# Accessible Ebooks

Laura Brady | laurabrady.ca | 12 February 2025

1
EPUB
1
MOBI
1
PDF

# The Specification

# INTRODUCTION

## WHAT IS STRUCTURED NEGOTIATION?

> "If you get too adversarial, the corporate inclination is to do the minimum. The collaboration of Structured Negotiation allows for a different result."
>
> —Susan Mazrui, Structured Negotiation Claimant

In the United States, people customarily address legal disputes by filing lawsuits. The adversarial process begins immediately, often with a press release attacking the defendant's alleged bad conduct. This is followed by sharp denials of wrongdoing, setting the stage for what can be costly, stressful, and time-consuming litigation.

Once a lawsuit is filed, the battle is on. Each side throws punches in the form of discovery requests, objections, motions and oppositions. Expensive experts are brought in. At some point the parties may attempt to settle their case, often with a mediator. Mediation can be of great benefit, but often the punches have already been thrown, the money and time spent, the distrust established.

Many attorneys and clients are unhappy with this system, but they see no other option. This book describes Structured Negotiation—a winning alternative to lawsuits.

Structured Negotiation typically occurs without a lawsuit on file, although it can also be a useful strategy within a filed case. The process avoids complex procedural rules, expensive discovery, battles over experts, and third party decision-makers. Instead, Structured Negotiation has its own framework premised on the idea that legal claims can be resolved equitably—and cost effectively—if stakeholders are able to form relationships and communicate openly with each other. It is a dispute resolution method built on the collaborative notion that if parties seek common ground, instead of digging their heels into legal arguments, solutions to even complex problems can emerge.

Structured Negotiation has a powerful track record. Over the past 25 years the process has led to dozens of settlement agreements with some of the largest organizations in the United States. Bank of America, Walmart, Charles Schwab, CVS, Major League Baseball, Denny's,

# Affordances

- Portability
- Immediacy
- Privacy
- Easy
- Light
- Connected
- Sustainable
- Accommodating
- Waterproof
- Borrowable
- Searchable
- Annotatable
- Convenient

# The Promise of Technology

> Scarcity is caused because books are not technologically accessible (access failure); are technologically accessible but not available for use (market failure); or are technologically accessible but readers lack capacity to consume them (instrumental failure).

# Ebook Creation Tools

kindle create

**Creating beautiful books has never been easier**

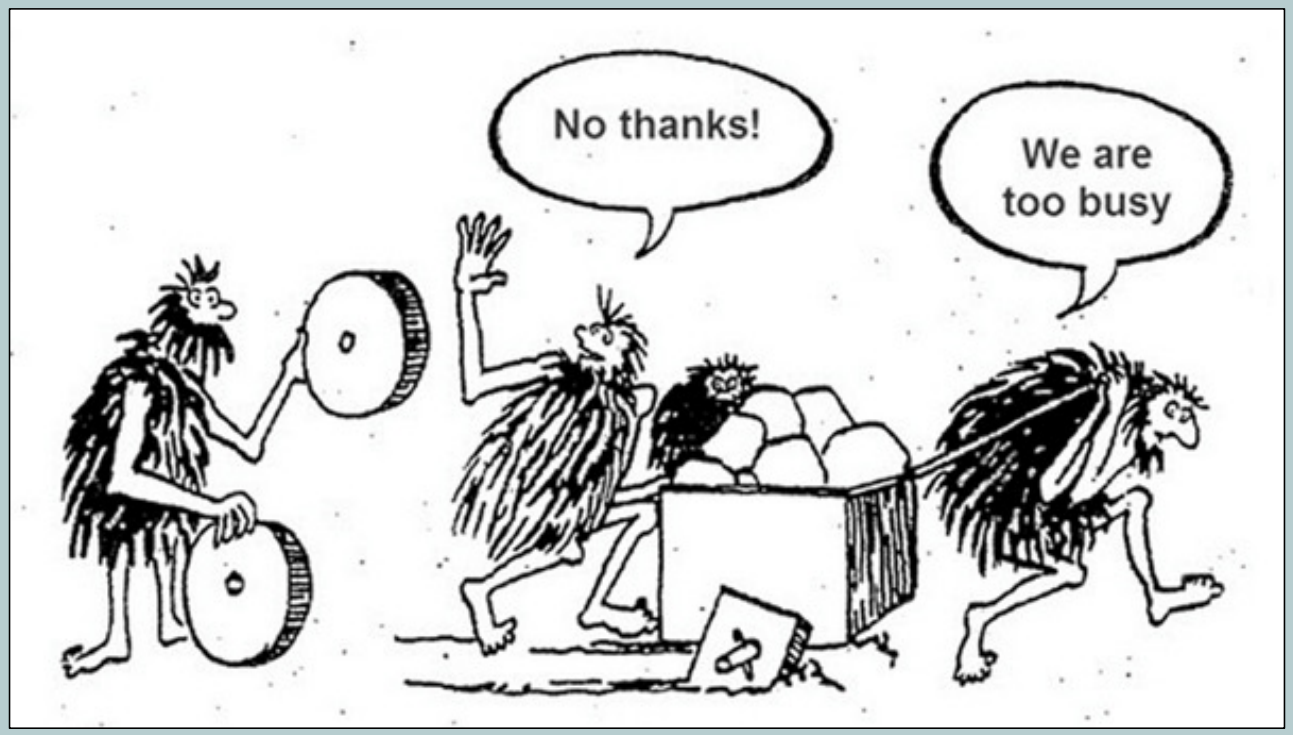
WordToEPUB

VELLUM

CREATE BEAUTIFUL BOOKS

ePUB

# Technical Debt



# Top Level Accessibility Principles

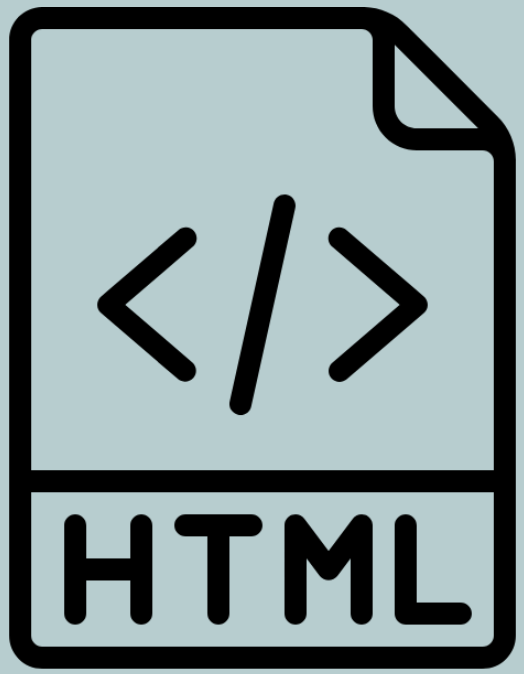
- Separate style and content
- Structure
- Navigation
- Semantics
- Images = picture, not tables or text
- Image Descriptions
- Page List
- Define Languages
- Accessible treatment of Math and interactive content
- Accessibility metadata

# Separate Style and Content

Typographic conventions had to convey meaning in print because that was all that was available. [They] are still useful for sighted readers, but are the wrong place to be carrying meaning [in digital content].

# Use the right HTML tag for the content

It’s trickier than one would think!



# HTML

`<h1-6>` headings

`<p>` text

`<hr/>` editorial breaks

`<br/>` line breaks

`<blockquote>`

`<figure>` images

`<figcaption>` (nest in above) captions

`<aside>` sidebar type content, including footnotes

`<section>` chapters and subsections

`<ol>` / `<ul>` / `<li>` ordered and unordered lists; list item

`<i>` italics for design purposes

`<em>` emphasis

`<cite>` citations

`<b>` bold

`<strong>` emphasis

`<sup>` superscript

`<sub>` subscript

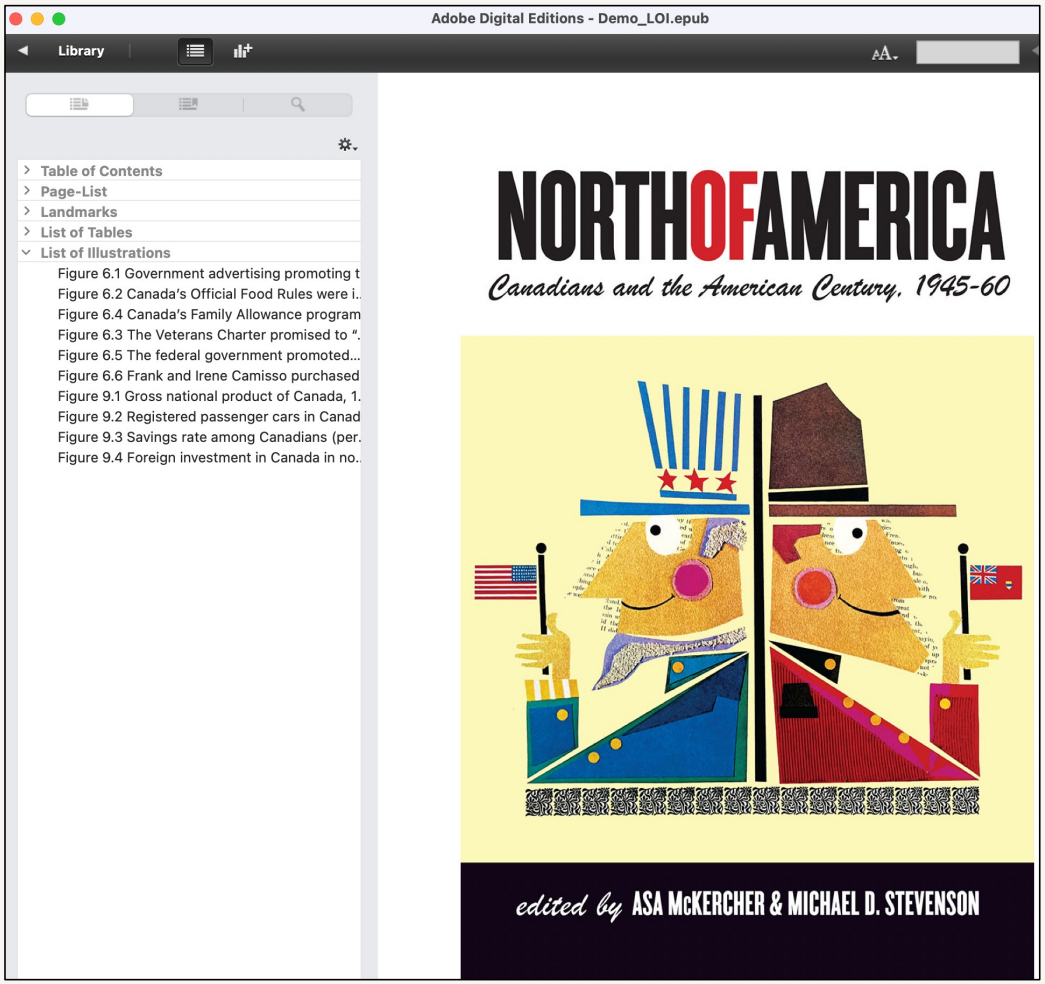
`<small>` small caps

`<u>` underline

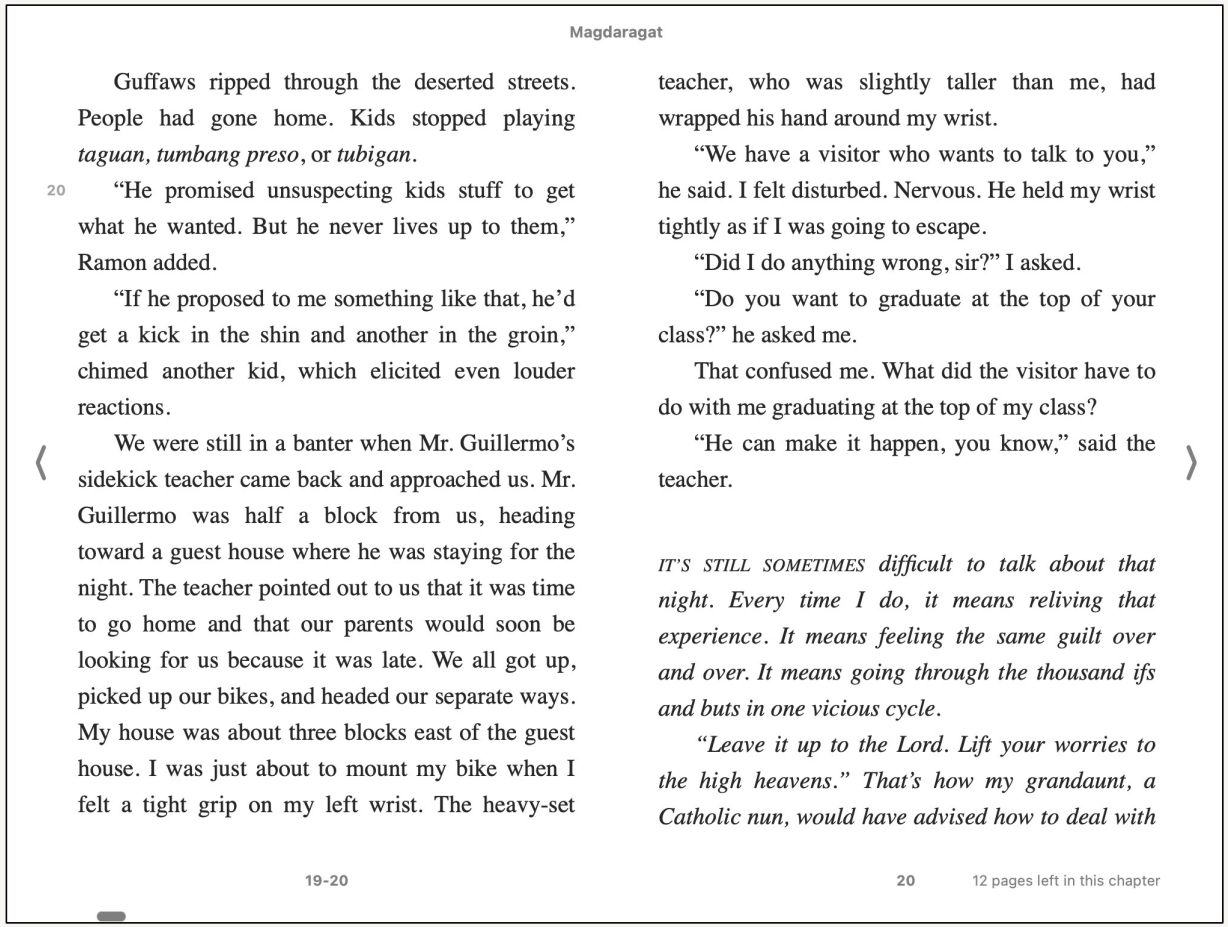
`<abbr>` abbreviation

# Robust Navigation

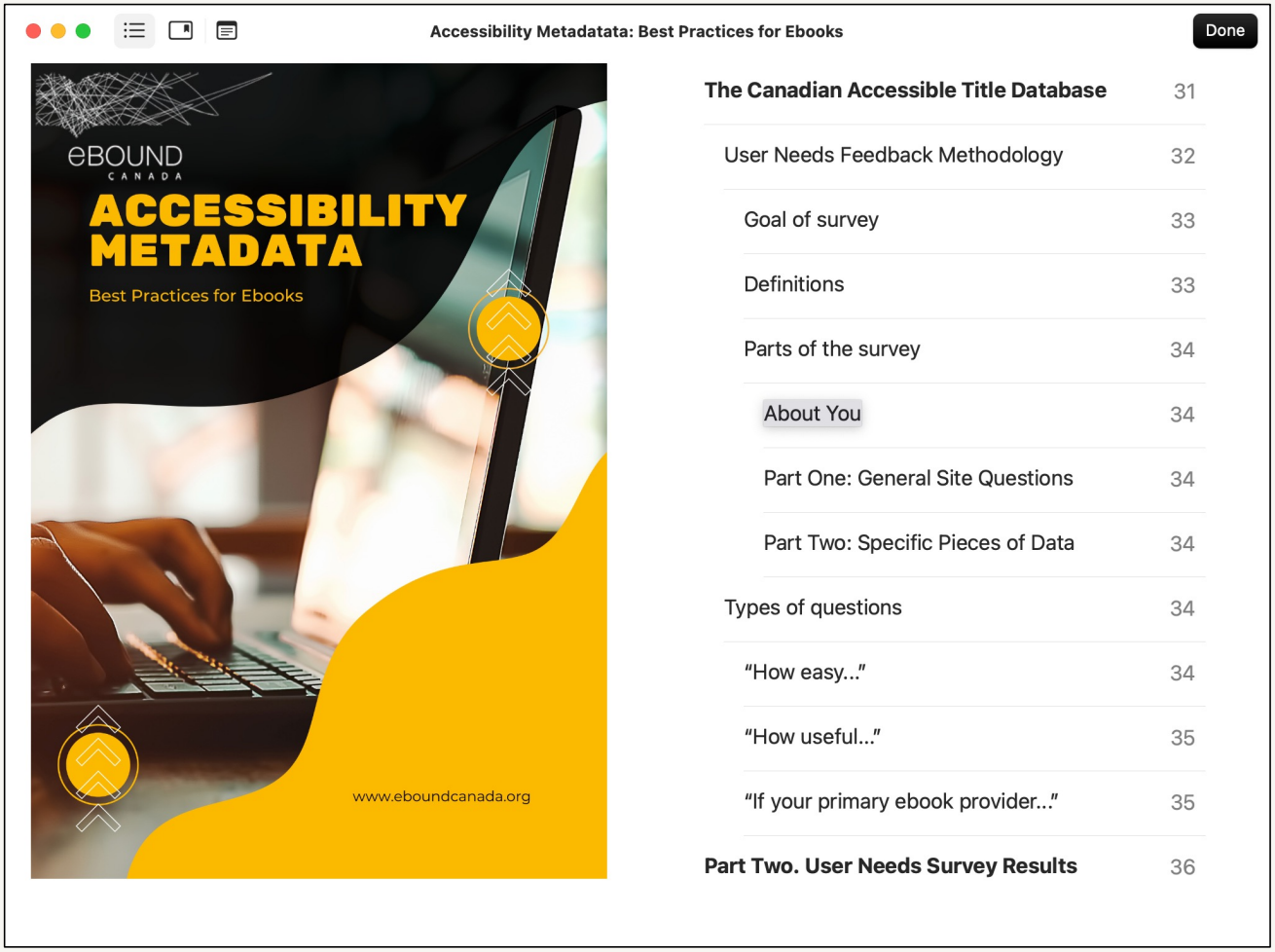
- Table of Contents
- Many level deep
- Supplemental list



# Page List


Magdaragat
Guffaws ripped through the deserted streets. People had gone home. Kids stopped playing *taguan, tumbang preso*, or *tubigan*.
20
"He promised unsuspecting kids stuff to get what he wanted. But he never lives up to them," Ramon added.
"If he proposed to me something like that, he'd get a kick in the shin and another in the groin," chimed another kid, which elicited even louder reactions.
We were still in a banter when Mr. Guillermo's sidekick teacher came back and approached us. Mr. Guillermo was half a block from us, heading toward a guest house where he was staying for the night. The teacher pointed out to us that it was time to go home and that our parents would soon be looking for us because it was late. We all got up, picked up our bikes, and headed our separate ways. My house was about three blocks east of the guest house. I was just about to mount my bike when I felt a tight grip on my left wrist. The heavy-set teacher, who was slightly taller than me, had wrapped his hand around my wrist.
"We have a visitor who wants to talk to you," he said. I felt disturbed. Nervous. He held my wrist tightly as if I was going to escape.
"Did I do anything wrong, sir?" I asked.
"Do you want to graduate at the top of your class?" he asked me.
That confused me. What did the visitor have to do with me graduating at the top of my class?
"He can make it happen, you know," said the teacher.
*IT'S STILL SOMETIMES difficult to talk about that night. Every time I do, it means reliving that experience. It means feeling the same guilt over and over. It means going through the thousand ifs and buts in one vicious cycle.*
*"Leave it up to the Lord. Lift your worries to the high heavens." That's how my grandaunt, a Catholic nun, would have advised how to deal with*
19-20
20
12 pages left in this chapter

# Structure


Accessibility Metadatata: Best Practices for Ebooks
Done
eBOUND
CANADA
ACCESSIBILITY METADATA
Best Practices for Ebooks
www.eboundcanada.org
The Canadian Accessible Title Database 31
User Needs Feedback Methodology 32
Goal of survey 33
Definitions 33
Parts of the survey 34
About You 34
Part One: General Site Questions 34
Part Two: Specific Pieces of Data 34
Types of questions 34
"How easy..." 34
"How useful..." 35
"If your primary ebook provider..." 35
Part Two. User Needs Survey Results 36

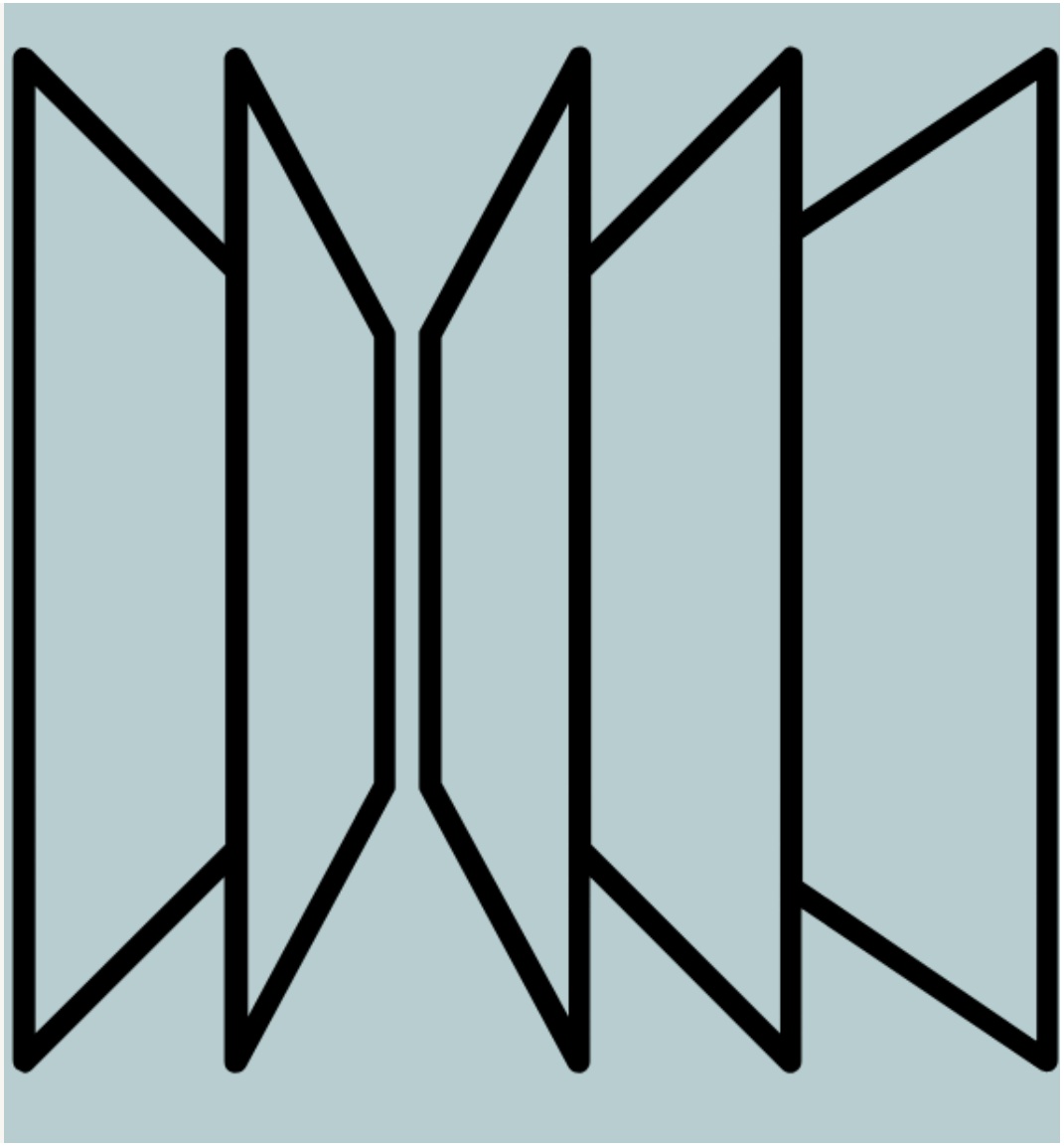
# Semantics

ARIA Accessible Rich Internet Applications

WAI-ARIA Web Accessibility Initiative — Accessible Rich Internet Applications

DPUB-ARIA Digital Publishing —Accessible Rich Internet Applications

kb.daisy.org/publishing/docs/html/dpub-aria/



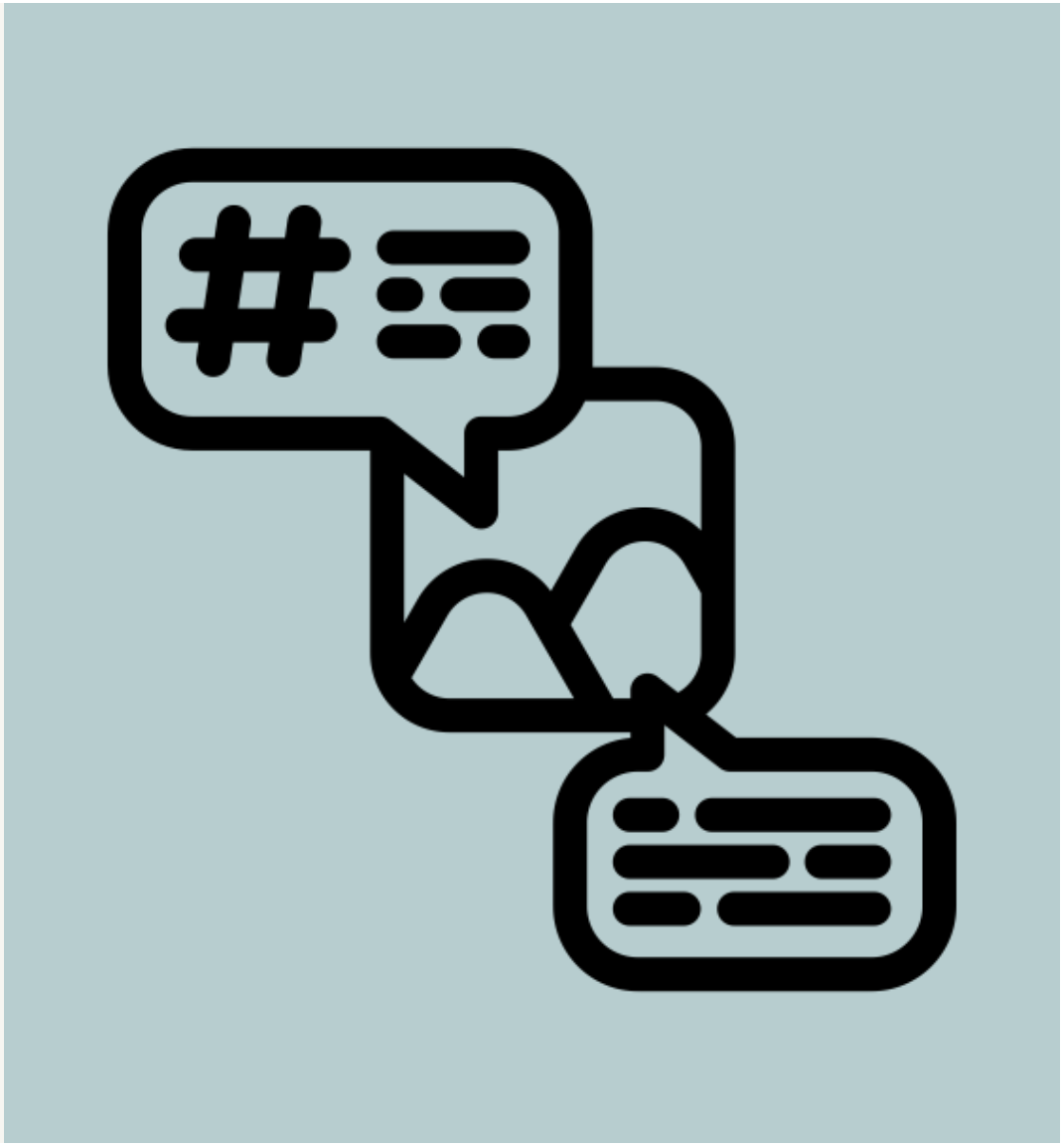
# Images of text

Don’t use an image where text will do.

1. Diacritics
2. Tables
3. Highly designed text

# Images Descriptions

Where an image is not put in context by the surrounding text, describe it.



# Define Languages

```
<span xml:lang="fr" lang="fr">
J’aime le chocolat.</span>
```

# Accessible Treatment of Math and Interactive Content

# Accessibility Metadata

Schema.org

ONIX

Conformance

# ONIX is the industry standard

## Schema.org

Lives in the EPUB

Written by hand or via InDesign

# Conformance Metadata

# Metadata = Discoverability

It’s really complex!

Browse walkthroughs from NNELS:
https://bit.ly/3UKLv5N

# Thorium Reader

www.edrlab.org/software/thorium-reader/

# EPUB Checker

pagina.gmbh/startseite/leistungen/publishing-softwareloesungen/epub-checker/

# Ace by DAISY

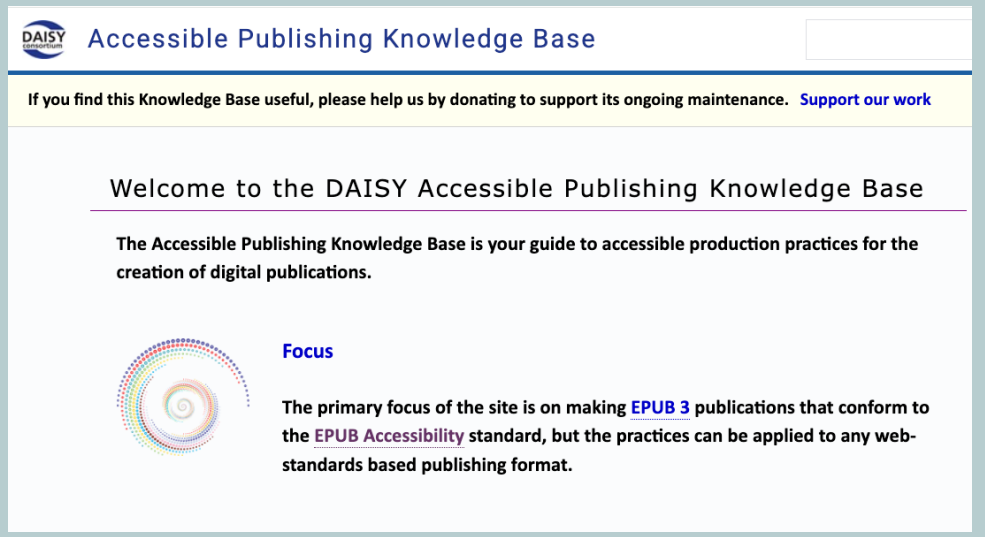
inclusivepublishing.org/
toolbox/accessibility-checker/

## Ace *SMART*

https://smart.daisy.org/

# DAISY Accessible Publishing Knowledge Base

https://kb.daisy.org/publishing/docs/



# Resources

Accessibility Metadata Best Practices for Ebooks (APLN). https://apln.ca/accessibility-metadata-best-practices-for-ebooks/

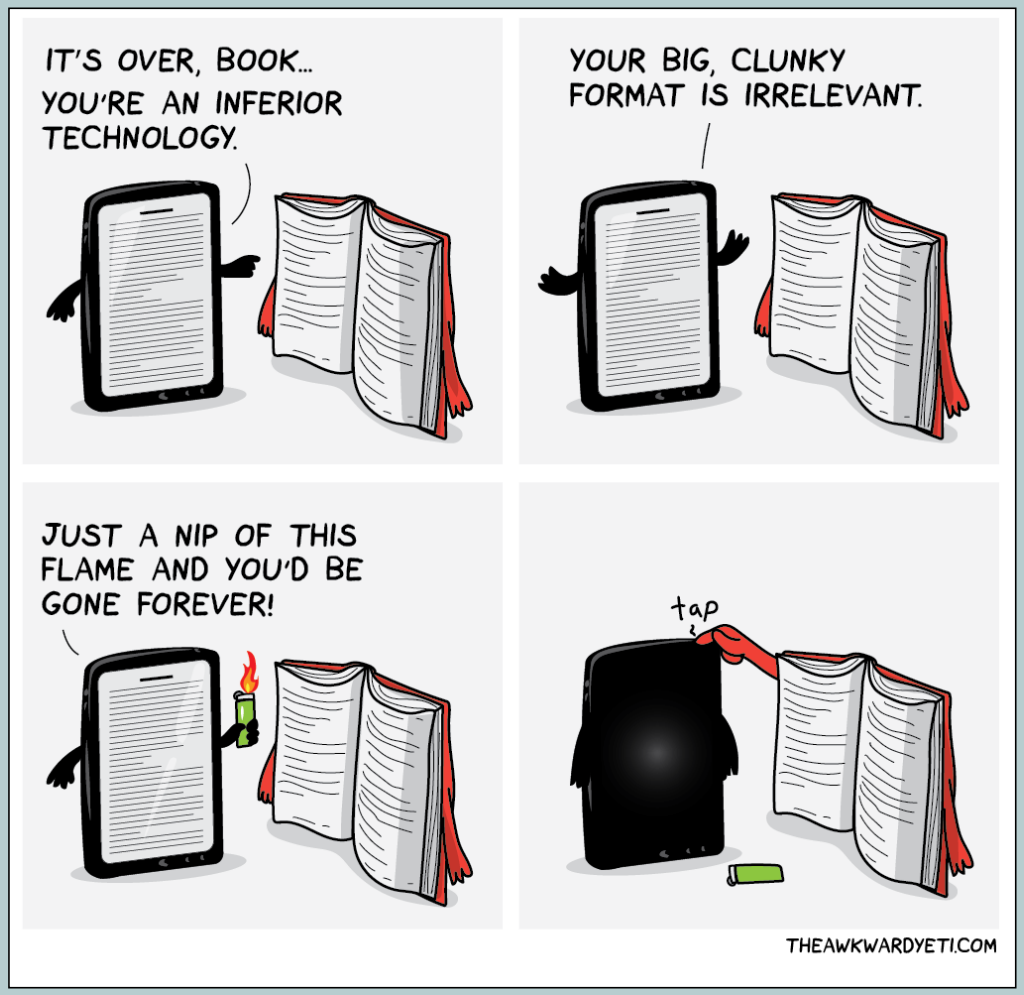
Guidelines on Library and Information Services for People with Disabilities (CFLA). https://cfla-fcab.ca/en/guidelines-and-position-papers/guidelines-on-library-and-information-services-for-people-with-disabilities/

Guidance on EPUB Accessibility: Whitepaper (Westchester). https://www.westchesterpublishingservices.com/request-the-guidance-on-epub-accessibility-report/

E-books for all (Fondazione LIA). https://www.fondazionelia.org/en/resources/e-books-for-all/

# Thank you!

linkedin.com/in/laurab7/

LauraBrady.ca

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