

Student “Ally Formats” Study

Learning from and with alternative formats.

A collaborative exploration of the benefits of making alternative formats of course materials with the Ally Tool in Moodle.

Presenters,

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Sandra Partington, Digital Accessibility Project Lead



My experience

- I learned more about how individual students learn and how their preferences, devices, favourite tools are all part of the picture.
- **Key takeaway**, How useful Ally Formats can be for all students, how important it is that we promote them effectively.

Study Findings Will Help Promote

Did you know that Ally Formats can also be used to help students who don't necessarily use assistive technology?

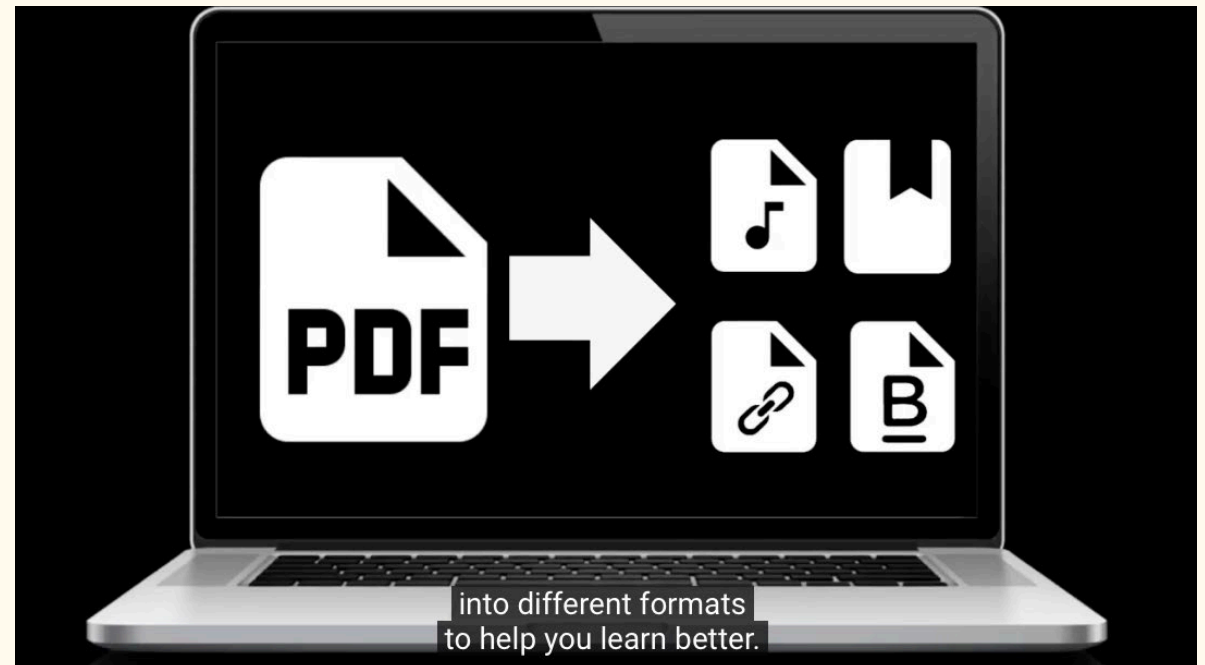
- A student study found that students who don't use assistive technology wish they knew about Ally at the start of their course
- The students also wanted guidance on how alternative formats can be used for different learning styles.



What is Ally Formats?

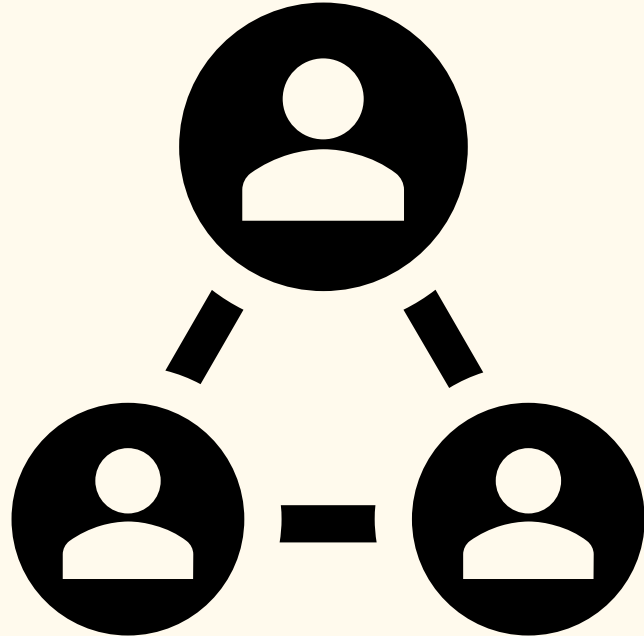
OK, let's have a quick look together

Here is a [3-minute video about Ally](#) explaining the formats that can be found on Ally and how they can be used.



Nikita Hayward

Student Digital Assistant



My experience

- I enjoyed taking part in the project as I found that the audio format tool was particularly helpful for exam revision and condensing information.
- I was also able to use Immersive Reader properly for the first time, which gave me the opportunity to read sections of documents aloud at different speeds.
- Exploring alternative formats also gave me a chance to empathise with my clients, who may require alternative and augmentative formats to communicate.

What did the students say about taking part?



Bright



Dark



Blues



Grays



Night

“[previously] I didn’t know anything about these tools, I didn’t know they existed”

“[the project] really beneficial to my own discovery of the technology”

“especially the discovery of immersive [reader]...useful during revision season”

“using the alternative format while studying for exams...[it was] quite helpful”

“recommend more [collaboration] in the future” - idea of student Digital Ambassadors

“great project...very engaging and interesting”

Sumayyah Islam

Student Digital Assistant



My experience

- Taking part in this project, has enabled me to design a **student friendly** workshop on Ally which will promote the benefit of Ally for personal learning. I will offer the workshop as part of Welcome Week.
- I also designed **Personas** based on the study findings. These can be used to help staff and students find out about Ally from different perspective e.g. devices, subject, preferred formats, study goals, learning needs or preferences.

Student friendly approach to uses



Students who used multiple devices to access course content found the HTML format useful



Students who required visuals and quick reading found the Beeline reader's colorful display useful



Students who used touchscreen technology for notetaking found the ePub format useful



Students who were usually multi-tasking found the audio/MP3 format useful

Using personas to help explore Ally



NATASHA

REQUIRES FAST ACCESS TO CONTENT

COURSE: SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY

LEVEL OF STUDY: MASTERS FINAL YEAR

ALLY FORMATS USED

Audio/MP3: Gave her the ability to listen to lecture PowerPoints on her Chromebook without having to watch the lecture which sometimes has background noise. Was used for exam prep and provided a fast method of revision

Immersive Reader: Gave her the ability to listen to lecture materials again on her Chromebook at a different speed and in a different voice. Used mainly for revision when her eyes were tired from too much screen time on the phone, or while doing other tasks on her Chromebook

DEVICES USED & LEARNING STYLE

Mobile Phone



Laptop



ChromeBook



Skim Reading: For abstracts and discussions of articles

Note Taking: Using a Mobile device to create voice notes

Researching: Using a databases and journal platforms such as Wiley or Taylor and Francis online

Memorising: Websites to access flashcards

Thanks for your interest

Any questions for the team?

