



Success Story:

Al-Ummah University College Establishes Accessibility Unit

Accessibility Unit Opens Doors for Students with Disabilities at Al-Ummah University College.

Al-Ummah University College (UUC) in Jerusalem has recently established a new accessibility unit, thanks to the output of the Edu4All project, funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ program and led by Palestine Technical University-Khadry (PTUK).

The establishment of the Accessibility Unit at Al-Ummah University College is a unique success story in the Jerusalem for Palestinians. It is the first of its kind in the region universities and colleges to offer such a comprehensive range of assistive technology and support services for students with disabilities.

It is also, a major milestone for UUC and for the Palestinian higher education sector as a whole. It represents a commitment to providing all students, regardless of their abilities, with the opportunity to achieve their academic goals.

The disability support unit is a valuable resource for students with disabilities at UUC. It provides them with the tools and support they need to succeed in their studies and to achieve their full potential.





Some specific examples of the unit's impact include:

- Providing students with access to assistive technology, such as screen readers, Braille displays, and hearing aids.
- Offering academic support, such as tutoring, note-taking, and exam accommodations.
- Providing social and emotional support, such as counseling and peer mentoring.



Modern Assistive Technology in Accessibility Unit includes:

The unit is equipped with the latest equipment and software to help students with disabilities of various types access information and integrate with other students. The unit's comprehensive suite of assistive technology includes:

- Accessible office suite: A versatile software package for accessing and creating educational content compatible with Android, iOS, and Windows operating systems.
- Android and iOS tablets: These portable devices provide students with convenient access to a wide range of educational resources and applications.
- Portable laptop with Windows 10: Offering flexibility and portability, this laptop ensures seamless access to educational resources and software.

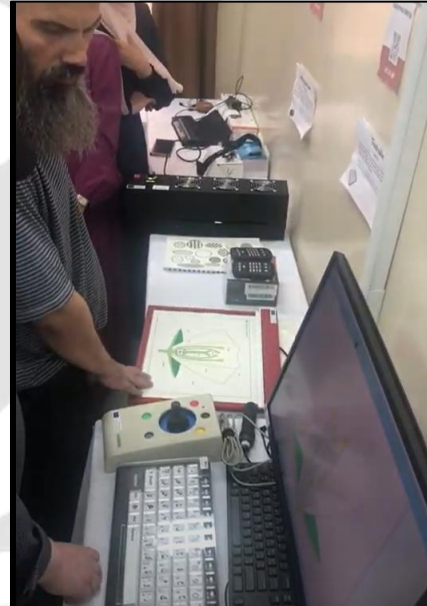


Text-to-Speech Software

- Reading with Text-to-Speech for iOS and Android: This software enables students with visual impairments to access text-based materials through synthesized speech.
- Acapela TTS Voices for NVDA: This package provides high-quality text-to-speech voices for NonVisual Desktop Access (NVDA), a popular screen reader software for visually impaired users.
- Acapela TTS Voices for Google: This collection of text-to-speech voices enhances the accessibility of Google applications and services for visually impaired users.
- Acapela TTS Voices for iOS: This suite of text-to-speech voices expands the accessibility of iOS applications and devices for visually impaired users.

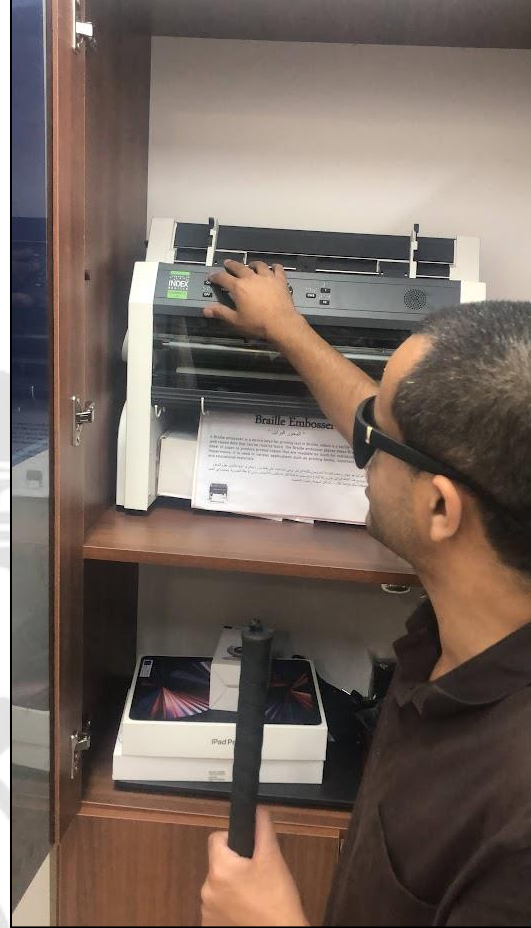
Additional Assistive Technology

- Wireless braille display with wide screen reader compatibility: This device provides real-time braille output for visually impaired students, compatible with a range of screen reader software.
- Wireless access set: This comprehensive kit includes five wireless switches, a wireless joystick, a wireless trackball, a switch mixer, a wireless transmitter, an Android receiver, an iOS receiver, and a PC infrared receiver, enabling students with physical disabilities to interact with computers and assistive devices more effectively.
- Writing with Text-to-Speech for iOS: This software empowers students with visual impairments to compose text using synthesized speech.
- Desktop video magnifier: This device enhances the visibility of on-screen content for students with low vision.
- AAC software package: This software provides a range of communication tools for students with speech or language impairments.





- Computer access system through gaze interaction: This innovative system utilizes eye-tracking technology to allow students with limited mobility to control computers and access educational resources.
- Eye gaze tracker: This device tracks the user's eye movements, enabling precise control of assistive technology and communication tools.
- Grasp switch: This handheld switch allows students with limited hand dexterity to interact with computers and assistive devices.
- Gyroscopic mouse system: This innovative mouse system utilizes gyroscopic sensors to provide precise mouse control for students with limited hand mobility.
- Hard round button switch: This durable button switch offers a reliable input option for students with limited hand dexterity.



A Unique Success Story

The unit has already had a positive impact on some visitors to the Unit with disabilities. One of them, who is visually impaired, said that the unit will make it much easier for the disabled student to access his/her coursework and participate in class discussions. Another visitor, who has a hearing impairment, said that the unit will provide her with the support she needs to succeed in her studies.

The unit is committed to providing students with disabilities with the tools and support they need to succeed in their academic endeavors. It is a valuable addition to the UUC community and to the Palestinian higher education sector as a whole.



The Future of Accessibility at UUC

The Accessibility Unit at UUC is constantly working to improve its services and offerings. The unit is currently working to secure funding to improve infrastructure & provide more tools for students with physical disabilities. The unit is also working to develop new assistive technology and support services to meet the needs of a wider range of students with disabilities.

The Unit's Structure

The Accessibility Unit at UUC is led by a director, who is responsible for the overall supervision of the unit and ensuring that it meets its objectives. The director is supported by a team of staff members, including a technical and administrative assistant, a registration assistant, and academic and administrative assistants from various departments. All of these staff members have received local and international training in disability support from the project's European partner universities and institutions, including Greece, Spain, and Germany.



Accessibility Unit & Committee of Practice.

In addition to the above, UUC has also taken the following steps to ensure that students with disabilities have a positive experience on campus:

- The college has signed agreements of cooperation with the General Union of Persons with Disabilities (GUPWD) and is in the process of signing an



agreement with the Ministry of Social Affairs. Both organizations visited the college to learn more about the accessibility unit and provide feedback.

- The college has established a Committee of Practice to support the work of the accessibility unit. The committee includes members from the unit, GUPWD, the Ministry of Social Affairs, and student representatives. The committee is responsible for coordinating efforts to provide support to students with disabilities.
- The college is working to create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for students with disabilities. This includes making the campus more accessible, providing training for faculty and staff on how to support students with disabilities, and raising awareness about the importance of accessibility.

These efforts are a testament to UUC's commitment to providing all students with the opportunity to succeed.

At last but not least

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The End