets
- Product Usage
- (NEW) Surveys



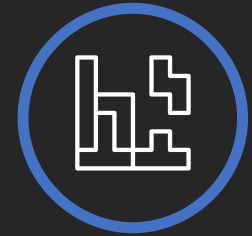
Market Research

- Industry Trends
- Best Practices
- Universal Design for Learning
- Data Intelligence
- Associations & Conferences



Regulatory & Legal

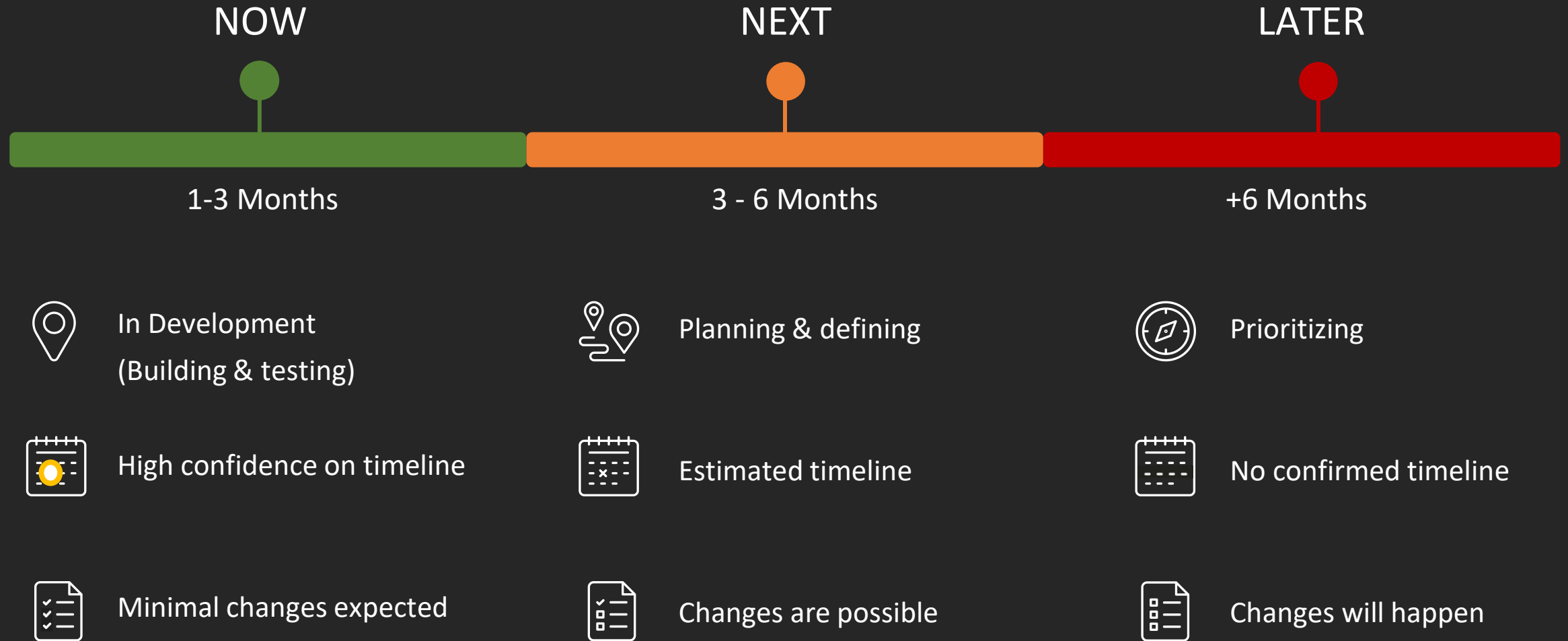
- Data Privacy & Protection
- Security
- Accessibility



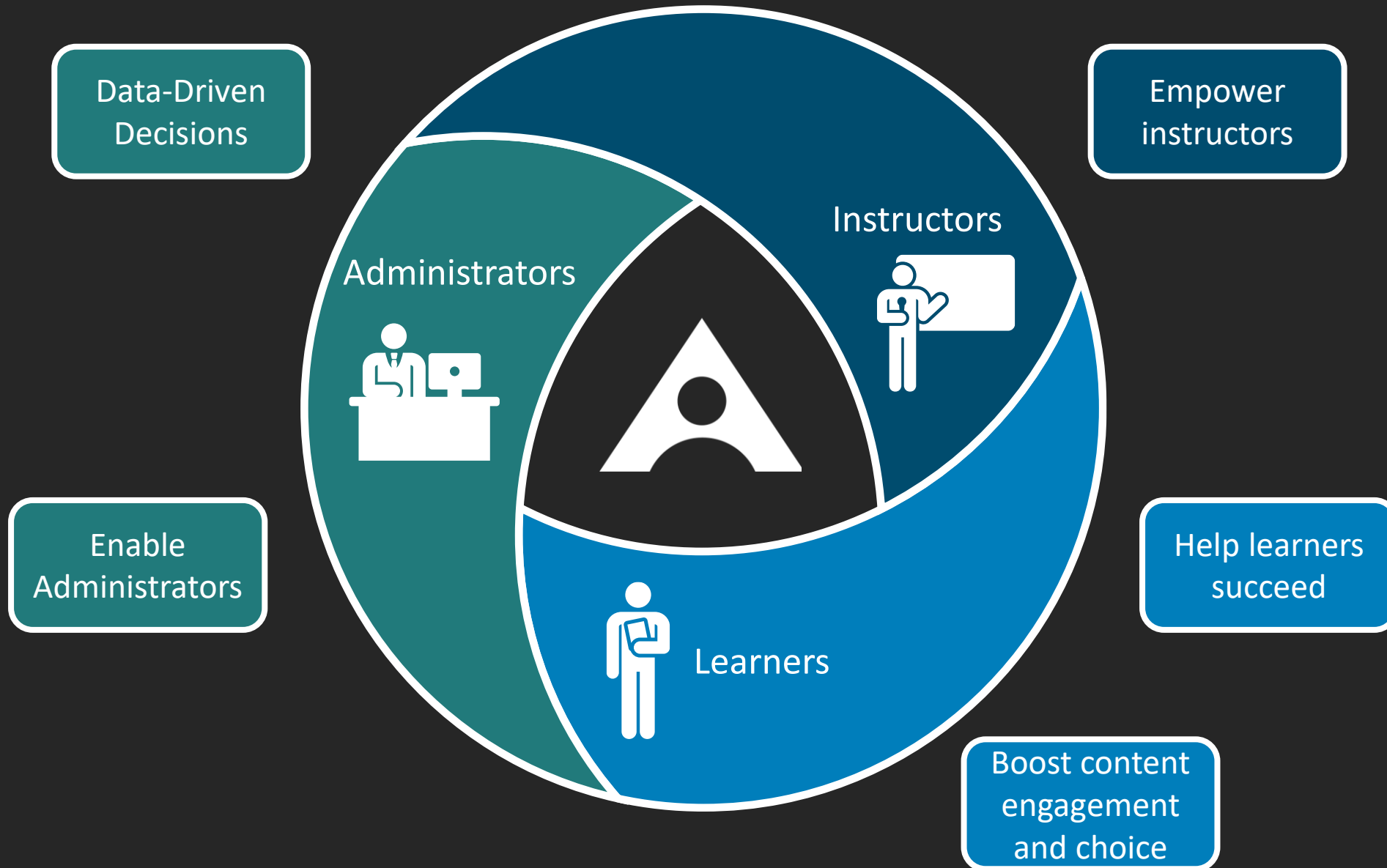
Business Alignment

- Alignment with Anthology's vision
- Cost, risk, & difficulty
- Client Impact

How do we think about the roadmap?



2023 Development Themes



Empower Instructors

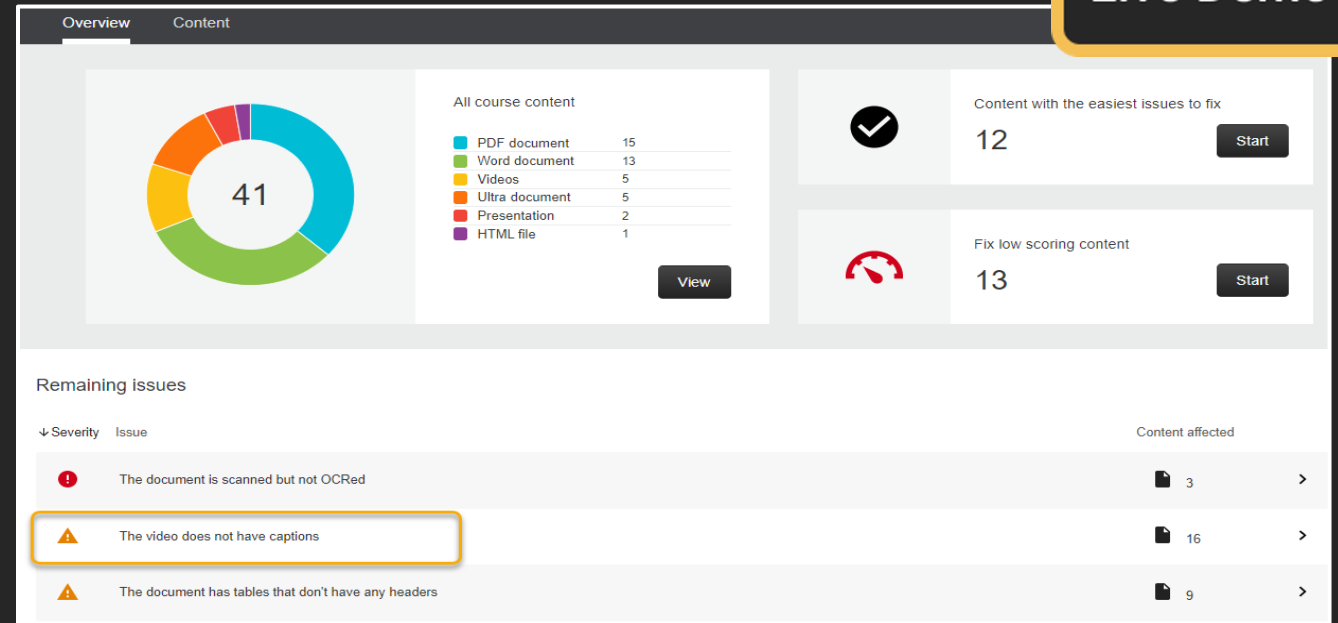
1-3 MONTHS

Expanding Video Caption Checks

Ally for LMS

- Expand to more video providers (depending on API availability):
 - Vimeo: Currently in development
 - Kaltura: Currently in research
- Support embedded video content uploaded directly in LMS (not links) where available
 - Canvas: Currently in development (waiting on Canvas endpoint)
 - HTML5: Currently in development

Live Demo



IN DEVELOPMENT



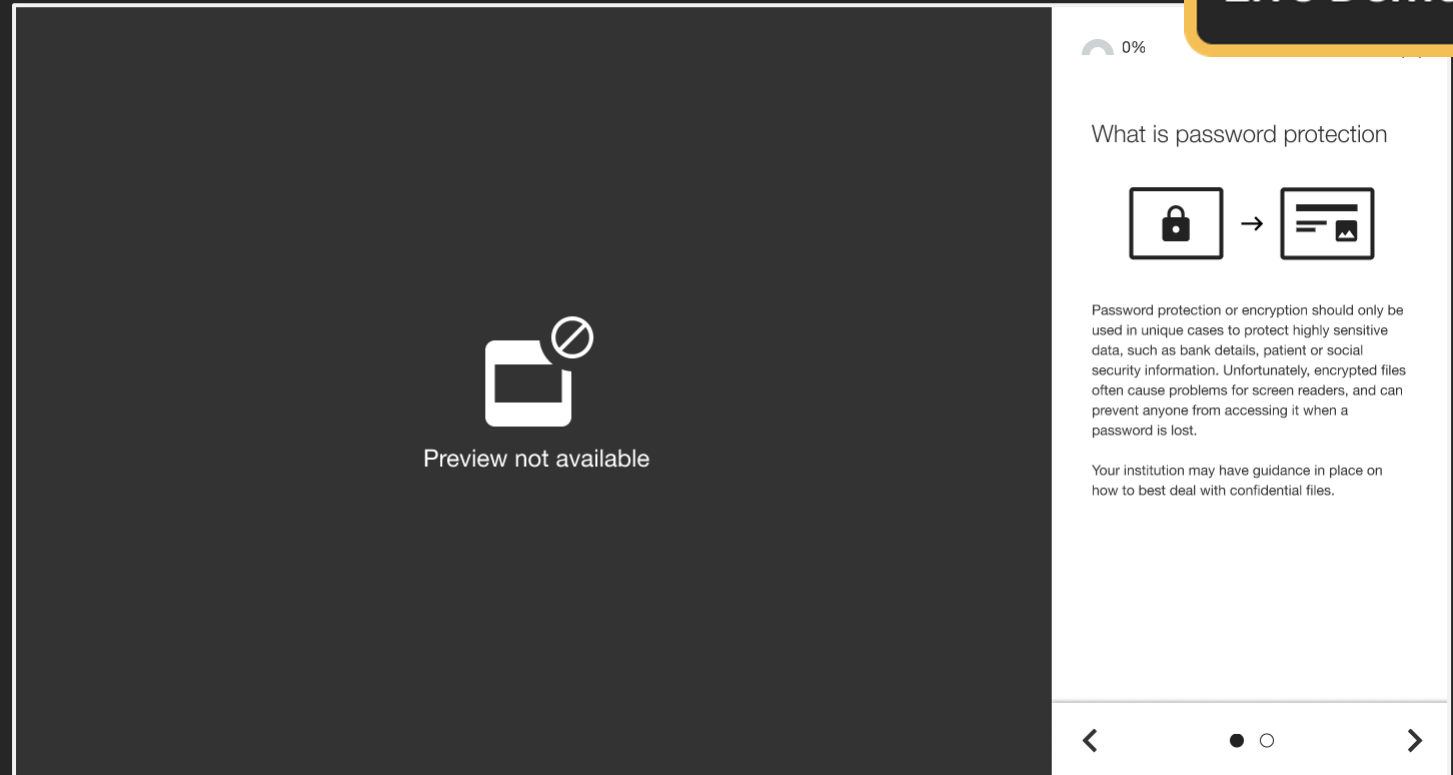
1-3 MONTHS

Expanding LMS Guidance Flows

Ally for LMS

- Replace “Guidance not yet available” for HTML file content
 - Illogical Heading order
 - Video without captions
- Other LMS Guidance Flows
 - Password protected files

Live Demo



IN DEVELOPMENT

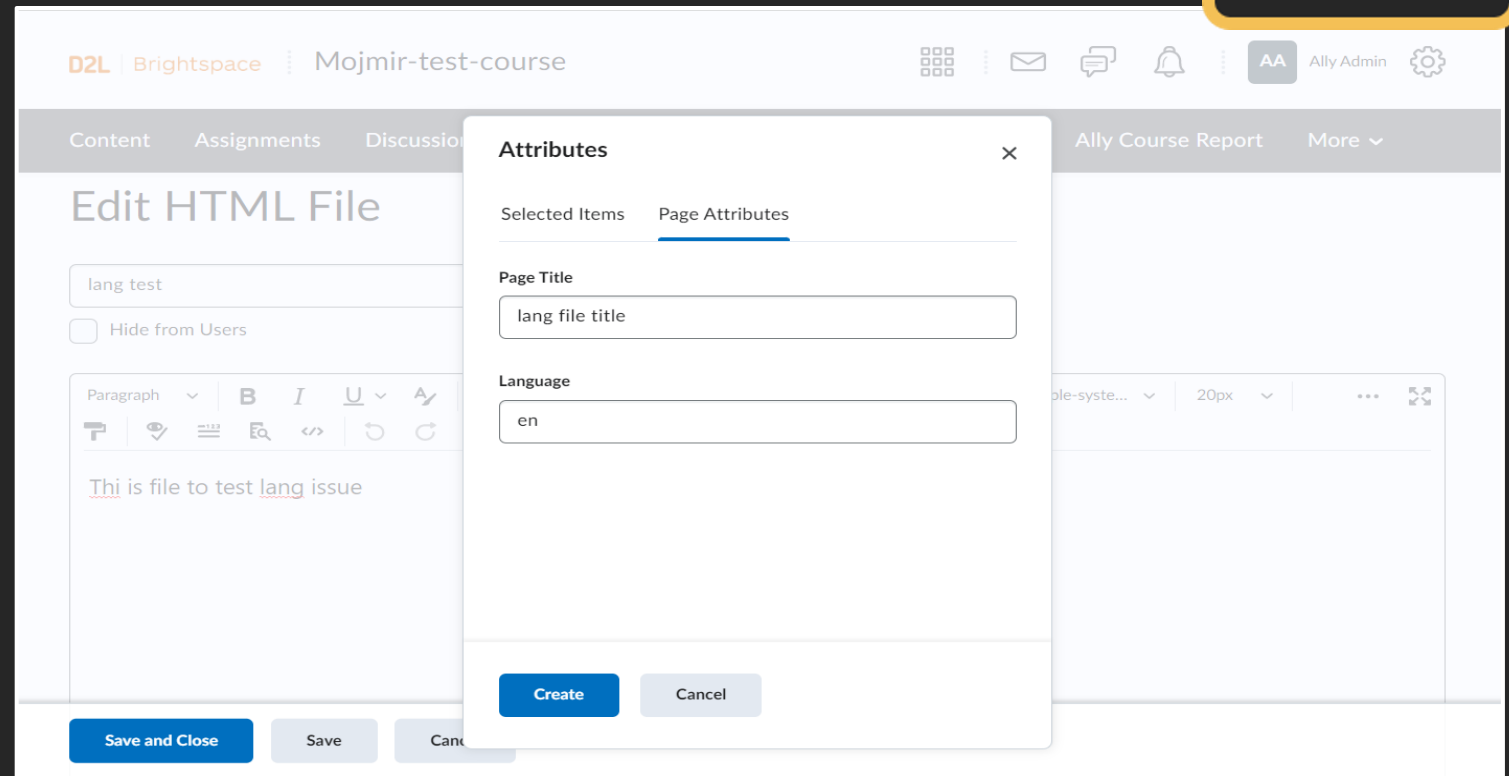
1-3 MONTHS

D2L WYSIWYG Content Guidance

Ally for LMS

- Align Ally WYSIWYG guidance with the current D2L Brightspace content structure
- Treat any Brightspace HTML content (uploaded or created) as WYSIWYG content with the Ally feedback indicator and Guidance Flows available to the instructor

Live Demo



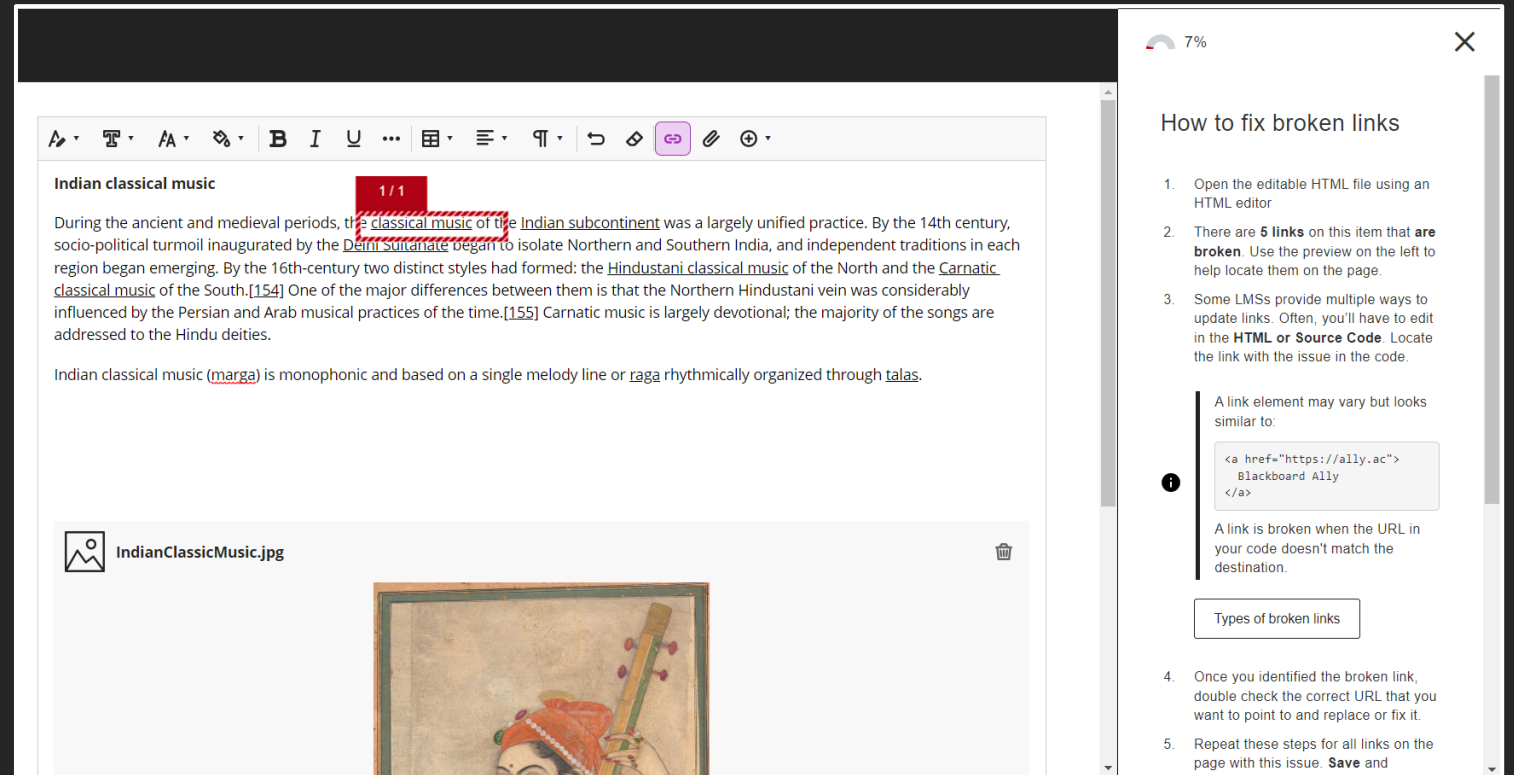
IN DEVELOPMENT

3-6 MONTHS

Broken Link Checking

Ally for LMS

- Apply Ally's accessibility check to determine which links within WYSIWYG content or HTML files are broken
- Provide feedback and guidance when the content linked is moved or removed



The screenshot displays the Ally LMS interface. On the left, a document titled "Indian classical music" is shown with a red box highlighting a broken link. The text in the document reads: "During the ancient and medieval periods, the [classical music](#) of the [Indian subcontinent](#) was a largely unified practice. By the 14th century, socio-political turmoil inaugurated by the [Delhi Sultanate](#) began to isolate Northern and Southern India, and independent traditions in each region began emerging. By the 16th-century two distinct styles had formed: the [Hindustani classical music](#) of the North and the [Carnatic classical music](#) of the South.[154] One of the major differences between them is that the Northern Hindustani vein was considerably influenced by the Persian and Arab musical practices of the time.[155] Carnatic music is largely devotional; the majority of the songs are addressed to the Hindu deities." Below this text, there is a placeholder for an image labeled "IndianClassicMusic.jpg". On the right, a sidebar titled "How to fix broken links" provides instructions:

1. Open the editable HTML file using an HTML editor
2. There are **5 links** on this item that **are broken**. Use the preview on the left to help locate them on the page.
3. Some LMSs provide multiple ways to update links. Often, you'll have to edit in the **HTML or Source Code**. Locate the link with the issue in the code.

A link element may vary but looks similar to:

```
<a href="https://ally.ac">
  Blackboard Ally
</a>
```

A link is broken when the URL in your code doesn't match the destination.

Types of broken links

4. Once you identified the broken link, double check the correct URL that you want to point to and replace or fix it.
5. Repeat these steps for all links on the page with this issue. **Save** and

PLANNING & DEFINING

3-6 MONTHS

HTML Preview

Ally for LMS and Ally for Websites

- Provide a preview within the feedback panel for specific accessibility issues

List of Authors to Choose From

Here is a list of authors to choose from for your two written assignments. If you need help with your selection just let me know. I have linked each author to his/her Wikipedia article, which will provide you with good basic information to help you make your choice.* Each student should pick and "claim" a different author. If you love an American author who is not on the list, write me an email and we will negotiate. Once you have selected your author and work(s), post your choices on the [Author Selection](#) discussion board. I will approve your choices there.

Once you have picked your author, select the work or works you would like to study. Please choose something you have not read before. If you are studying a poet, you should select at least three to six (3-6) poems (depending on length). If you are studying a fiction writer, you should study at least one to three (1-3) stories (depending on length) or a novel. If you are studying a playwright, you should study at least one (1) play.

You can get a copy of the work(s) you want to read in several different ways. Many of the older authors' works are online -- just Google and find them. Many of the works can be found at very inexpensive prices in used bookstores or online. If you have trouble finding what you need, write me an email and I'll help.

* I don't recommend using Wikipedia for your research, but it is fine for this basic information link.

1878-1906

[Henry James](#), fiction

[Upton Sinclair](#), fiction

[Willa Cather](#), fiction

[Theodore Dreiser](#), fiction

[Jack London](#), fiction

[Sarah Orne Jewett](#), fiction

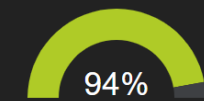
[Mary E. Wilkins Freeman](#), fiction

1907-1925

[Sherwood Anderson](#), fiction

[William Carlos Williams](#), poetry

Accessibility score for:
linkNotDiscernable.html



All issues

This HTML file contains links with missing text

What this means

How to fix link text

Upload a version with correct link text



Drop file to upload
or

Browse

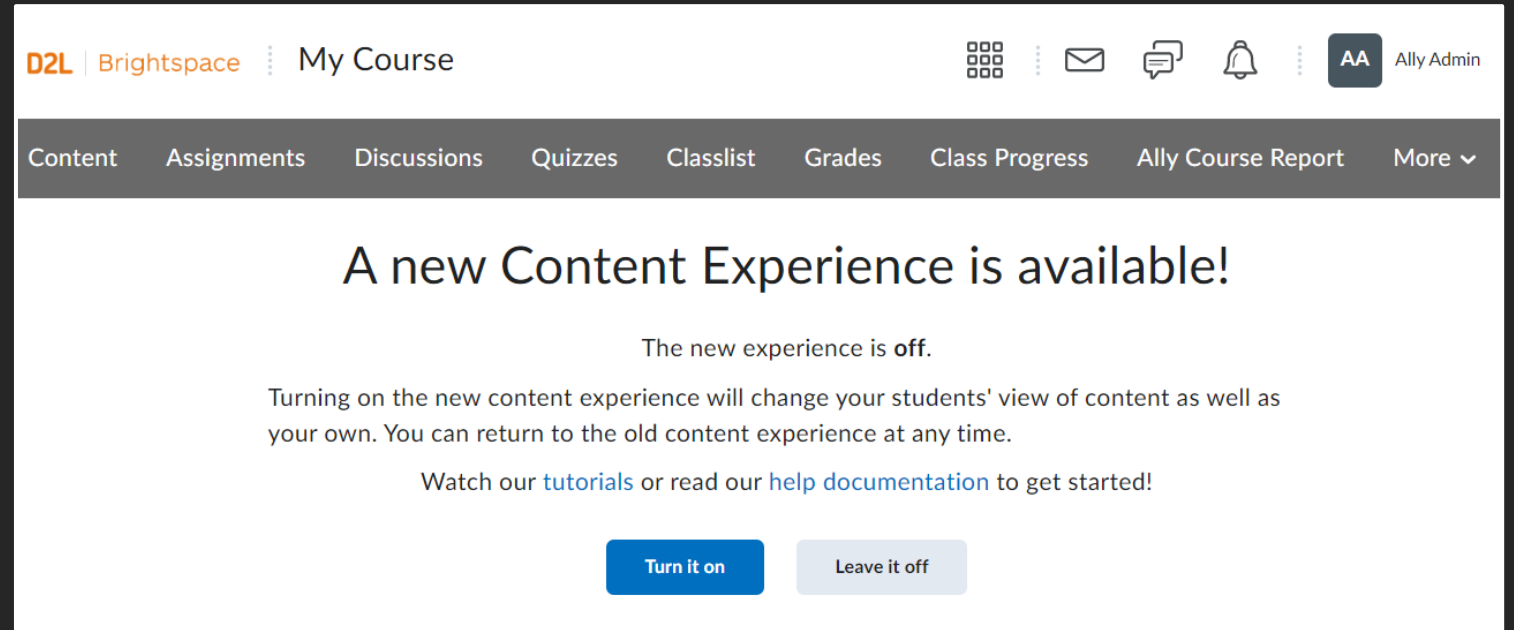
PLANNING & DEFINING

6+ MONTHS

D2L Content Experiences

Ally for LMS

- Working with D2L to enable Ally in new content experience areas
- Dependent on D2L roadmap for content experience area compatibility



PRIORITIZING

6+ MONTHS

HTML Code Preview

Ally for Websites

- Provide a “code view” preview within the feedback panel for specific accessibility issues
- Allows admins, in Ally for Websites, to see where in the code they may need to focus on to solve an issue rather than just the WYSIWYG view

* Potential application in LMS

The screenshot displays the Ally for Websites interface. The main area shows an HTML code preview with line numbers 21 through 38. A red box highlights a specific line of code: `<p>Link text is not visible: the text</p>`. The feedback panel on the right shows a contrast issue with a 43% contrast level. It includes a section titled "Types of contrast issues" with text about color combinations and a link to the Paciello Group Contrast Analyzer. Below this is a section titled "Causes of deforestation in the Amazon, 2000 - 2005" with a bar chart showing: Cattle ranches: 60%, Small-scale agriculture: 33%, and Commercial agriculture: 7%. At the bottom, it says "Seen by someone with red-green color blindness:" followed by three colored circles (red, green, blue) and a navigation bar with arrows.

12 Text fragments with insufficient contrast

43%

Types of contrast issues

Avoid specific color combinations

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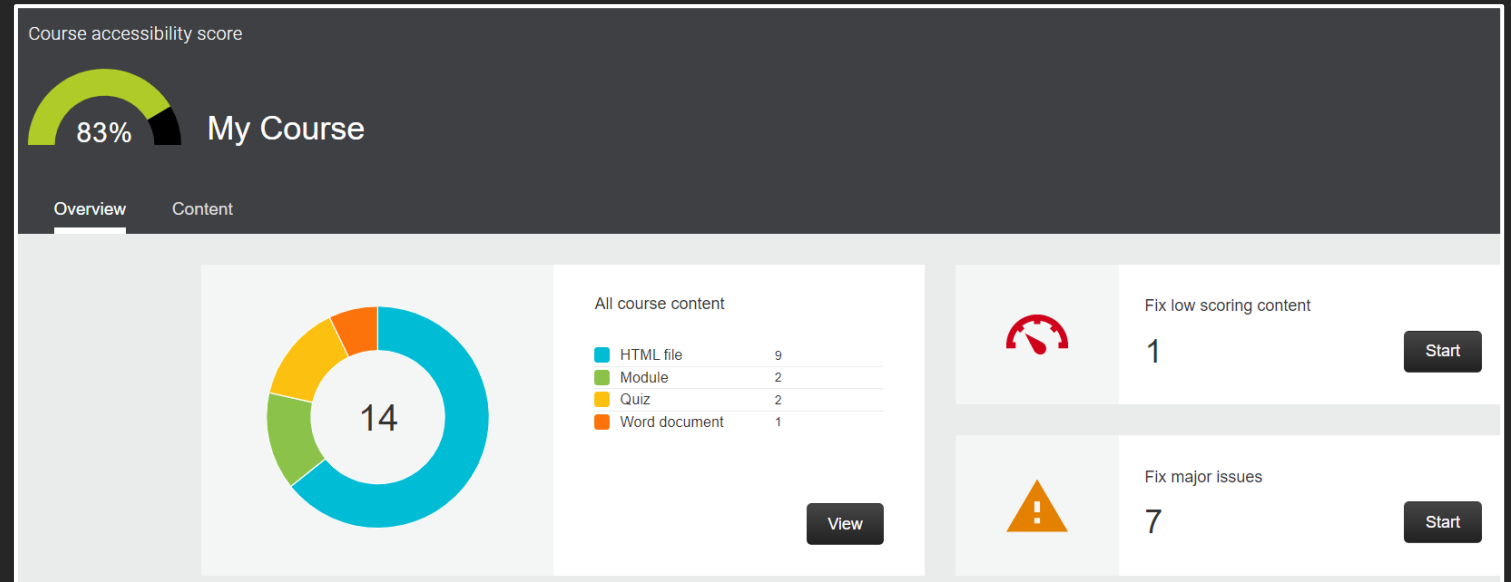
PRIORITIZING

6+ MONTHS

Course Accessibility Report improvements

Ally for LMS

- Easier to use breakdown of files vs. WYSIWYG content issues
- More streamlined information and grouping to make it easier to find specific areas of focus
- Potential exporting options



PRIORITIZING



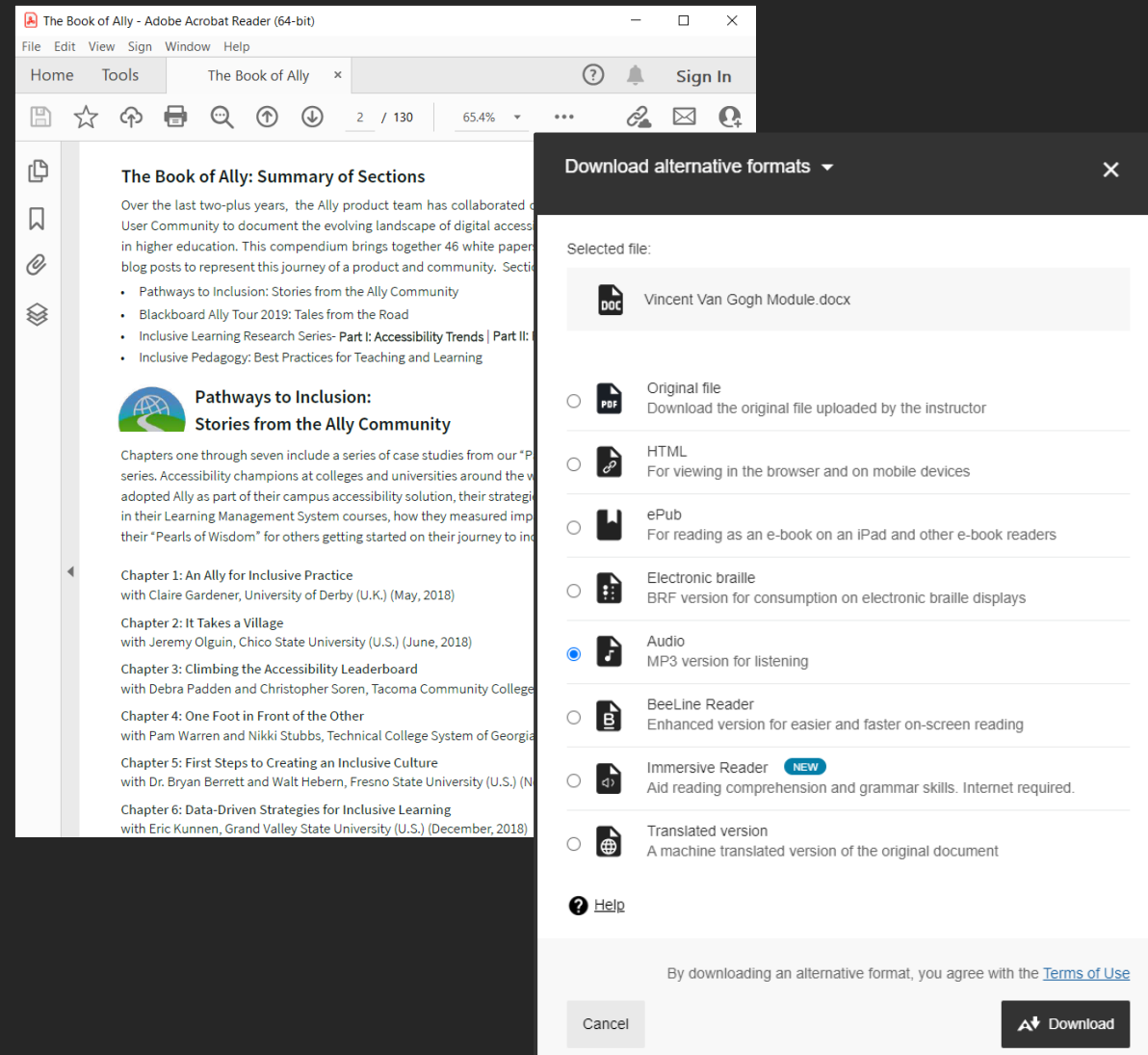
Help Learners Succeed
Boosting Engagement and Choice

1-3 Months

Breaking the Character Limit Audio Format

Ally for LMS, Websites and WCM

- Support books, and files with considerable amount of text and move past our historical file character limits that prevent alternative format generation in some cases.



IN DEVELOPMENT



3-6 MONTHS

Original File as an Alternative Format

Ally for LMS

- Add the ability to download the original file within the Alternative Formats modal


[Sign up](#) to take part in research around 'Download original file'

PLANNING & DEFINING


Download alternative formats ▾


×


Selected file:


 Syllabus_Chemistry.docx


↓


☐  **HTML**
For viewing in the browser and on mobile devices


☐  **ePub**
For reading as an e-book on an iPad and other e-book readers


☐  **Electronic braille**
BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays

☐  **Audio**
MP3 version for listening

☐  **BeeLine Reader**
Enhanced version for easier and faster on-screen reading

☒  **Immersive Reader** NEW
Aid reading comprehension and grammar skills. Internet required.

☐  **Translated version**
A machine translated version of the original document

☐  **Link**

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Back

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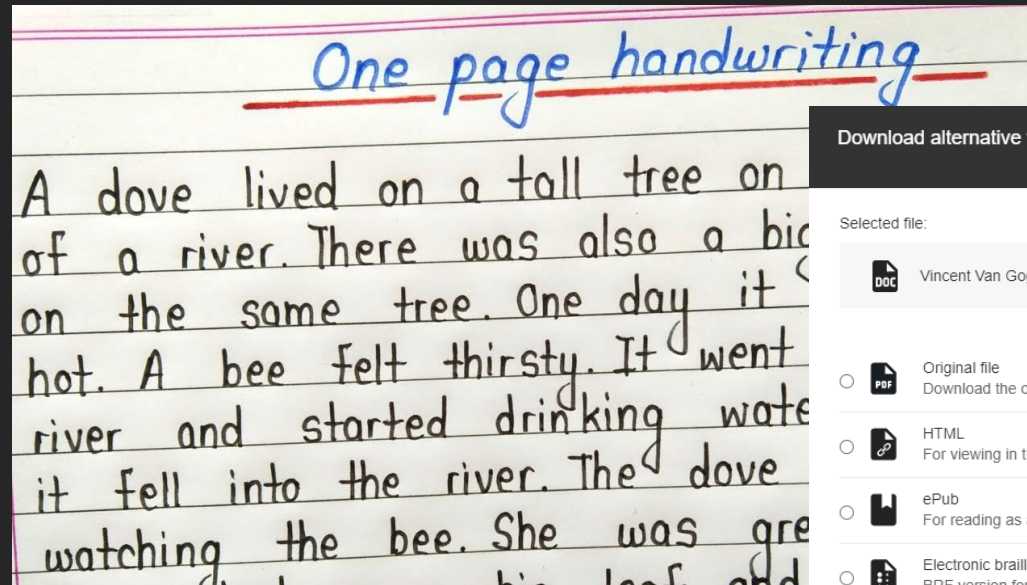


6+ MONTHS

Handwriting Recognition Support

Ally for LMS

- Identify handwritten files through Optical Character Recognition
- Provide better conversion for handwritten files when generating Alternative Formats



Download alternative formats ✕

Selected file:

Vincent Van Gogh Module.docx

☐ Original file
Download the original file uploaded by the instructor

☐ HTML
For viewing in the browser and on mobile devices

☐ ePub
For reading as an e-book on an iPad and other e-book readers

☐ Electronic braille
BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays

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☐ BeeLine Reader
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☐ Translated version
A machine translated version of the original document

☐ ? Help

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PRIORITIZING

6+ MONTHS

Transcript for Video Content

Ally for LMS

- Generate Transcript for YouTube videos
- Get transcript for captioned videos
- Generate transcript without captions



don't have any regrets. Money is not the metric that I use for success. So Consequently, I just 84:05
enjoyed flying so much and contributing to the defense of the country and to NASA and
scientific investigations. So it was a good match for me. What are you most proud of?
Moments of your career going from zero to \$1 million a month as head of sales. During that
time, I had to figure out how to sell.

I had to recruit a sales team. We did it. These kids that work for me, a lot of them are barely
out of high school. A lot of them have had criminal records, but we're giving them a chance.
We're trying to help them turn their life around and turn generations around for the next five
generations. In your career. What have been some of the things you're most proud of? What
I'm proud of is I can look around every day and see this global community of people I coach
and I bring together and how most of them who can get out of their own way are prospering.

To me, that's tremendously valuable because they play a small role in people's success on a 85:04

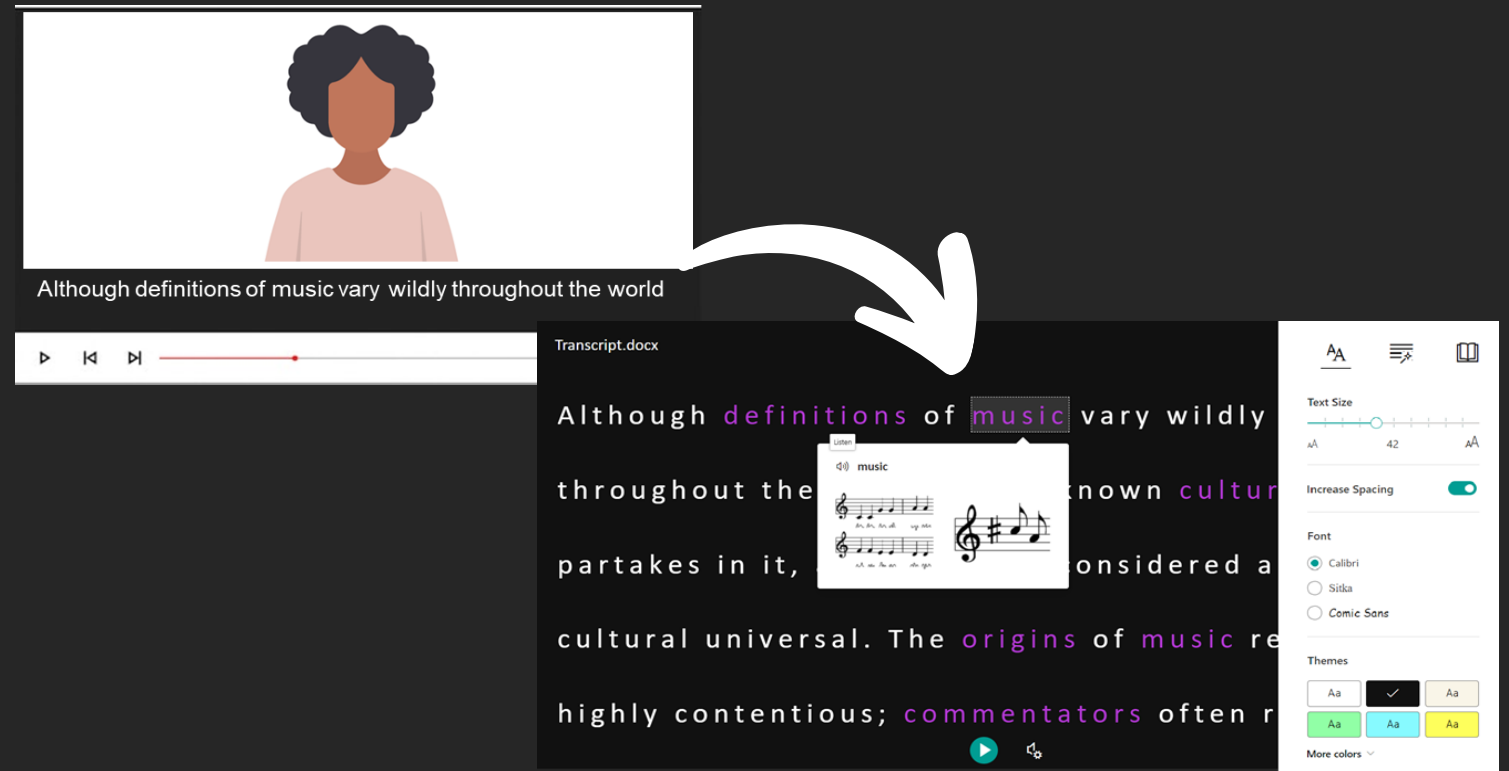
PRIORITIZING

6+ MONTHS

Alternative Formats for Video Content

Ally for LMS

- Transform video content into other formats
- Leveraging Ally Alternative Formats as a more inclusive way to consume the content
- Potential for new Alternative Format using video transcript



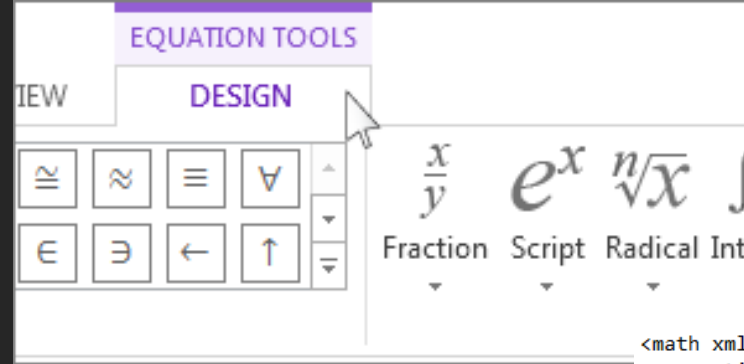
PRIORITIZING

6+ MONTHS

Expanded STEM Support

Ally for LMS

- Better detection and handling of STEM content within documents
 - Starting research with MS Office
- Better conversion of math equations to MathML



```
<math xmlns='http://www.w3.org/1998/Math/MathML'>
  <semantics>
    <mrow>
      <mfrac>
        <mn>1</mn>
        <mn>2</mn>
      </mfrac>
      <mo>=</mo><mfrac>
        <mn>1</mn>
        <mn>4</mn>
      </mfrac>
    </mrow>
    <annotation encoding='MathType-MTEF'>MathType@MTEF@5@5@+=
    feaahqart1ev3aqatCvAUfeBSjuyZL2yd9gzLbvyNv2CaerbuLwBLn
    hiov2DGi1BTfMBaeXatLxBI9gBaerbd9wDYLwzYbItLDharqqqtubsr
    4rNCHbGeaGqiVu0Je9sqqrpepC0xbbL8F4rqqrFfpeea0xe9Lq=Jc9
    vqaqpepm0xbba9pwe9Q8fs0=yqaqpepae9pg0FirpepeKkFr0xfr=x
    fr=xb9adbaqaeeGaciGaaiaabeqaamaabaabaaGcbaWaaSaaaaeaca
    aIXaaabaGaaG0maaacqGH9aqpdaWcaaqaiaaigdaaeaaeaaI0aaa
    aaaa@3A0A@
    </annotation>
  </semantics>
</math>
```

PRIORITIZING

6+ MONTHS

Enhanced HTML Alternative Format


Ally for LMS, for Websites and WCM


- Enhance Ally's existing HTML Alternative Format with additional features, including potential contrast and font size or font type options


PRIORITIZING


Download alternative formats


Selected file:



Vincent Van Gogh Module.docx


☐

Original file
Download the original file uploaded by the instructor


☐

HTML
For viewing in the browser and on mobile devices


☐

ePub
For reading as an e-book on an iPad and other e-book readers


☐

Electronic braille
BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays

☐

Audio
MP3 version for listening

☒

Enhanced HTML
Version with configurable options like contrast and font size


☐

Immersive Reader NEW
Aid reading comprehension and grammar skills. Internet required.

☐

Translated version
A machine translated version of the original document


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Enhanced HTML
Version with configurable options like contrast and font size

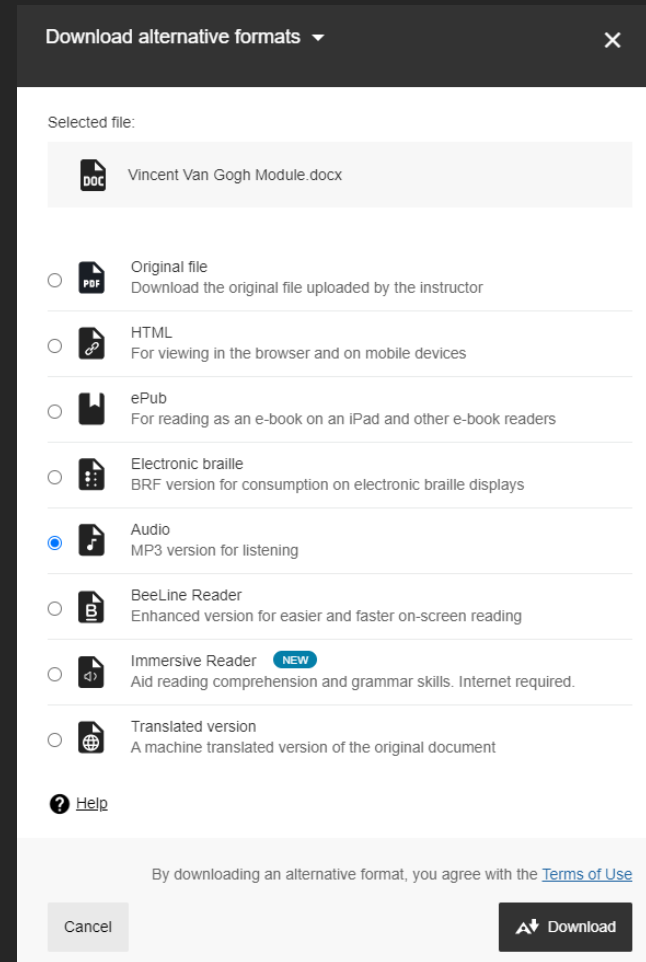
6+ MONTHS

Playlists for Audio





Ally for LMS, Websites and WCM

- Add the ability to break up documents by heading structure, etc. before converting to audio
- Allow for navigation within the audio as a playlist file

PRIORITIZING



History of Ally

-  **Chapter 1**
The beginning
-  **Chapter 2**
Alternative Formats
-  **Chapter 3**
The importance of WYSIWYG
-  **Chapter 4**
The future



Enable Administrators Data-Driven Decisions

1-3 MONTHS

Moodle 4.1 Support

Ally for LMS

- Currently under tests
- Moodle core self-hosted environments targeted to June.
- OpenLMS environments are subject to maintenance windows scheduled for summer 2023.



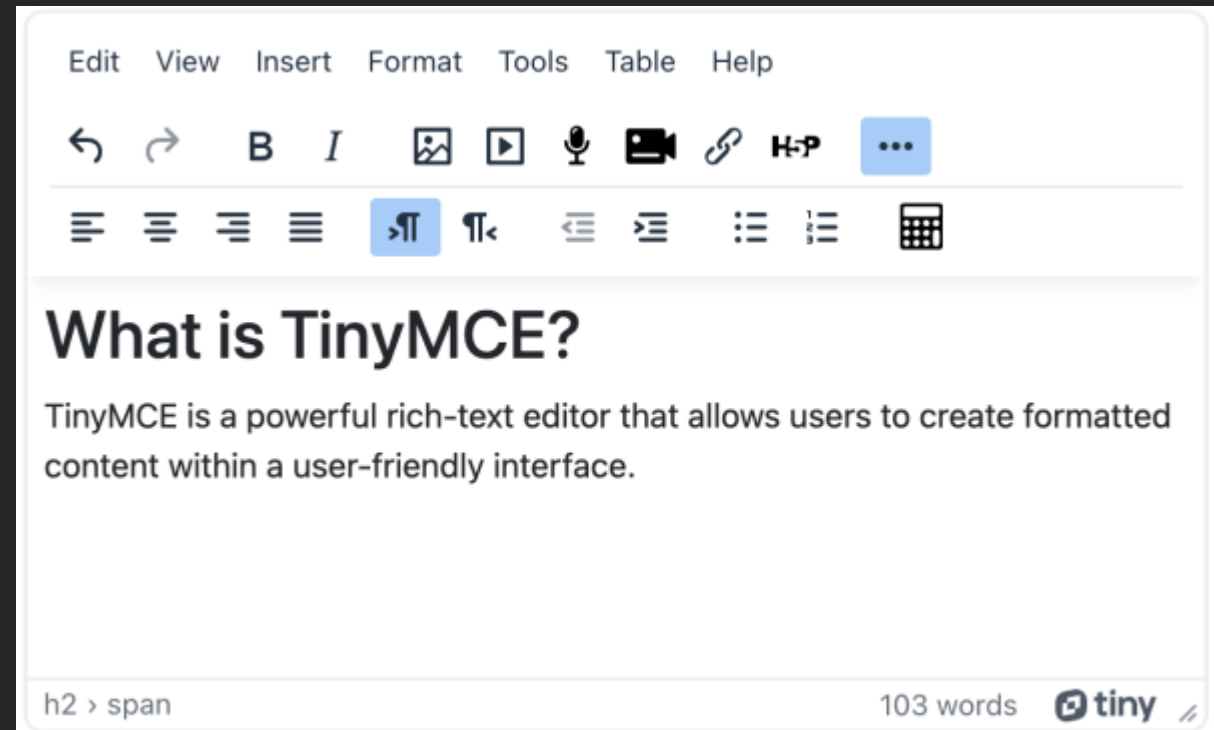
IN DEVELOPMENT

1-3 MONTHS

Moodle TinyMCE 6.0 Editor Support

Ally for LMS

- Provide support for the newest TinyMCE editor beginning with Moodle version 4.1.



IN DEVELOPMENT

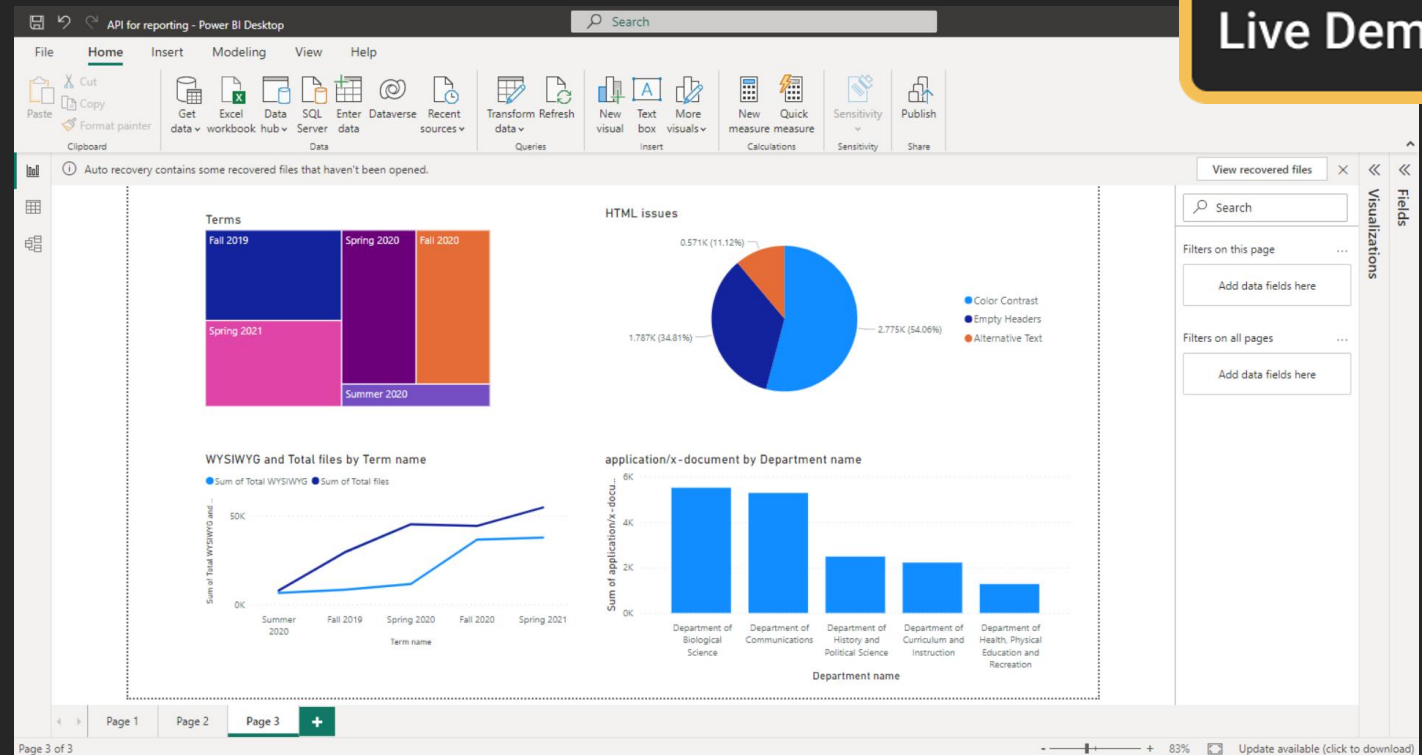
1-3 MONTHS

Facilitate Integration with Reporting Tools

Ally for LMS

- Current API only supports downloading data files (CSV)
- New endpoint to get data in formats supported by reporting tools (e.g JSON files)
- Easy integration with Power BI and other reporting tools

Live Demo



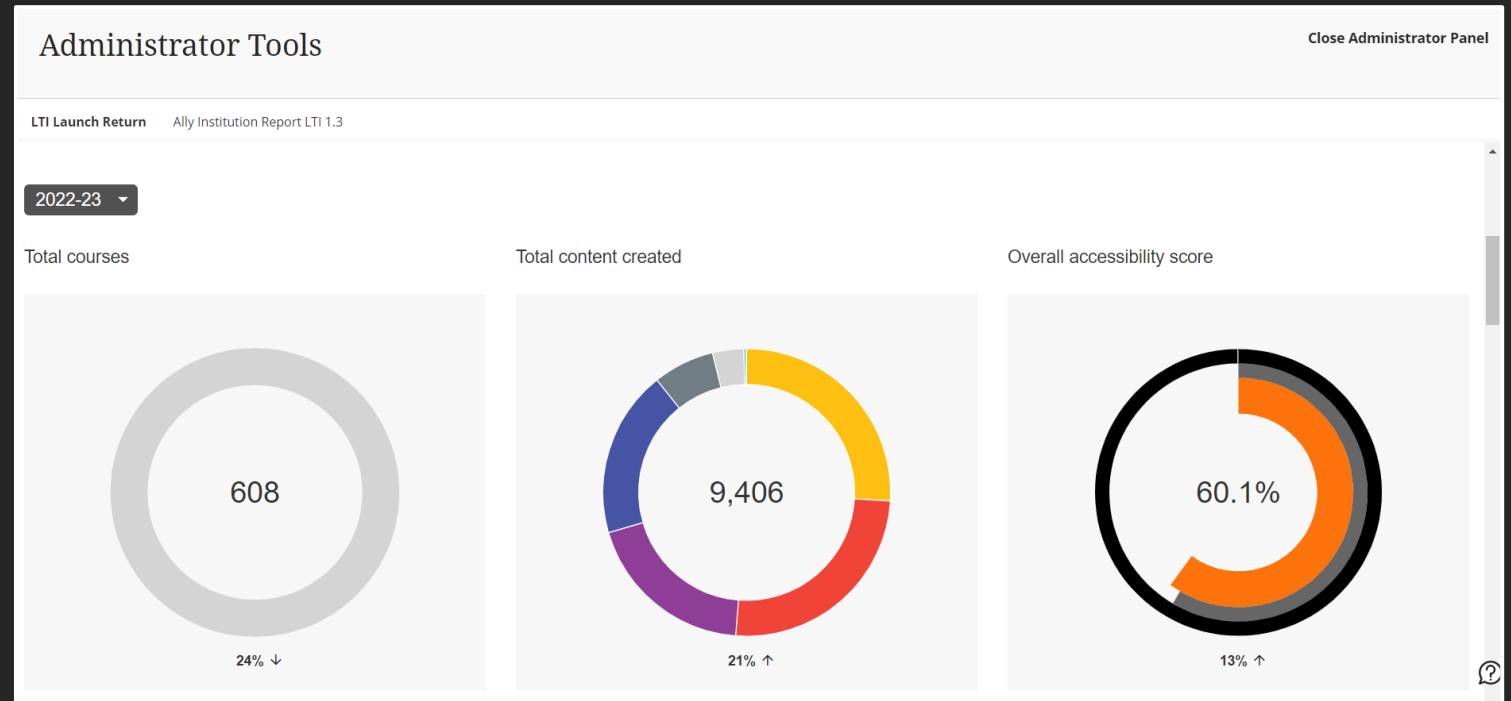
IN DEVELOPMENT



3-6 MONTHS

Institutional Report Improvements Ally for LMS

- More usable and dynamic options embedded within the institutional report to enable faster navigation, etc.



PLANNING & DEFINING




3-6 MONTHS

Course-level Translated Format Configuration


Ally for LMS

- Allow for configuration of the Translated Version Alternative Format at the course level
- Enables institutions to choose to disable the Translated version where needed (i.e., in language courses) while still providing the benefit to students in other course material.

☒



ePub

For reading as an e-book on an iPad and other e-book readers

☐



Electronic braille

BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays

☐



Audio

MP3 version for listening

☐



BeeLine Reader

Enhanced version for easier and faster on-screen reading

☐


Immersive Reader NEW

Aid reading comprehension and grammar skills. Internet required.

☐


Translated version

Not available for this course

PLANNING & DEFINING

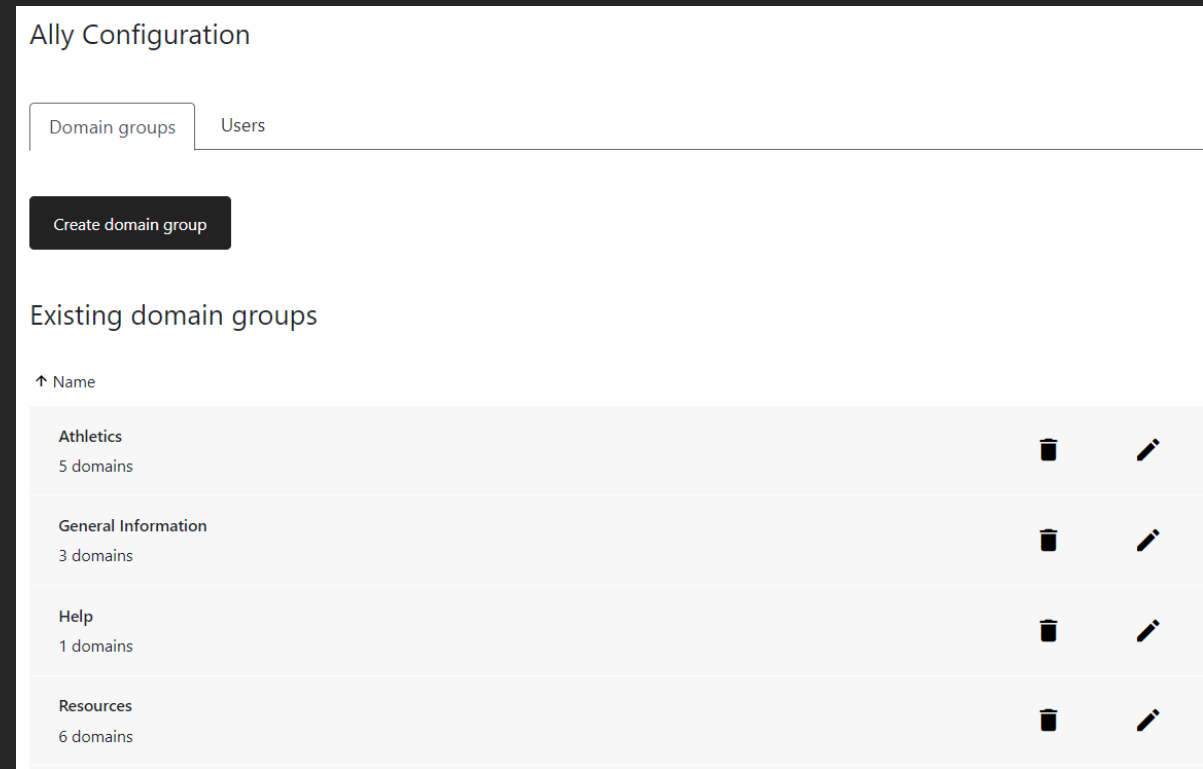


3-6 MONTHS

Domain Configuration

Ally for Websites

- Ability to add and remove domains from the Ally for Web scan configuration without requiring additional help from support teams



PLANNING & DEFINING

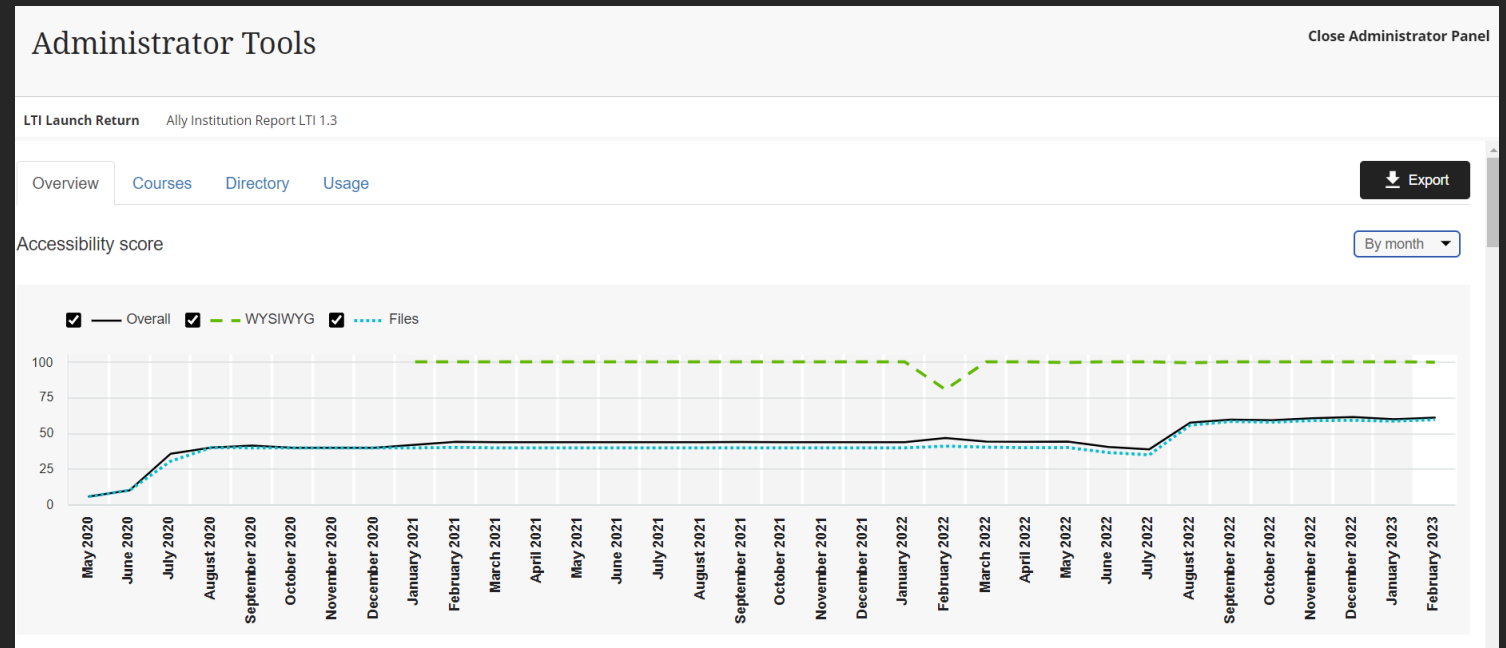


3-6 MONTHS

Institutional Report Filtering Ally for LMS

- Consider simple filtering options* to allow for additional engagement within the Overview, Courses and Directory (departmental) reports

*Depends on what is currently available from the LMS but may include things like file type to start with



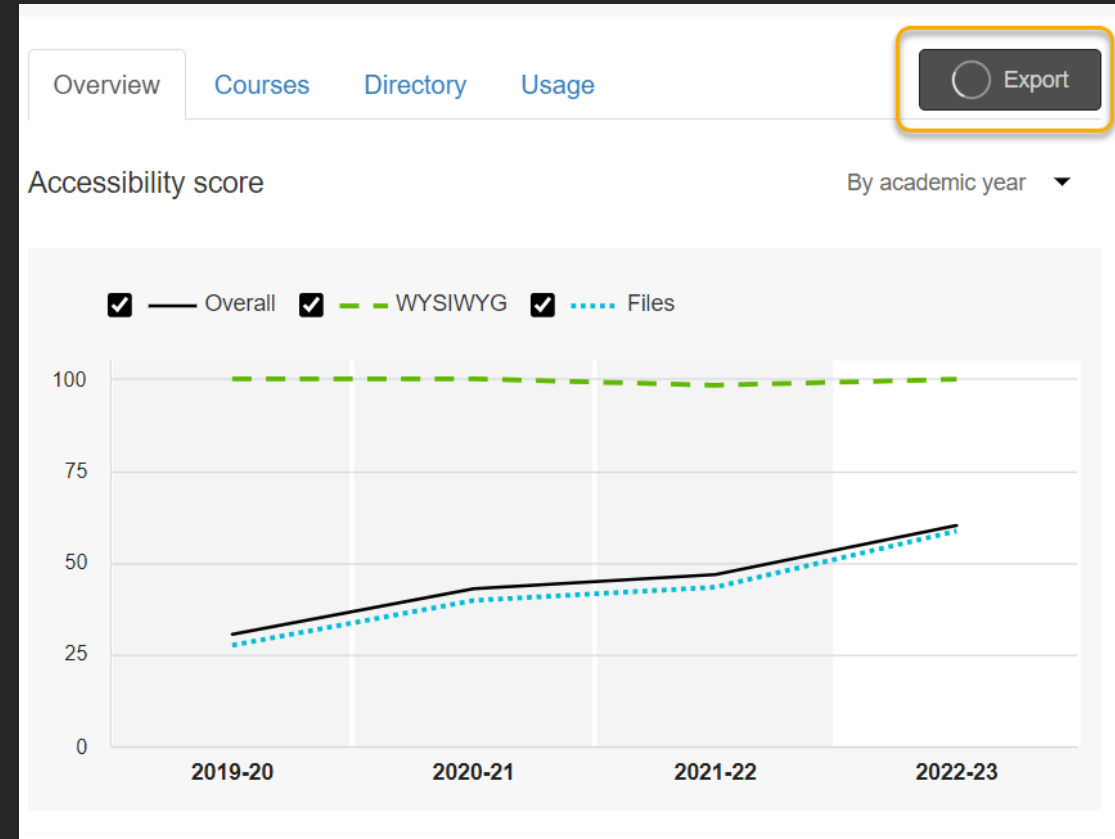
PLANNING & DEFINING



6+ MONTHS

Additional Ally for LMS Improvements

- CSV Exporting options: Provide greater control over what gets included in the CSV
- Extend Ally accessibility checks
- Generate video captioning
- Transform the File Transformer



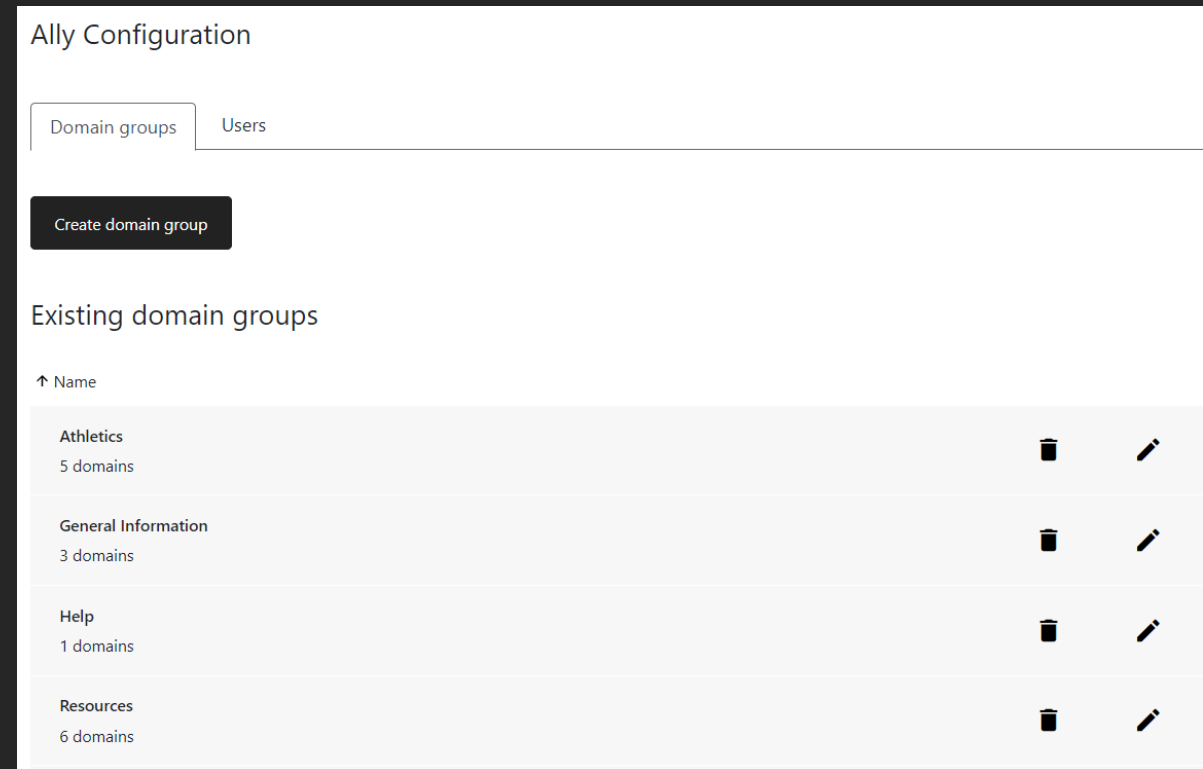
PRIORITIZING



6+ MONTHS

Additional Ally for Web Improvements

- URL Filtering and sorting
- Domain scoring




PRIORITIZING



Connect with us!

Connect With Us!

There are multiple opportunities to engage with the Ally team about our product initiatives:

- User Group Forums
 - Product and Feature Surveys
 - User Group Office Hours
 - Anthology Idea Exchange
- 



ANTHOLOGY Idea Exchange

Submit your ideas today!