



Assessing Archival Accessibility and Information
Access for Disabled Users with
Discoverability, Usability, and
Readability

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What I Did

- Discoverability, Usability, and Readability
- Online finding aids, record pages, and record items from 55 archives
- 23 record items
- Discoverability, Usability, and ~~Readability~~

Availability Type	No.
Finding aids online	22
Record pages online	24
Record items online	23
Total archives surveyed	55

Discoverability

- Clicks from homepage to record item
 - Average: 4.5
 - Mode: 3
 - Highest: 8
 - Lowest: 3
- Longer paths were generally more intuitive
- Shorter paths were generally more confusing

Usability

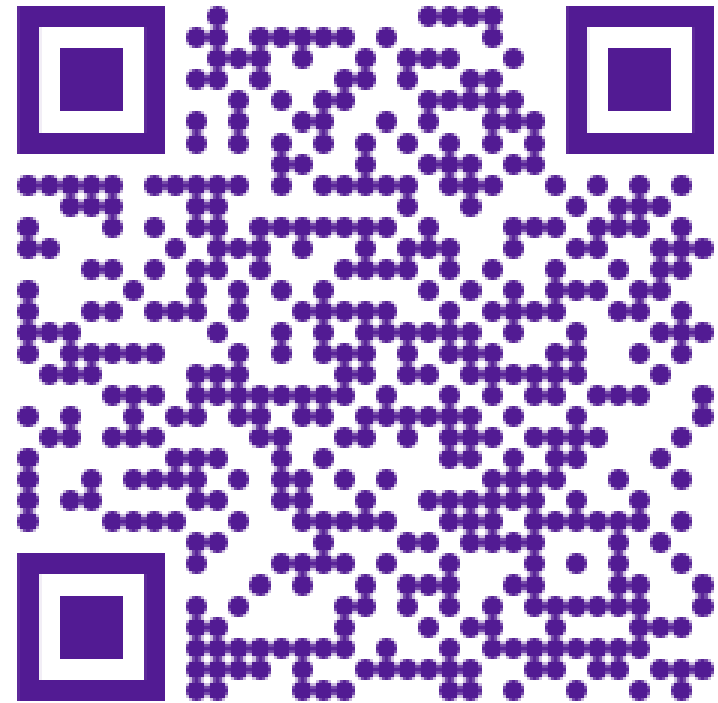
Accessibility Issue	Count
No audio alternative	13
No alt-text	8
Image-only .pdf	3
Redundant text (links, titles)	3
Color contrast	1
No primary language	1
Total	29

Takeaways

- Improve **discoverability** by
 - creating logical, intuitive navigation paths, and
 - clearly labeling buttons and links.
- Improve **usability** by
 - offering multiple format options for record items,
 - providing effective alt text, and
 - paying attention to PDF accessibility.

Thank you!

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Sources

Recommended reading

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4. Southwell, K.L. & Slater, J. (2013). An evaluation of finding aid accessibility for screen readers. *Information Technology and Libraries*, 32(3), 34–46.
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