



UNIVERSITÀ  
di **VERONA**

Dipartimento  
di **LINGUE**  
**E LETTERATURE STRANIERE**



# Improving the Accessibility of Digital Learning Materials in the University Context: A Case Study

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# Our starting point

- A long-standing commitment;
- Digital Humanities applied to Foreign Languages and Literatures (Departments of Excellence 2018-2022).



# Our evolution and future perspectives

- Inclusive Humanities. Development perspectives in research and teaching of foreign languages and literatures (Departments of Excellence 2023-2027);

- Digital Arena for Inclusive Humanities (DAIH).



# Accessibility in the Excellence Projects

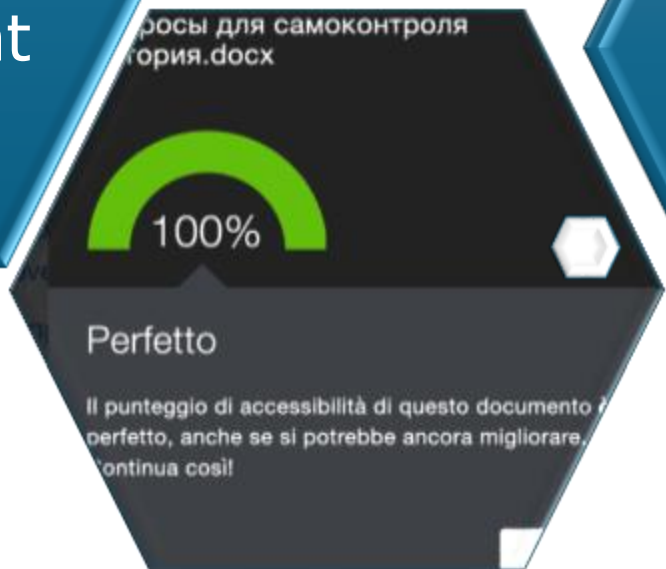


Professional Development

Partnership with accessibility players



Technological Tools



# Ally

1. It checks for common accessibility issues
2. It provides detailed insight and guidance to instructors on how to improve the accessibility of their content
3. It provides institution-wide reporting on the accessibility of the course content
4. It provides alternative formats for course content

The image displays a browser window showing the Ally interface for a course titled "Русская культура и литература 2 (Letteratura e cultura russa 2)". The interface includes a donut chart showing the total number of items (106) and a table listing the content types and their counts.

Tutti i contenuti del corso	
Documento di Word	47
Presentazione	26
Sezione	9
Voce di glossario	6
Argomento di discussione	6
Glossario	5
Etichetta	4
Documento PDF	1
Forum	1
Programma	1

Below the table, there is a "Visualizza" button. A circular inset shows a "Scarica formati alternativi" (Download alternative formats) menu with the following options:

- Presentazione corso-2021-2022.pptx
- PDF con tag: PDF strutturato per un utilizzo ottimale con tecnologia facilitata
- HTML: Per la visualizzazione nel browser e su dispositivi
- ePub: Per la lettura come un e-book su un iPad e su
- Braille elettronico: Versione BRF per utilizzo su display braille
- Audio: Versione MP3 per ascolto
- BeeLine Reader: Versione

Another circular inset shows a "Guarda su YouTube" (Watch on YouTube) button and a list of course items:

- Indicazioni di Lettura sulla Storia e la cultura russa (volumi i programma)
- Presentazione corso-2021-2022
- Questionario prova in itinere
- Presenze
- slide presentazione servizio Inclusion e Accessibilità





instructor feedback ✕

Accessibility score for:  
Inclusive testing.docx

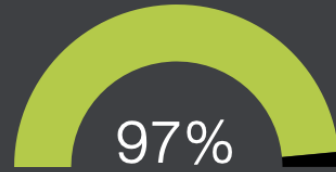
52%

This document does not have headings

[What this means](#)

[How to add headings](#)

Course accessibility score












## Introduzione alla filologia slava (2021/2022)

Overview

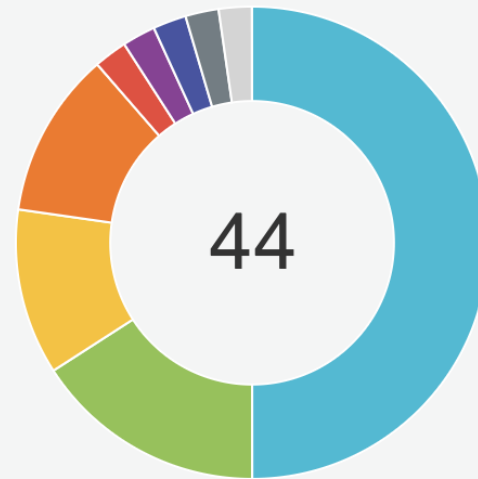
Content

All course content

	Presentation	22
	Section	7
	Word document	5
	Discussion topic	5
	PDF document	1
	Image	1
	Forum	1
	Label	1
	Syllabus	1

[View](#)

Course  
Accessibility  
score



# Alternative formats

## Download alternative formats ▾



Selected file:



Lezione martedì.pptx



Tagged PDF

Structured PDF for improved use with assistive technology



HTML

For viewing in the browser and on mobile devices



ePub

For reading as an e-book on an iPad and other e-book readers



Electronic braille

BRF version for consumption on electronic braille displays



Audio

MP3 version for listening



BeeLine Reader

Enhanced version for easier and faster on-screen reading

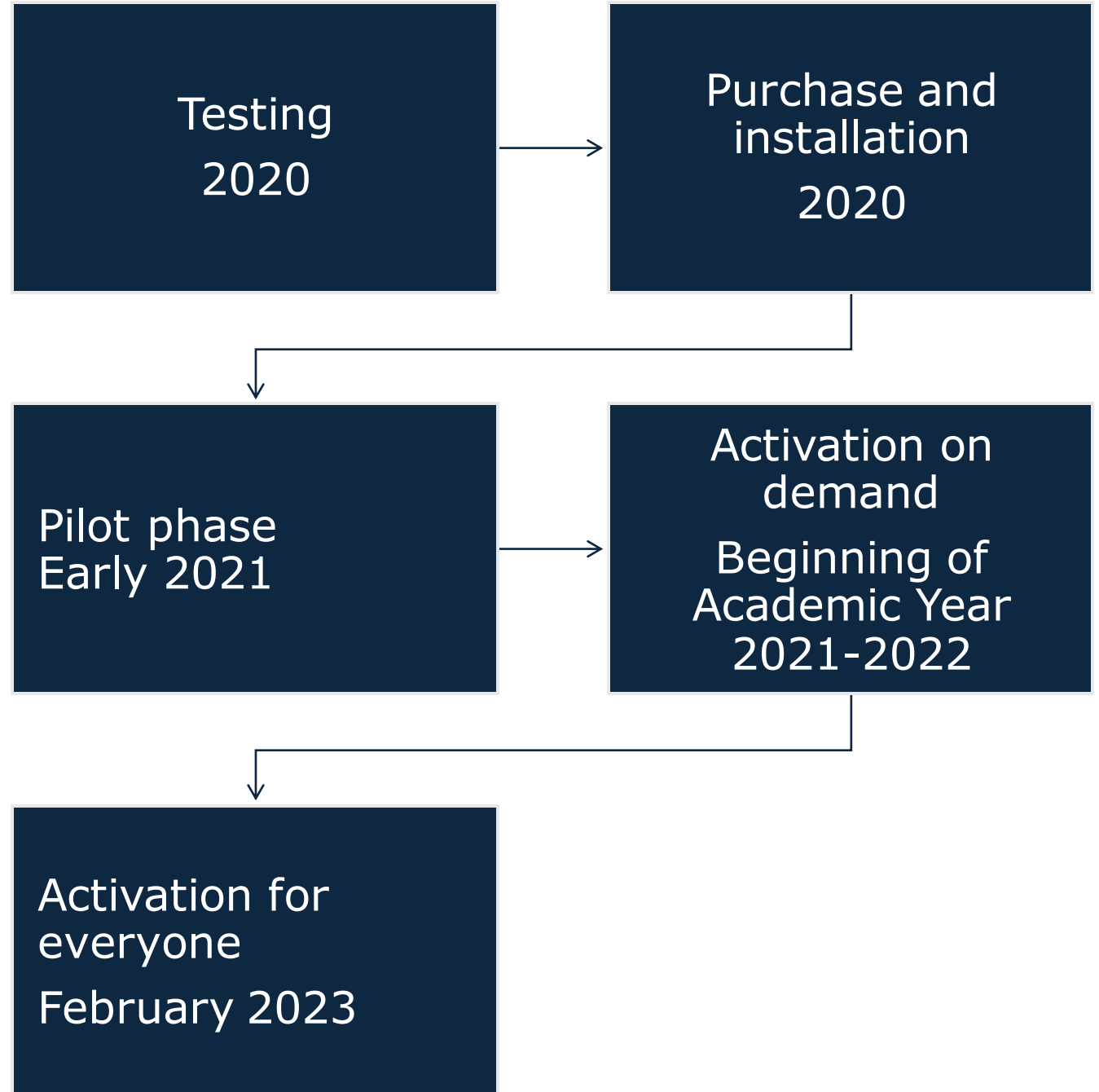


Immersive Reader

Aid reading comprehension and grammar skills. Internet required.



# Experimentation phasis



# Training activities

1. Different levels involved: Institutional, Departmental, Scientific sector;
2. Synchronous and asynchronous modes;
3. Training and seminar meetings;
4. Tutoring activities.

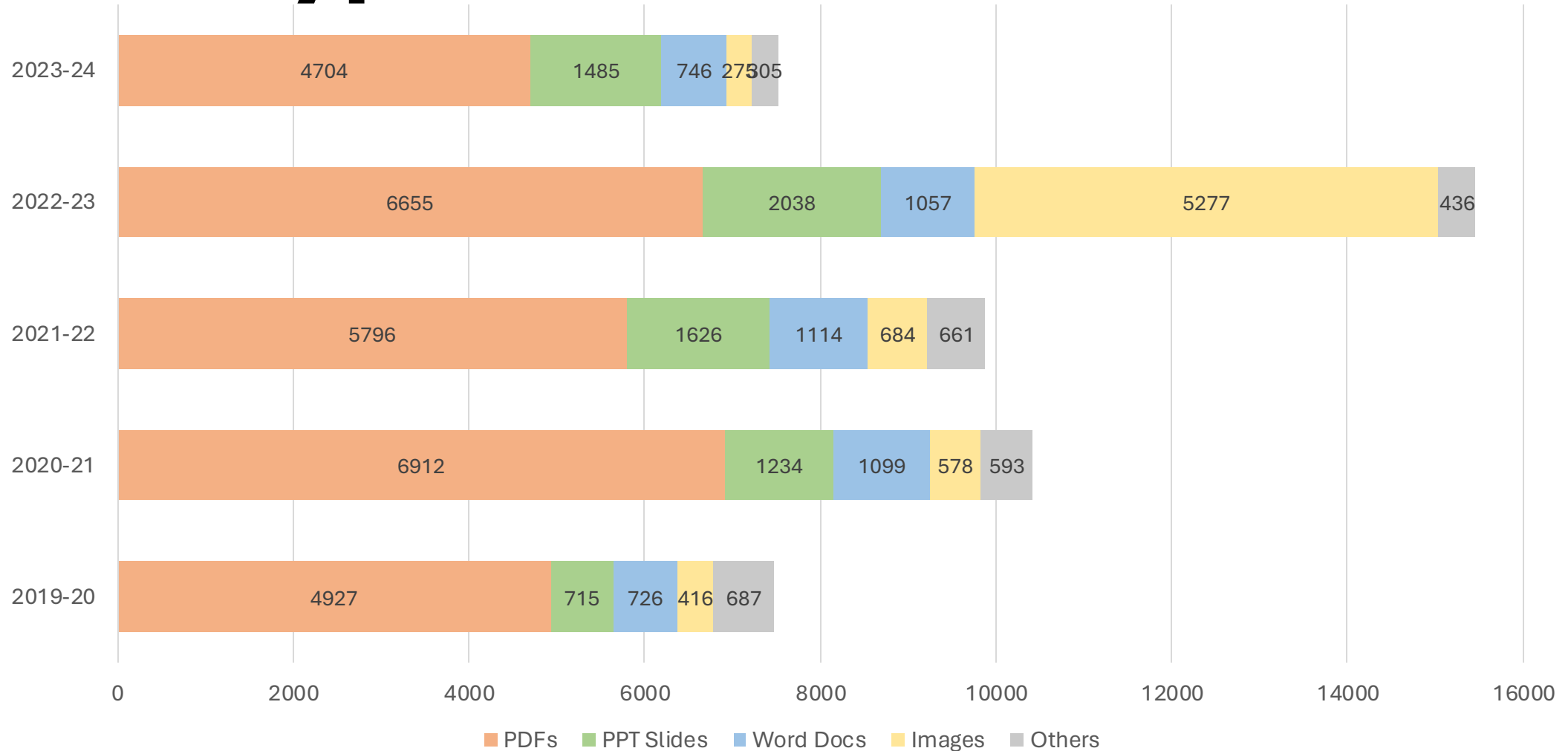
# **The results of the experimentation**

(update: April 30, 2024)

# The Experiment's Setting

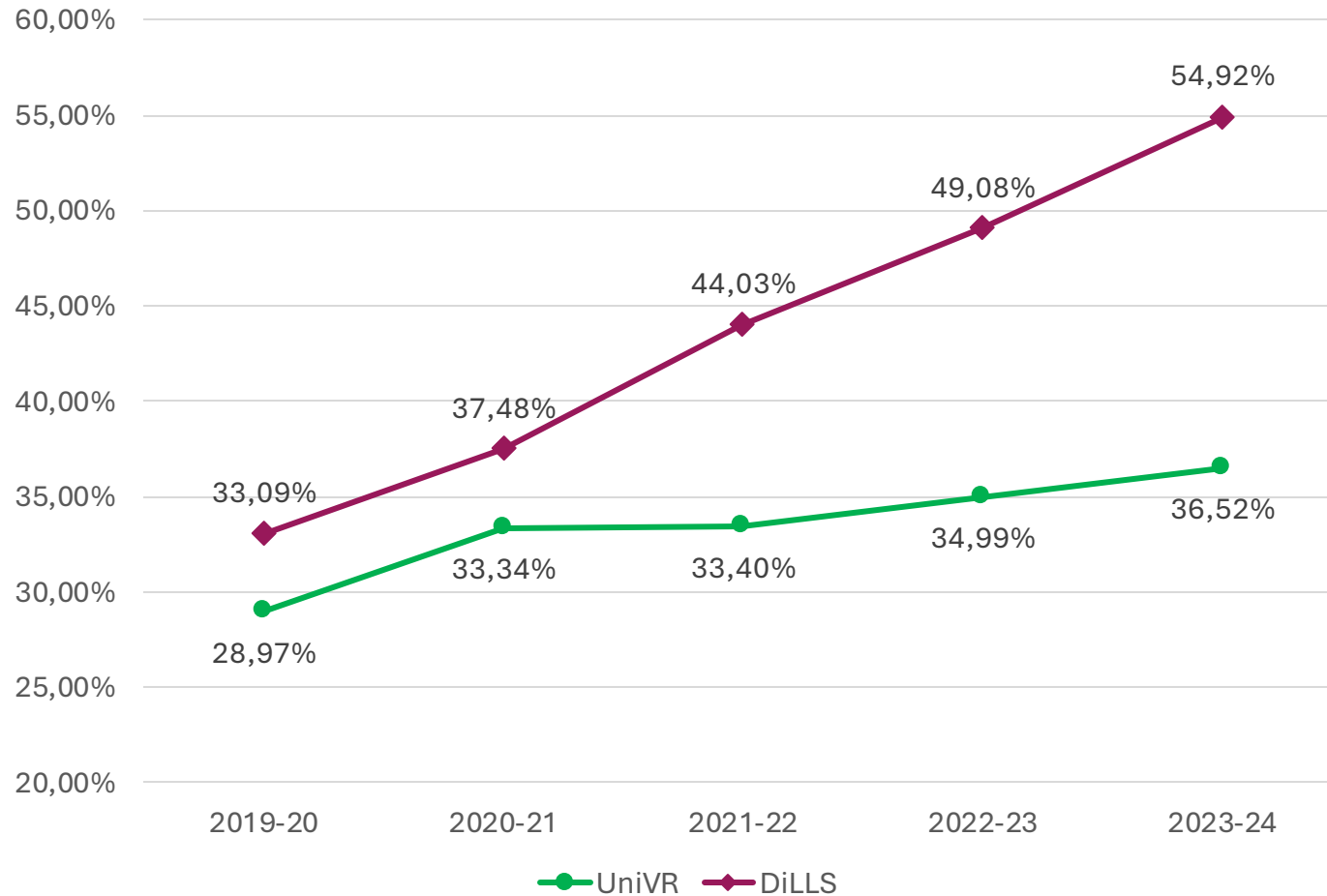
- Users: ~4.000 units (teaching staff: ~150 units)
- 3 Bachelor's degrees:
  - Languages and Cultures for Tourism and International Commerce
  - Languages and Literatures for Publishing and Digital Media
  - Foreign Languages and Literatures
- 2 Master's degrees:
  - Languages, Literatures and Digital Culture
  - Languages for Communication in Tourism and Commerce
- Moodle courses (2023-24, with Ally enabled): 259

# Main types of documents



Number and types of documents uploaded to the Moodle platform in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures study courses.

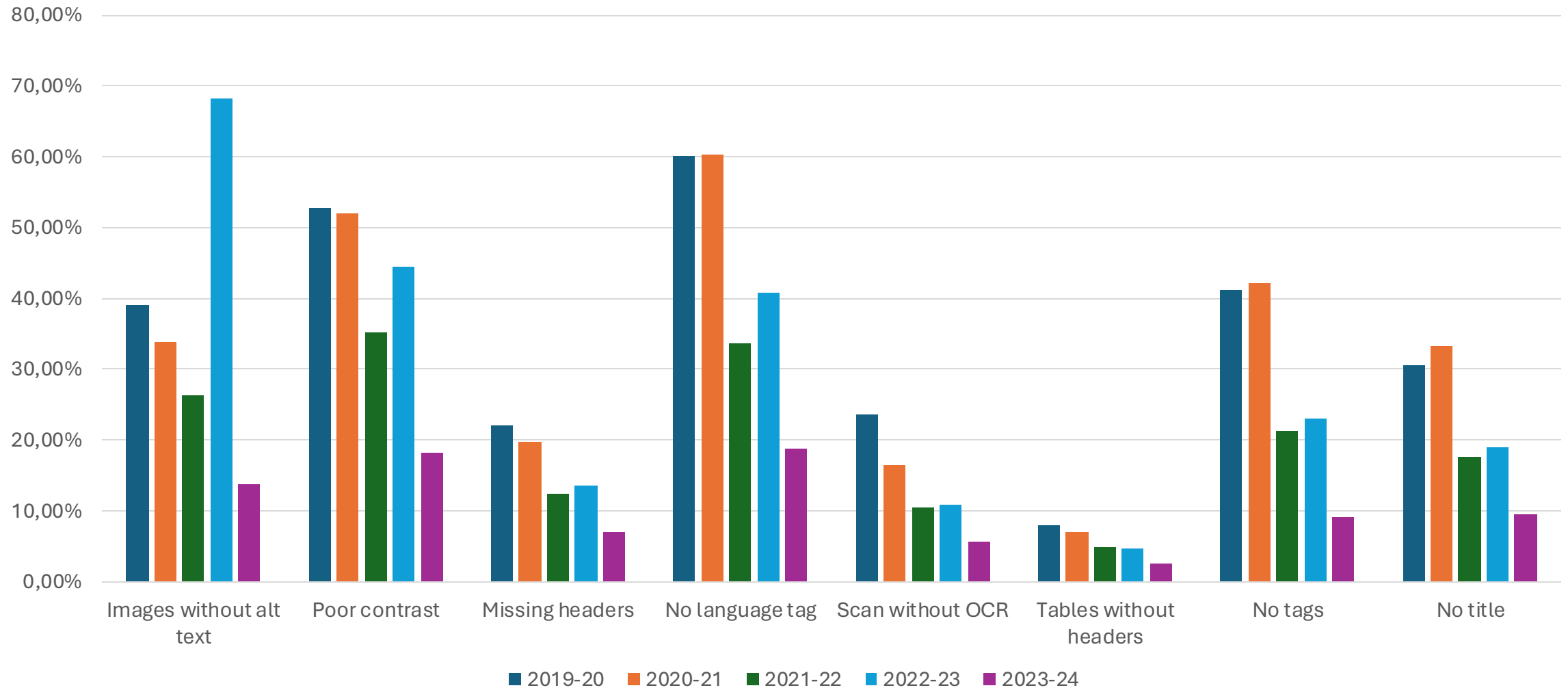
# Overall accessibility score



The accessibility score of the educational materials uploaded to the Moodle platform for the courses offered by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures (DiLLS) and for all courses offered by the University of Verona (UniVR).

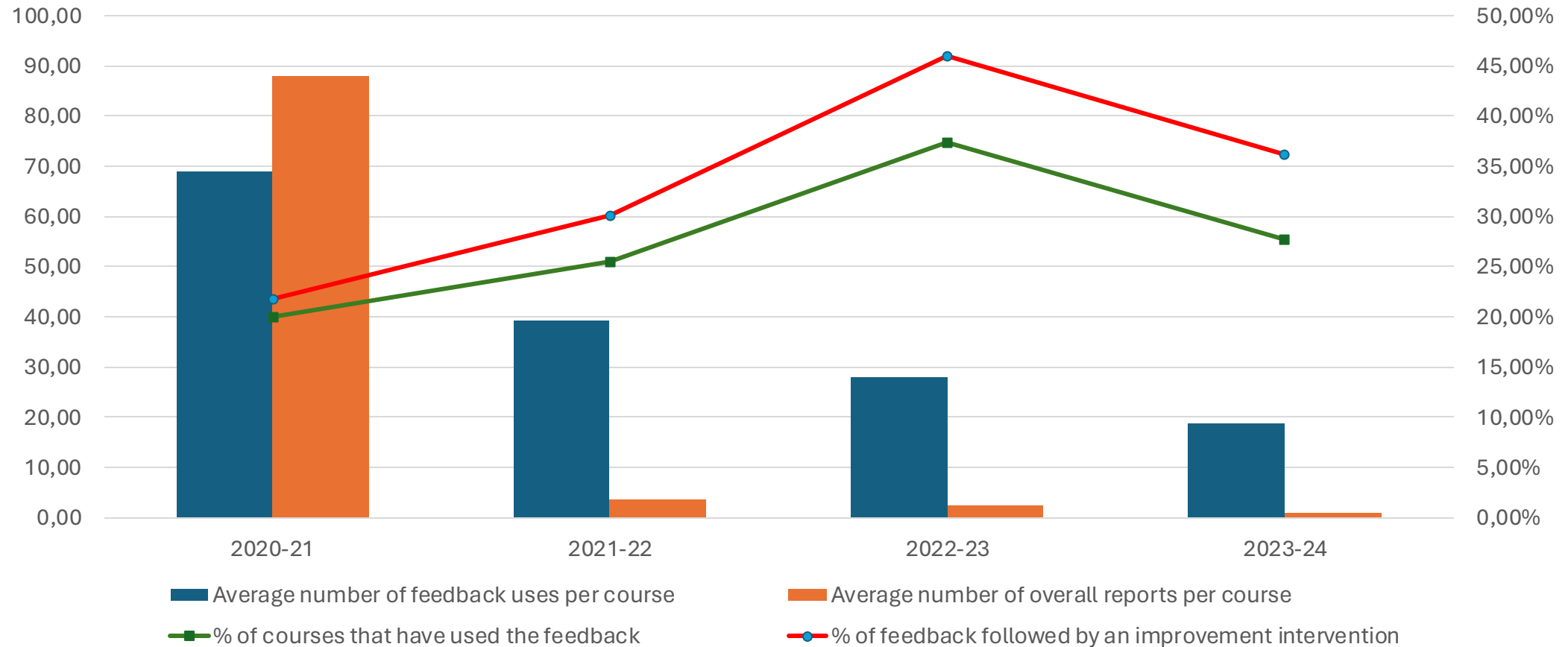


# Main types of accessibility issues



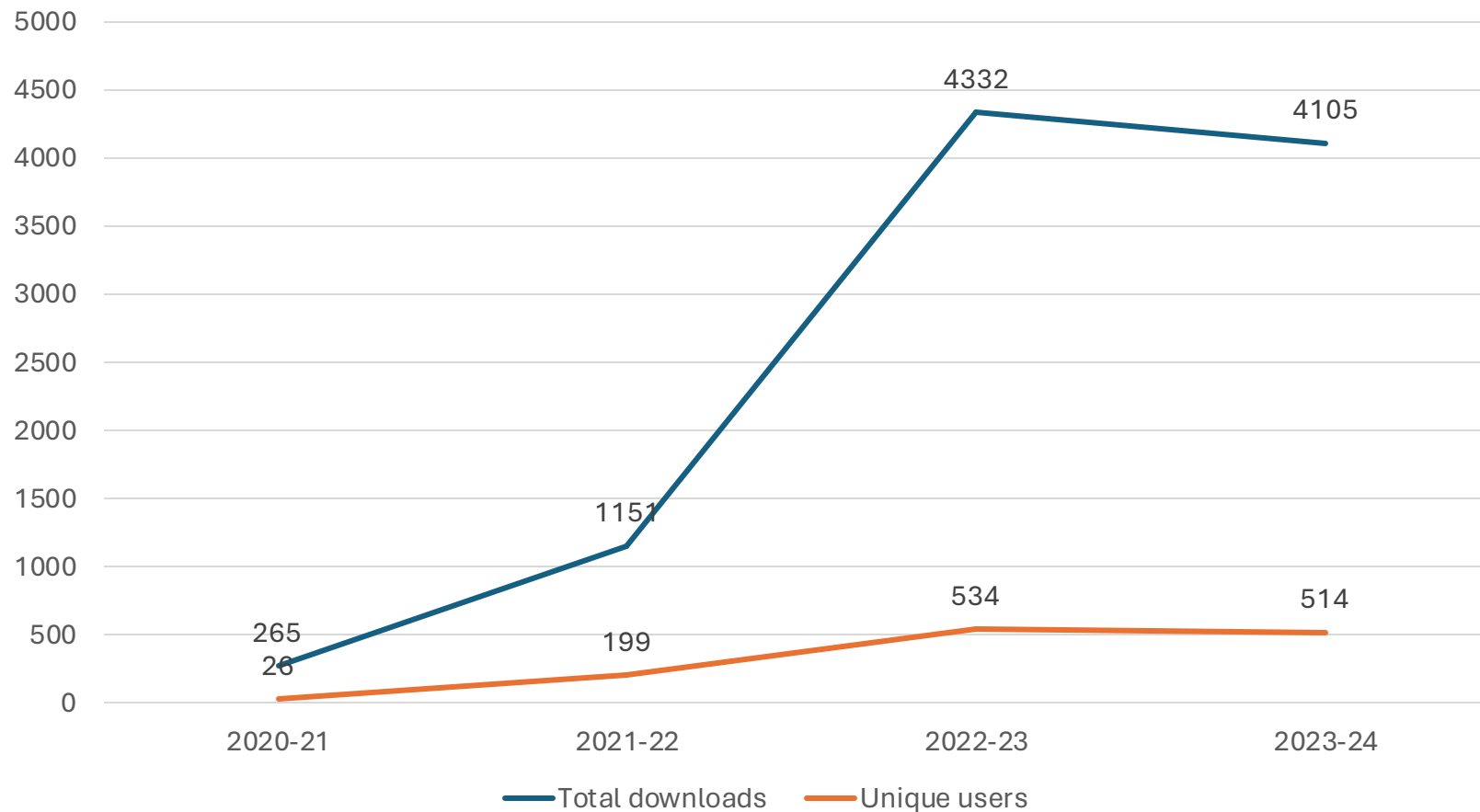
Variation in the percentage of materials affected by the main types of accessibility issues over the years.

# Feedback usage and fixes performed



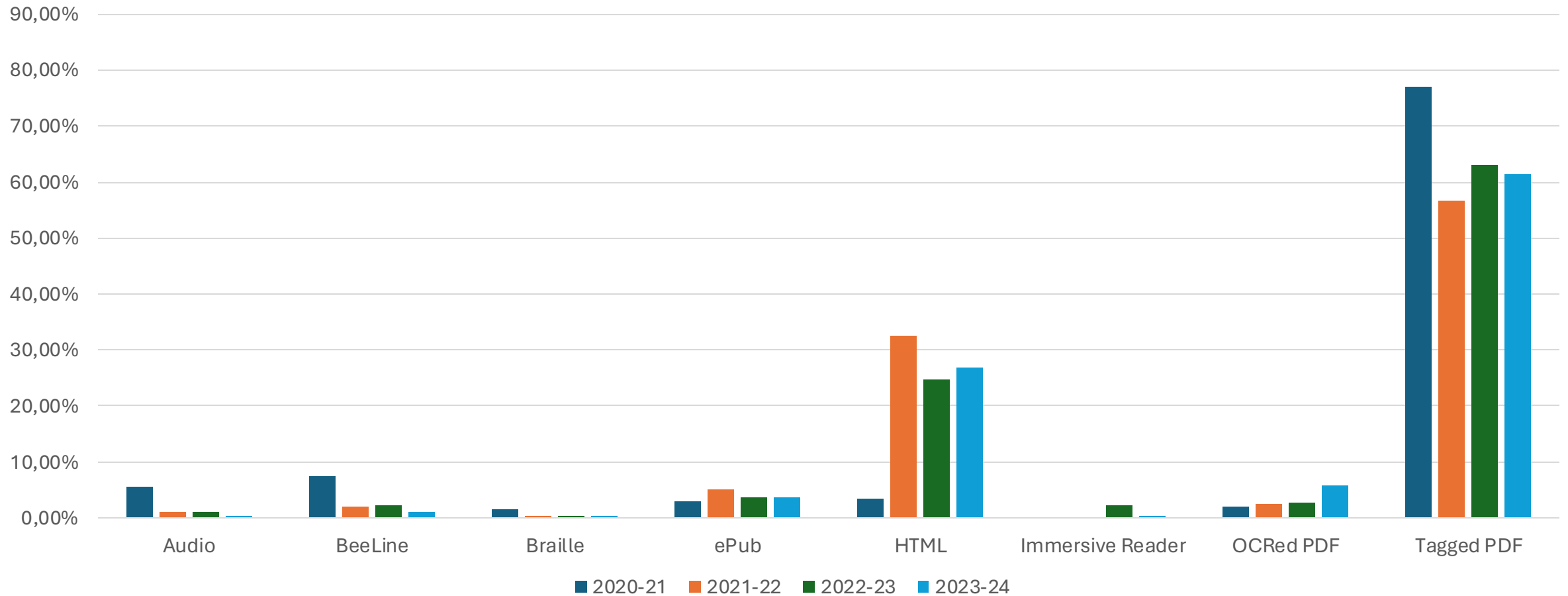
Average usage of the feedback feature per individual Moodle course;  
average usage of the Course Accessibility Report feature per individual Moodle course;  
percentage of courses that have used the feedback feature;  
percentage of shown feedback followed by an improvement intervention.

# Alternative formats usage



Data on the usage of alternative formats by users: total number of downloads and number of unique users who have used the feature at least once.

# Main types of alternative formats used



Distribution of the main types of alternative formats used by users to access uploaded digital materials.

# Findings and discussion

- Accessibility tools and training: an essential duo
- Correcting is harder than designing accessibly from the start
- Importance of raising awareness: creating accessible materials as an essential part of teaching duties (and not something more on top of the rest)

# Conclusions

- A positive experimentation
- An exportable model... also for collaboration!
- Next steps?
  - Focused training/support activities based on the observed accessibility issues



**Thank you!**