SRW Publisher and accessibility

SRW Publisher helps you make newsletters, notices and leaflets that blind and partially sighted people can read. It also makes the program itself easier to use if you have trouble seeing the screen, typing or reading.

Everything is in one place: the Accessibility button at the top right of the window, next to Help.



This is Isla at Lake Annecy in France. Her photo has a picture description, which a screen reader reads out.

Making publications people can read

Picture descriptions. Give each photo a short description, for example "The village hall decorated for the harvest supper". Screen readers read it out. A picture that is only decoration, such as a border, can be marked so screen readers skip it.

Check accessibility. One click checks your publication for text that is too small, colours too faint against their background, pictures with no description, and words that do not fit their box. Click an item in the list to go straight to it.

Accessibility mode. For publications that must be accessible, switch on Accessibility mode. You can then mark your headings, set the reading order, and use Clear Print settings: large, clear, left-aligned text, following the Clear Print guidance of the Royal National Institute of Blind People. PDFs you save include your headings, reading order, picture descriptions, title and language, so screen readers can follow them.
Accessibility mode changes nothing until you switch it on.

Making SRW Publisher easier to use

Read aloud. Hear the words you have highlighted, a whole text box or the whole page, read in your computer's own voice. Picture descriptions are read in their place. Choose the voice and its speed in Reading voice.

Type by voice. Click in a text box, press the Windows key and H together, and speak. The microphone of a Bluetooth hearing aid works too.

Larger buttons and text. Makes the ribbon, menus and status bar bigger and easier to see.

Contrast themes. SRW Publisher follows Windows' contrast themes, while your pages keep their real colours.

Keyboard. In Accessibility mode, press Tab to move from one item to the next, in reading order.

Who it helps

Councils, charities, churches and schools publishing newsletters, notices and minutes as PDFs on their websites.

Readers who are blind or partially sighted, using screen readers, magnifiers or large print.

People with dyslexia, who may find it easier to hear text read aloud, and people who find typing difficult.

Getting started

1. Click Accessibility at the top right of SRW Publisher.
2. To check a publication, choose Check accessibility.
3. To describe a photo, right-click it and choose Description (alt text).
4. For a fully accessible PDF, tick Accessibility mode first.

This leaflet was made in SRW Publisher. Questions and suggestions are very welcome: stephen@srwpublisher.co.uk

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