

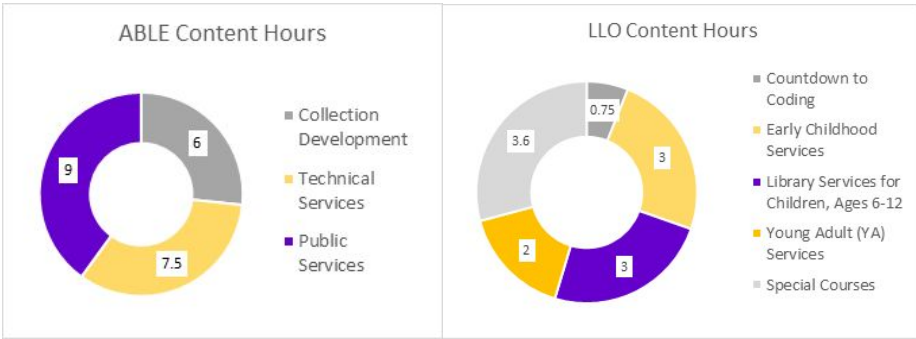
Better ABL

Analysis & guidance for the Idaho Commission for Libraries' Alternative Basic Library Education program

Aric Bishop¹, Rebecca Doxford¹, Tyler McLane¹, Caroline Youse¹ ¹iSchool, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, U.S.A.

Where we started...

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) has managed ABL, the Alternative Basic Library Education program, since 1998. With subsequent revisions came LLO, Learning Library Online, which provided additional content concerning youth services. In 2018, it issued over 11,000 certificates to users from new library paraprofessionals to inmate workers at Idaho state prisons. Users from over 32 countries have completed this free course.



ABL and LLO cover Collection Development, Technical Services, Public Services, Youth Services, and Special Courses in 30+ hours of content.

The Problem

While a successful program, ABL needs significant revision, consolidation, and updating to remain a relevant LIS resource.

Critical issues identified include:

- > Inaccessible and outdated content
- > Inconsistencies in technical quality, file formats, and content branding
- > Obsolete technologies including FLASH
- > Dated presentation of useful content

30+ content hours

\$0 Cost to User

11,000+ Completion Certificates in 2018

32 countries reached



The Project

We performed a comprehensive content audit of ABL and supplied ICFL with a roadmap to use to modernize ABL ensuring that it continues providing free, relevant LIS training for years to come. Our deliverables included:

- > A comprehensive content audit
- > User personas
- > Taxonomy
- > Web accessibility checklist

The Impact

ICFL provides free access to their educational content. We began this project to improve access for individuals:

- > with disabilities
- > with limited access to technology
- > who cannot afford traditional LIS education
- > who are statistically underserved by and underrepresented in traditional LIS education

