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WCAG AA 2.0 ADA + OA: one library's story of balancing an institutional repository, a policy, values and a vendor

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WCAG AA 2.0 ADA + OA:
one library's story of balancing an institutional repository, a policy, values and a vendor

Amanda Page

Open Publishing and Copyright Librarian

Syracuse University Libraries, Syracuse University

Syracuse University
Libraries

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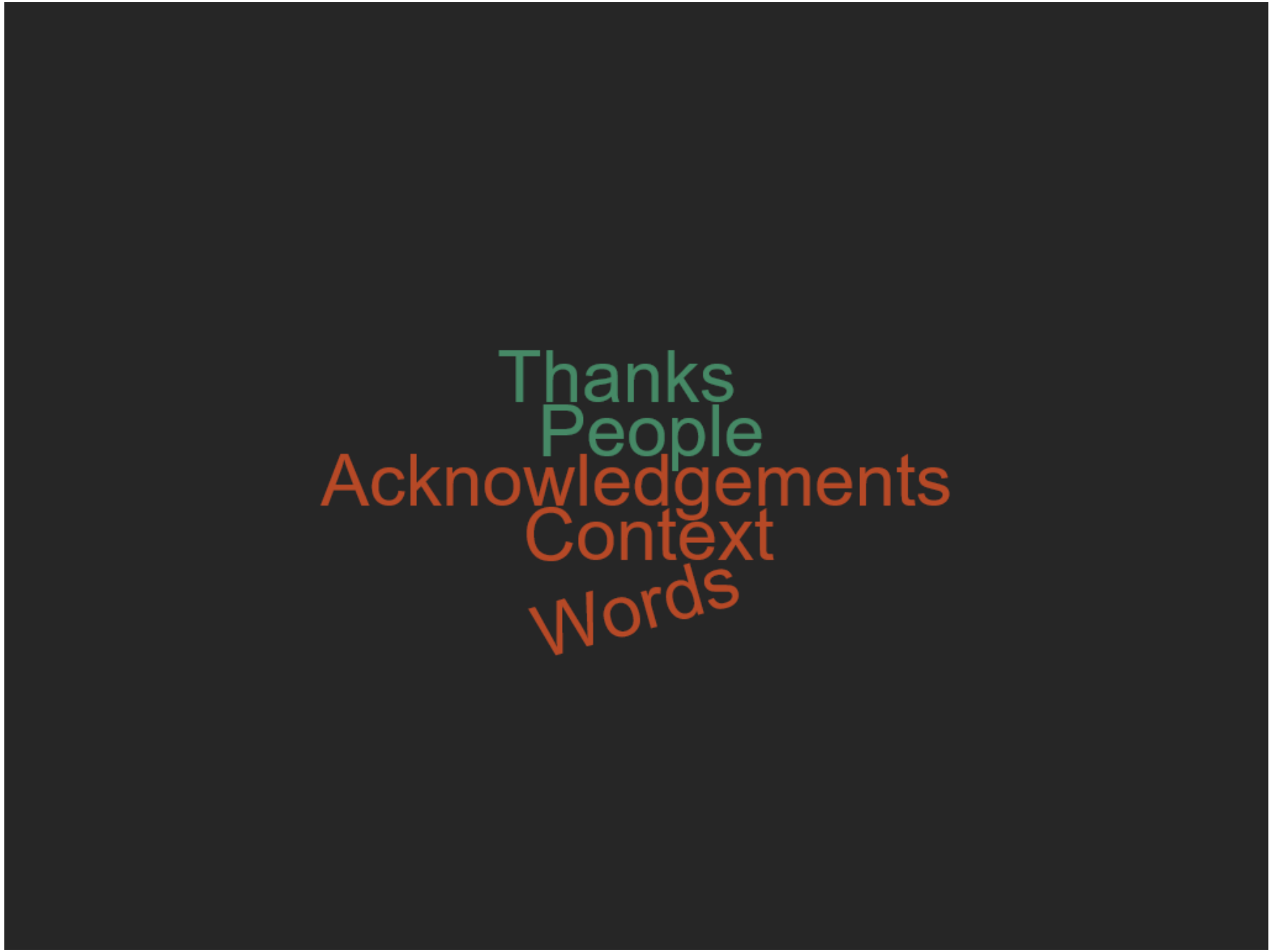


(Sample Alt text): Visual design graphic used to represent words of appreciation and acknowledgement.

(Sample Alt text): Screenshot of a .png file with html code examples, introducing the story of an institutional repository, not compliant with ADA accessibility.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<body>

<!-- This is a comment -->
<p>This is a story. Of an accessibilty non-compliant institutional repository. </p>
<!-- Comments are not displayed in the browser -->

</body>
</html>
```

Syracuse University

Details:

- Private, Non-Profit University
- Founded in 1870
- Carnegie Research 1 Highest Research Activity*

Values: (a few!)

- Teaching & Research
- Location and History
- Engagement & Community
- Diversity & Inclusion

Syracuse University's Libraries

Details:

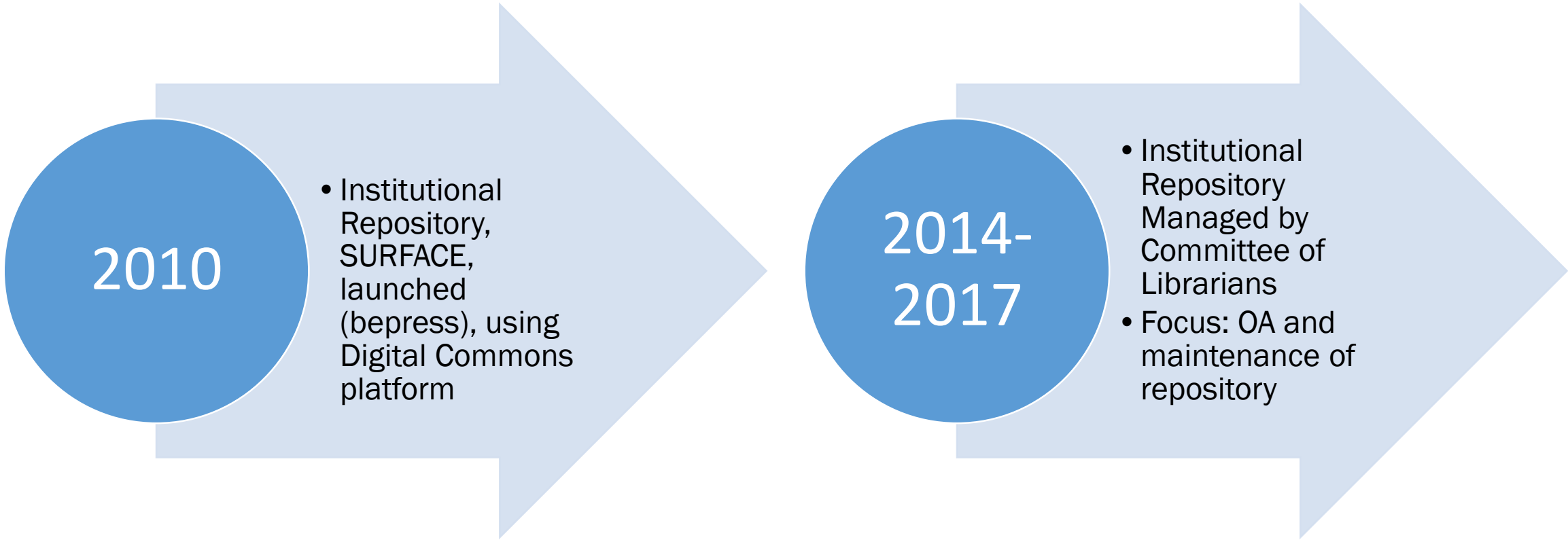
- Bird & Carnegie Libraries
- Archives & Special Collections
- Belfer Audio Laboratory
- Syracuse University Press

Values: (a few!)

- Access to Information
- Open Access
- Accessibility
- Innovation & Engagement
- Diversity & Inclusion

“To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.”
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

WCAG ADA AA 2.0 + OA: timeline



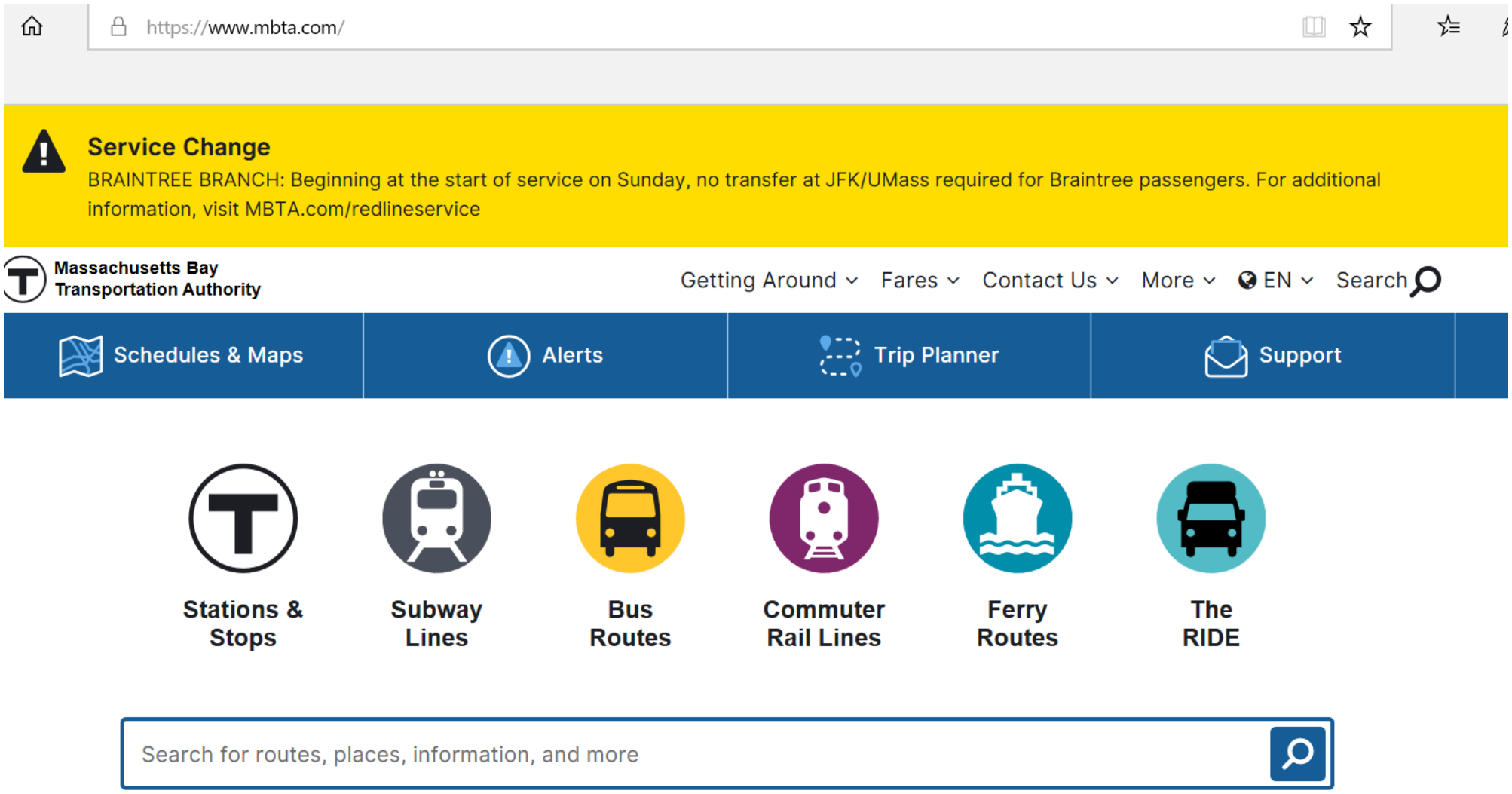
WCAG ADA AA 2.0 + OA: timeline

Syracuse University Accessibility Policy

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Accessibility Policy went into effect on January 1st, 2018.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that members of the Syracuse University community and their guests can effectively access University content and information and communication technologies. This policy covers all content and technology, including websites, web-based and mobile applications, email, web conferencing, video conferencing, video streaming, instructional materials, electronic documents, blended and online courses, and all academic and administrative software applications acquired or adopted after the effective date of this policy. The policy also provides a method to ensure that communication at University-wide events is accessible and enables full participation. It is the University's aim to make content and technology accessible to current and prospective students, faculty, staff, alumni, visitors, and the general public.

Requires adherence to WCAG AA 2.0



(Sample Alt text): Screen Shot of MBTA.com homepage

https://www.mbta.com/
Retrieved June 18, 2019

Institutional Repositories, and public transit, provide access. Both systems also need people and technology, and require maintenance, labor, and repair, after construction.
This requires investment in people, open, and infrastructures!

Negotiation and Vendor Relationships

Details:

- ✓Discuss the importance of Accessibility upgrades to Technical infrastructure
- ✓Receive Promises for improvements on Accessibility, and ask questions when, or if, promises are broken
- ✓Collaborate Librarians, Information Technology Teams, and Vendors, and Partners for Accessibility Compliance
- ✓Negotiate

Negotiation and Vendor Relationships

- ✓Continue the conversation: ongoing discussions with vendor representative of status of technical upgrades around ADA and Digital Commons, or other repository system
- ✓Continue the conversation: ongoing discussions with your patrons, your institution, your colleagues, and your administration
- ✓Continue to ask about the vendor's roadmap, priorities, mission
- ✓Continue to ask when, why, and how
- ✓Have an exit strategy if and when you need it

Technical Work

Tasks: (Can or Should be done)

- ✓Analysis of Accessibility Compliance for Digital Commons/Other Repository System: Front-end
- ✓Analysis of Accessibility Compliance for Digital Commons /Other Repository System: Content
- ✓Analysis of Accessibility Compliance for Digital Commons / Other Repository System: for Digital Commons: Back-end

Tasks: (Can and Should be done)

- ✓Preliminary Quality Assurance Testing and Review (Internal to your institution)
- ✓Report Writing and in-depth Evaluation
- ✓Software testing, Digital Commons, Adobe Acrobat
- ✓Website Development (Front-end)
- ✓Documentation Writing (internal)
- ✓Internal Workflow and Processes, OA & ADA, (ETDs, Media, IR)

Work Accomplished: Syracuse

Details: (DC Infrastructure):

- ✓Digital Commons, Back-end:
  - ✓ Non-Compliant
- ✓Digital Commons, Front-end:
  - ✓ Non-Compliant
- ✓Digital Commons, CMS:
  - ✓ Non-Compliant
- ✓Uncovered Numerous Issues around technology and ADA compliance

Details: (Syracuse University IR)

- ✓Exemption to the Accessibility Policy*

  Contingent, requiring follow-up.
- ✓Continued Evaluation and Analysis of technical infrastructure and support for Open Access and author rights.
- ✓Particular Collections within Institutional Repository are Open Access and Accessible.
- ✓Interdepartmental Collaborations, Internal Expertise, and additional labor to complete work.

Tips and Takeaways

Food for thought:
Do Open Access and Access intertwine? Yes!
Can one truly exist without the other? Yes!

Tips

- ✓Talk about Open Access & Accessibility- Not one, Not Other
- ✓Use Policies to Negotiate
- ✓Question the Technology platforms
- ✓Test Internally
- ✓Encourage empathy, patience
- ✓Challenge Organizations to Grow
- ✓Seek Short licensing terms and Strategize

Takeaways

- ✓People Matter
- ✓Communities Matter
- ✓Development Time and Staff Matters
- ✓Values and Mission Matter
- ✓Diversity and Inclusion Matters

Station Information

Arrivals: Documentation on OA and ADA

Time: Soon

Track: Digital 1

Look out soon!

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:MEC_470_Waterville_Maine_September_2013.jpg by Stephen Hussar [CC0]

Thank you!

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(Sample Alt text): Slide to close presentation with Contact information for Author and Thank you. (include info)