

## Day 5 - Lived experience: Navigating learning through a screen reader

[Music]

[Jennifer] Hello, everyone. My name is Jennifer George. Today I am going to be interviewing Isuru.

[Isuru] Hi. Thanks, Jennifer. So this is Isuru Ratnayaka. I'm a doctoral student at the University of Louisiana in Lafayette, USA. So I'm a totally blind person. Talking about me, when I was studying, I had challenges in terms of accessibility, mostly in terms of reading material and also mostly because they were in the printed form. So that was one of the major challenges that I had to face to find means of like getting access to my material that I had to study.

[Jennifer] Could you tell me a bit about what kind of technology has helped you? What are the tools that you use in your studies and work?

[Isuru] Yes. So I use a text-to-speech engine which is called uh NVDA Non-Visual Desktop Access. This is free software open for download. Let me show how I can use it by accessing a web page and also trying to send an email. So I'm going to switch off my video and try screen sharing.

"Participant panel now closed, alert participant."

That's the screen reader. Let's see how it works. So, I'm going to open "Firefox." Then, open the Google search engine, and I'm going to go to Library "ERV. Visit libraryox.org. Google search". It says library.org. Google searchable "navigation" and I'm navigating the web page or the search bar through headings. So I pressed H and it takes me to the first heading "Mark Filters and Topics Heading Level One". Heading level 1 "Main applicable web results clickable library box free public domain audio books heading level three visited link". So it's in the heading, the third level of headings is my website.

So I press enter "Box free public domain audio books visit list" and then it opens. So then the same I can do inside the website. If I press H "Library logo graphic library box visited same page link library box heading level one". So it took me to the first heading, which has the library box logo.

And if I want to navigate through lists, I can press L. "Navigation and list with six items". So it took me to a list with six items. And if I want to navigate inside the list using links, I can press K. "Contact link", contact, "forum link", forum, "link", help like that. So I was scrolling down. If I want to scroll up, I can do the same. But I will be using the shift with the hotkey.

Let's say I want to scroll up the link "link contact link". So I'm coming up. So that's how I would access a web page

I'll quickly move on to show you how to send an email using the screen reader. So I'm moving to my inbox "Email gmail visit click clickable" So here I will navigate using the buttons because I want to find the compose button. So I press "Search, clickable support, clickable settings, clickable Google app, Google navigation landmark, compose button". So I found it, press "Enter." So it takes me to the section where I insert the address.

Okay. And then I navigate here using tab. If I press, I can add a subject and then a message. So let's say, "Hi this is a trial." then I can press again enter control enter button. So it takes me to "Send" I can keep pressing tab for more send options and it takes me to more send options, attach, then attach file. So if I press enter message of the edit file upload takes me to "File attach" window. I can browse from here or copy Ctrl + C a file and paste it here. Ctrl + V and then insert link insert link insert insert emoji like that. If we send this I can press either the send button or I can press the shortcut control plus enter alert. So the message is sent.

So this is how I would use the technology to access material and also to communicate in studying and also in work.

[Jennifer} Thank you, Isuru. That's been very useful.

[Music]