

JISC Accessible Maths Working Group

Thursday 10 October 2025

Meeting Chairs : Cordelia Webb

Teams link | Meeting recording

Agenda

- What did you do over the summer?
- Kristian Evans: Using Quarto
- Cochair space: Introductory webinars
- AOB:

Summer news and Autumn Plans!

Name and University	What did you work on this summer?	Comments from the community!
	Summer seems a long time ago now...	
Lilian Joy, York	RStudio guide for blind. Updated our Coding page. Exploring with users talonvoice and cursorless for coding etc without mouse. SpotDot and Index V5 Embosser, how to get graphs to emboss. Preparing to teach VI student blog and Braille Matters webinar Attended Enhancing Inclusion for neurodivergent students in Maths and Stats (with J Fine and E Cliffe!) Worked on accommodations with Maths department for blind student's exams. Testing mathjax on Blackboard - screaming about all the little pngs on course sites made by Wiris. 😞	I wish I'd been able to attend the Coventry event! - CLP
Christian Lawson-Perfect, Newcastle University	New version of Numbas with much more accessible interface	Sounds good - I hope to put some stuff into Numbas next term (... 'efficiency' ...), Andrew Gilbert. Excellent stuff, Christian.
Kris Roger	Just starting on maths in Moodle	Also just starting with maths

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LSE	(working with teachers to get content from LaTeX to HTML ideally), but lots on general digital accessibility	in Moodle! - Kathryn, Exeter
Matthew Deeprope	Several projects I've been working on: Self describing graphs and diagrams Accessible OpenRouter front-end MathPix API Wrapper Latex to HTML online converter using Pandoc WASM	This interfaces with some of my work too (Steph Driver) - I look forward to your updates!
Daniel Brown University of Lancashire	We've had an institutional name change in September. Otherwise, I've been looking at MathJAX in Blackboard. Mostly looking at AI generated test your knowledge questions - but including maths notation. There are some vaguely promised updates that will hopefully come in before Christmas to allow different delimiters and multiline formulae. I did have a play with some screen readers and maths earlier this week - depressingly bad. If anyone has any recommendations for a good PDF screen reader I can try...	LJ: The maths in PDFs is still not accessible unless they output using the latest LaTeX.
Josh Fogg, University of Edinburgh	Topically, I've been converting course materials from a mix of R Markdown and DocX (plus a bit of LaTeX) to Quarto!	
Ashleigh Ratcliffe, University of Leicester	Written a university guide for digital accessibility in maths and LaTeX. Previously the only maths relevant parts were microsoft equation editor.	
Sharon Austin University of Tampa	Looking at accessibility of Math in Canvas Instructure LMS. Source of questions impact accessibility, such as whether from a question bank or inserted directly. Images are very problematic	
Andrew Gilbert, University of Exeter	Don't have much to report, am busy using bookML for html accessible lecture notes and problem sheets (from Latex) for a new course (new	

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	to me, that is)... Am conscious that figures are not particularly accessible so need to beef up captions in due course...	
Rosaria Lena, University of Glasgow	Development and evaluation of accessible interactive e-books and notes using markdown (Quarto)	<i>Hey Rosaria, David here from Maths & Stats, we should meet up! I joined UoG this year.</i> <i>Hi David, sounds good! I'll drop you an email. Rosaria</i>
Vincenzo Mantova University of Leeds	Not so interesting BookML updates (mostly UX improvements, e.g. highlight LaTeX(ML) errors directly on GitHub). New manual happening. Oh, also MathJax 4 will be there soon!	Is MathJax what is used to display equations in bookML? Thanks!! VM: in writing: yes, the maths is converted to MathML which is then rendered by MathJax (3). Thanks, Andrew G.
David Hodge, University of Glasgow	Quarto templates for staff, adding accessibility features where they appear to be missing. Learning about basic lua filters (and Quarto extensions) to help with some of these and for later dissemination.	Ooh, will you share when tested? LJ. <i>That's the plan, hopefully by Xmas.</i>
Steph Driver, Birkbeck, University of London	Accessibility updates to Janeway (open source publishing platform for Journals). For anyone wondering what this is - our code is on github. https://github.com/openlibhums/janeway And I've been learning to type in Braille on the Hable One.	Sounds an impressive project! AG
Evi Papadaki, UCL Institute of Education	I recently moved institutions so I didn't do much. Looking at various ways to implement accessible maths resources and I came across this WG.	
David Carlisle	Accessible math from LaTeX and MathML	VM: will there be a way of tweaking the output so you can e.g. extract 'enhanced' HTML? (Trying to imagine if this can eventually replace

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		LaTeXML and similar.) LJ: Do we know why some suppliers (Wiris, Texthelp) are so bad at implementing mathml correctly? Or maybe we are the ones not understanding how it's supposed to work.
Kate Wright, Aberystwyth University	Latex accessibility especially slides made using Beamer. We've just introduced an Ally minimum score as part of our VLE (Blackboard) required standard, and Beamer slides are not scoring well. Alternative text for graphs, charts etc.	DB: Have you tried comparing Ally scores with e.g., Acrobat accessibility checker. I found quite big differences in the performances of the two, KW: thanks for the tip - I'll take a look
Kathryn Willoughby, University of Exeter	Trying to learn more about LaTeX and accessible maths notation in Moodle. Any tips/courses/resource suggestions welcomed! :) Also working on University-wide student guidance on accessibility in our VLE.	
Anna Williams Queen Mary Uni of London	We have been through some change, on the other side now so looking at Module template / accessibility. Thinking and reviewing next steps with module accessibility. Have started playing with LaTeX 😊	
Joanne Fitzpatrick, Lancaster University	Guidance for accessible open monographs: https://compass.copim.ac.uk/books/09-open-book-accessibility	
Jonathan Fine Open University (retired)	Last month demoed Tactile and Visual Pythagoras. Workshop report: https://blogs.york.ac.uk/digital-accessibility/2025/09/30/neurodivergent-maths-stats/ Pythagoras in 48 seconds:  Tactile and Visual Pythagoras ... In 2021 hosted Jonathan Godfrey. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIHEt5hx3pM	Love the tactile Pythagorus! That's fantastic.SD

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	In 2021 hosted Yihui Xi on R Markdown etc. See 20 May 2021: Yihui Xie: R, R ...	
Konstantina Zerva, University of Edinburgh	Not much at the moment, mainly occupied with STACK stuff. Charlotte made some progress to make slides from Beamer using BookML. I'll make some time to play with it after the schools mid-term break.	
Cat Redfern, University of Leeds	Using AI to help(?) describe complex images/diagrams Trialling JAWS Inspect software	

About the Working Group

We are the Jisc Accessible Maths Working Group so as HE and FE people, we are trying to work out how we can make materials and teaching more accessible for students and staff.

Along the way, we encountered a lot of difficulties persuading people to be more accessible because there are so MANY routes to making it happen, or sometimes, it wasn't even technically possible yet.

So we get together to figure out what is happening and what we might do together to make sense of the accessible maths world.

This varies from discovering how accessible things "interact" (polite version) with University Virtual Learning Environments (blackboard, moodle etc..) to reports on updates of developing bigger technologies (e.g. advances with Markdown, LaTeX, Word).

But then also the issue of how to engage people more widely with getting involved with developing or spreading accessibility in the maths sphere.