Update on the Accessible Content E-Portal (ACE) Pilot Initiative

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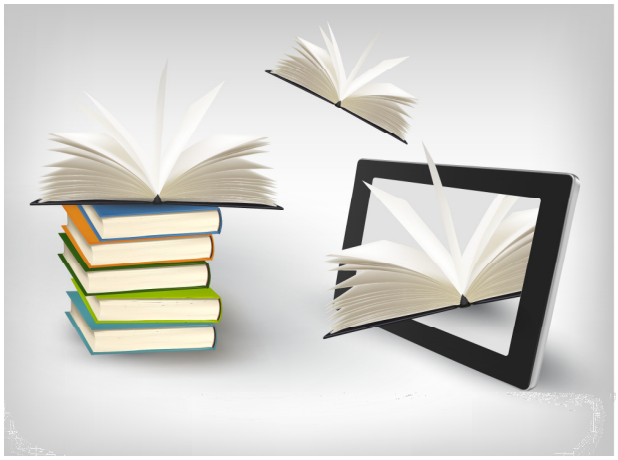

In 2005, the Ontario government enacted the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) to identify, prevent, and remove barriers to accessibility. Under this act (s. 18) college libraries are required to 'provide, procure, or acquire accessible or conversion-ready formats of print –based resources (upon request).' OCLS, guided by the HLLR AODA Committee for Ontario College Libraries, has partnered with the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) and the Internet Archive to bring the Accessible Content E-Portal (ACE) service to college libraries through a four-month pilot initiative and year-long trial.

The ACE pilot program allows college libraries to combine their efforts to provide digital formats of print resources to students, staff, and faculty, made accessible through a shared repository of digital texts.

ACE users at participating library colleges can use the service to:

- Request an accessible format for any book in their library's physical collection
- Browse and search the complete list of books on the ACE portal (over 3000 titles and growing)
- Download the full text for books on the ACE portal that are part of their library's physical collection

College libraries benefit from the service in a number of ways, including:

- Becoming compliant with AODA s. 18
- Reducing duplication
- Saving and sharing costs
- Participating in collaborative user testing and problem solving

The ACE pilot runs from January 1 to April 30, 2015, and the trial will run from May 1, 2015 until April 30, 2016. The purpose of the one-year trial is to assess the value of the ACE service and identify if a long-term agreement is warranted. Our priority during the pilot is to determine the requirements, volume of information, timeline and costs involved, and make any adjustments to the service in preparation for the trial phase.

Designated staff within your library have the ability to request that materials be digitized, and are ready with user tokens that can be assigned to students, staff, and faculty who need access to printed materials in an alternative format. For more information, go to https://www.ocls.ca/ace_resources.

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