How Amnet Helped a Prestigious U.S. University Press Convert Its Backlist to Comply with the 2025 EAA (European Accessibility Act)

Challenges

With the June 2025 European Accessibility Act (EAA) deadline looming, a prestigious university press partner asked for Amnet's help. Although Amnet had been providing accessible ePub3s for the frontlist for this press for two years, the press needed to convert approximately 900 titles of its large backlist to comply with WCAG 2.2 AA standards as well.

After a thorough review of the backlist titles, Amnet identified that 30 percent of the files were in image PDF format and 10 percent contained Hebrew and other foreign languages. This added to the challenge.

Lastly, due to the scale of the project, the press needed to spread the cost over more than one fiscal year and also needed a deep discount. And there were only a few months left in the first of the fiscal years when the job was approved, requiring an aggressive ramp-up schedule.

Solution Approach

- Amnet's professional team of experts (CPACC and Trusted Tester certified) was quite familiar with the press and highly experienced. We anticipated that university presses would need to convert their backlists and were ready-to-go when approached.
- Amnet developed a proprietary tool which helps to style input documents and adds markup to table header and data cells to define their relationships.
- For image PDF inputs, Amnet used Software Development Kit to train an OCR engine to recognize ligatures, fonts with thin strokes, and special characters.
- For Hebrew titles, Amnet deployed language experts for keyboarding and proofreading to ensure content accuracy.
- Amnet's team applied the relevant language attribute values both inline and at the document level to ensure screen reader support.
- Amnet processed an initial 10 titles as a "Proof-of-Concept" in order to get off to a good start.
- All of the files were then converted into the required accessible ePub3 format with built-in validation.

Conclusion

In addition to dramatically accelerating the schedule, Amnet's experience, tools, and engines saved the press:

- over 70 percent in costs
- 20 percent in estimated internal quality auditing time

The solution was designed to scale up for additional university presses with similar challenges.

About Amnet

With 25 years of experience, Amnet offers end-to-end traditional and digital publishing solutions including peer-review management, editorial, project management, production, accessibility, and technology for university presses and other publishers in all sectors and around the globe.

Get in touch

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