OCR TALKING POINTS

GALE

How will Gale optimize the textual content of *Disabilities in Society* so that it can be accessed by users of all abilities?

Researchers who use a screenreader to access digital primary sources rely on accurate text output, but 100% accuracy is not always possible due to the technical limitations of OCR technology. To optimize the accessibility of the *Disabilities in Society* digital archive, Gale will employ a "double OCR, compare, and manual correct" method to ensure at least 98% accuracy in the OCR text included in this archive.

What does this mean exactly?

Gale will run the text through two OCR engines: Abbyy and Google vision. From there, we will compare the output from both engines and make corrections where there are discrepancies.

What about text that is difficult to read by Abbyy and Google vision?

Poor quality images will be identified during production and will undergo a special manual clean-up process. The Gale production team will also implement a manual proofreading step on randomly selected pages to ensure 98% + accuracy in the recorded text.

Is there any text in *Disabilities in Society* that will not be included in this process?

This process will not apply to handwritten text, nor will it apply to text in languages other than English.

What about images? Will they be tagged with alt-text?

The books and pamphlets that make up this archive contain thousands of images, which include illustrations, charts, and photographs. They will not be tagged with alt-text, but they will be "zoned" so that users can access them as distinct entities in the Illustrated Works section of the document navigation panel. Many will be accompanied by image captions, which will undergo the same manual QA process as the OCR. While image captions are not a replacement for alt-text, they do provide context for the illustrations on the page and can be accessed by assistive technology as a feature of interest.

We've covered the content. What about the platform itself?

The content for *Disabilities in Society* will be hosted on the Gale Primary Sources platform, which is compliant with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 at the AA level. Full details, including exceptions, can be found in the Gale Primary Sources VPAT: **https://assets.cengage.com/gale/vpat/gdc.pdf**.

Once the archive launches, where can I direct my feedback?

Gale is committed to continuously improving the accessibility of our products. We will maintain a notice of this commitment in the 'About This Archive' section of *History of Disabilities* with appropriate contact information, should you have any questions or feedback about the product experience with assistive technology.