



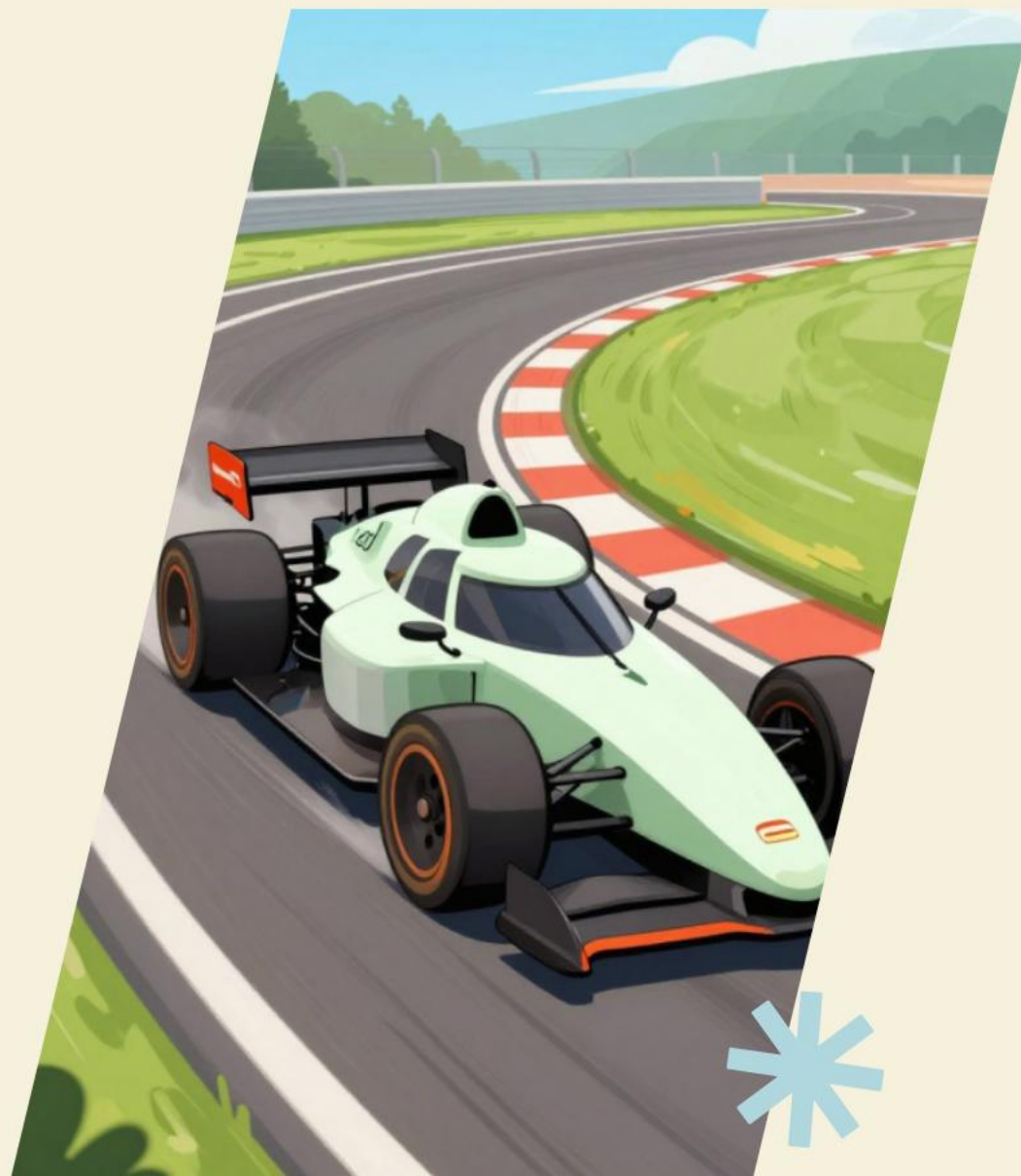
The PDF Pitstop

Tuning Up File Accessibility

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Hitting the Breaks



- Resource Sharing workflows are designed to leverage automation and expedite user requests
- [University of Minnesota](#) found 17% of files not OCR'd in 2025
- Remediation for print accessibility includes:
 - Reviewed and corrected OCR text
 - Document structure
 - Tagged tables, charts, and figures
 - Alt-text for images



29% of disabled students discontinue their education

10% cite unmet accessibility needs

[Canadian Survey on Disability \(2017\)](#)

58% of Canadians with difficulty with print “never” or “sometimes” receive alternate formats

20% have not been able to access a required alternate format in the past 2 years

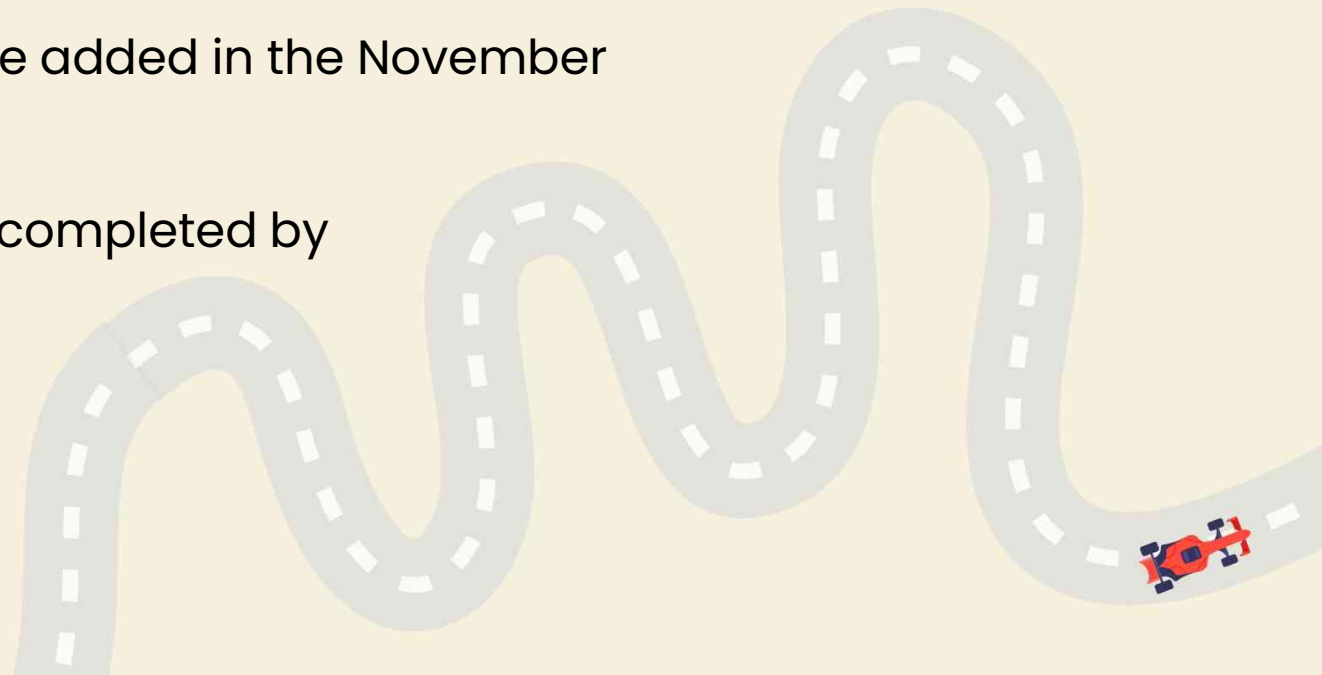
70% encountered at least 1 barrier in accessing an alternate format

[Survey on Accessible Print Material \(2023\)](#)

On the Road



- Identified as an issue in 2020
- [Issue Tracking](#) maintained by the Accessibility Subcommittee
- SP Days [2022](#) and [2023](#) presentations on a pitstop for SP journals
- “Conditional Automatic Forwarding” feature added in the November 2024 Alma release
- Testing and [configuration documentation](#) completed by Alma Resource Sharing Group
- Implementation at McMaster University Libraries in March 2025



Pedal to the Metal

- Alt-text users are identified through onboarding between Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and Library Accessibility Services (LAS) and given the opportunity to opt-out
- ILL staff manually add the statistical category
- ILL staff monitor the Alma Borrowing queue for “Accessibility Check” labels
- Files are sent to LAS for remediation
- User feedback:
 - None so far – the process is invisible to the user!



22 filled requests

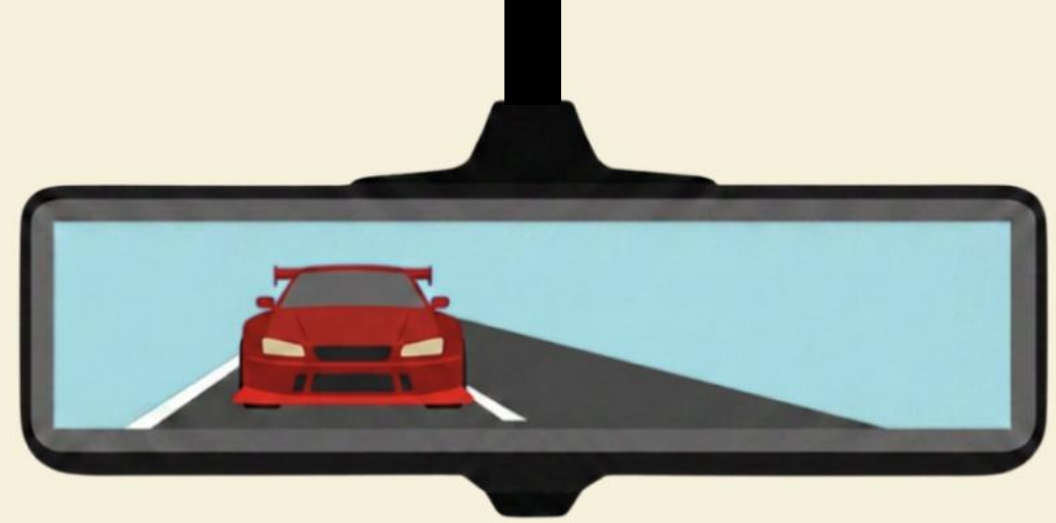
121 total eligible users

8+ unique users

In the Rearview Mirror



- Configure the Analytics User Statistics table (but it works retroactively if you forget!)
- Labels are anonymized with Borrowing Request Anonymization rules



On the Horizon

- Promotion to graduate students
- SAS user information integrated into Alma user loads
- A preferred solution would include local digitization & allow any user to request an accessible file
- Advances in automatic file remediation (still requiring a human in the loop)





Thank You



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