

What is Alternate Text Format?

The digital age and the development of screen reading software has made it possible for individuals who cannot read or comprehend regular print to access print in various ways, hence the term alternate text format. Alternate text format (ATF) refers to the variety of ways print can be accessed using different formats which may include: Electronic text (E-text), scanned material, digital recordings and of course Braille.

What Is the Institution's Obligation to provide ATF?

Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act (Section 504) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) both mandate equal access to information for individuals with disabilities. This includes required reading material for all courses, library materials and all media used by the University to communicate necessary information.

Who Uses ATF?

Students with varying disabilities are eligible for Alternate Text Format including students who have learning disabilities, physical disabilities, or are blind or have low-vision. At Metropolitan State University, twenty-four percent of the students requesting accommodations use ATF.

What Are the Sources for ATF?

Disability Services obtains Alternate Text Format from various sources including Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, State Services for the Blind-Communication Center, publishers and a digital publishing company for scanning.

Considerations:

- It can take up to eight weeks to have a book converted to ATF.

- To ensure converted texts are provided in a timely manner it is essential for faculty to submit adoption request by the deadline set by the Metropolitan State University Bookstore.

- Students must use Priority Registration to ensure the timely conversions of required reading material.