SNOW

Search

ACCESSIBILITY AND TECHNOLOGY | TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM | ACCESSIBLE MEDIA AND DOCUMENTS | RESOURCES | WORKSHOPS | ABOUT

WELCOME TO SNOW

SNOW is a branch of the Inclusive Design Research Centre at OCAD University whose focus is on Inclusive Education and Learning.
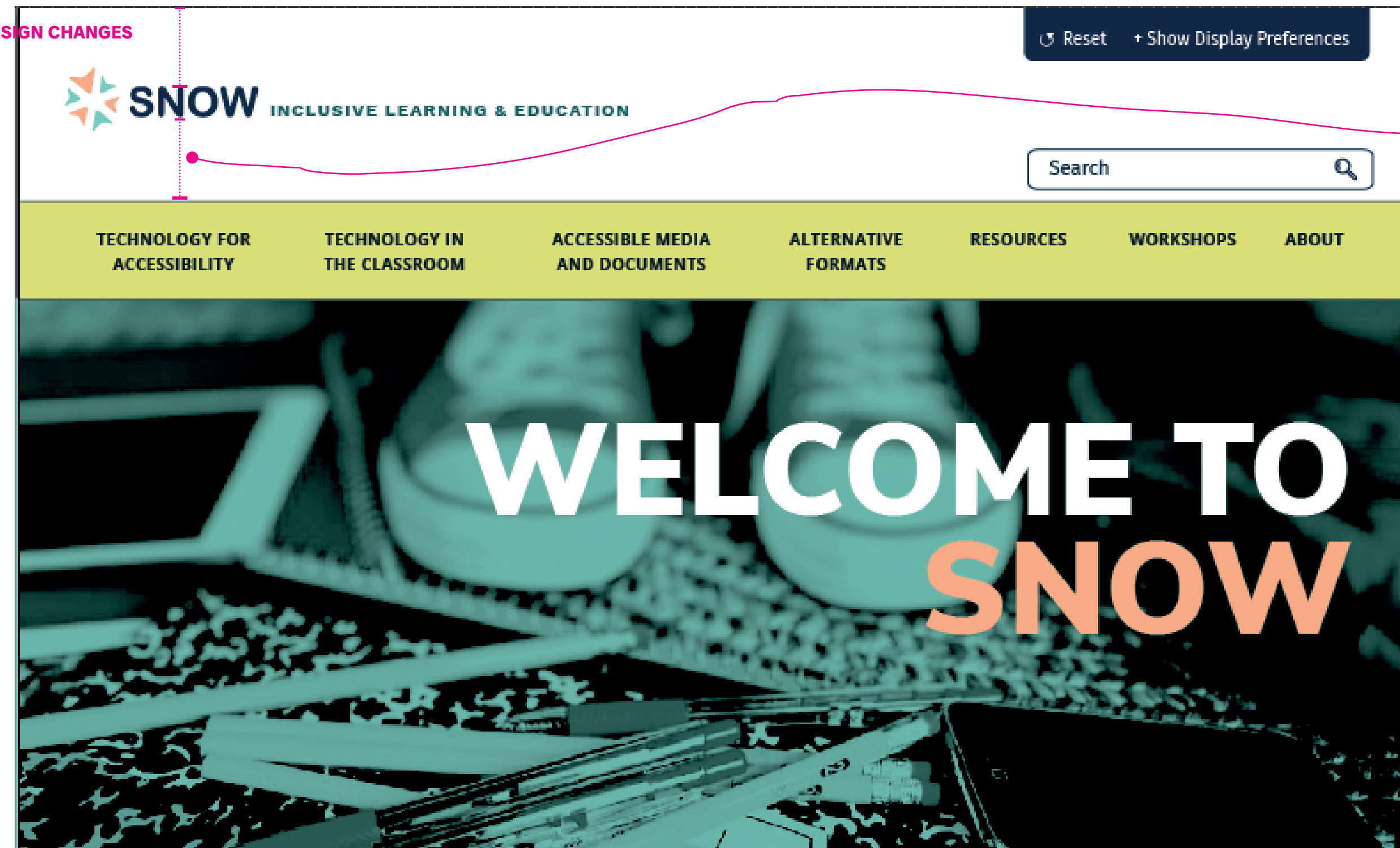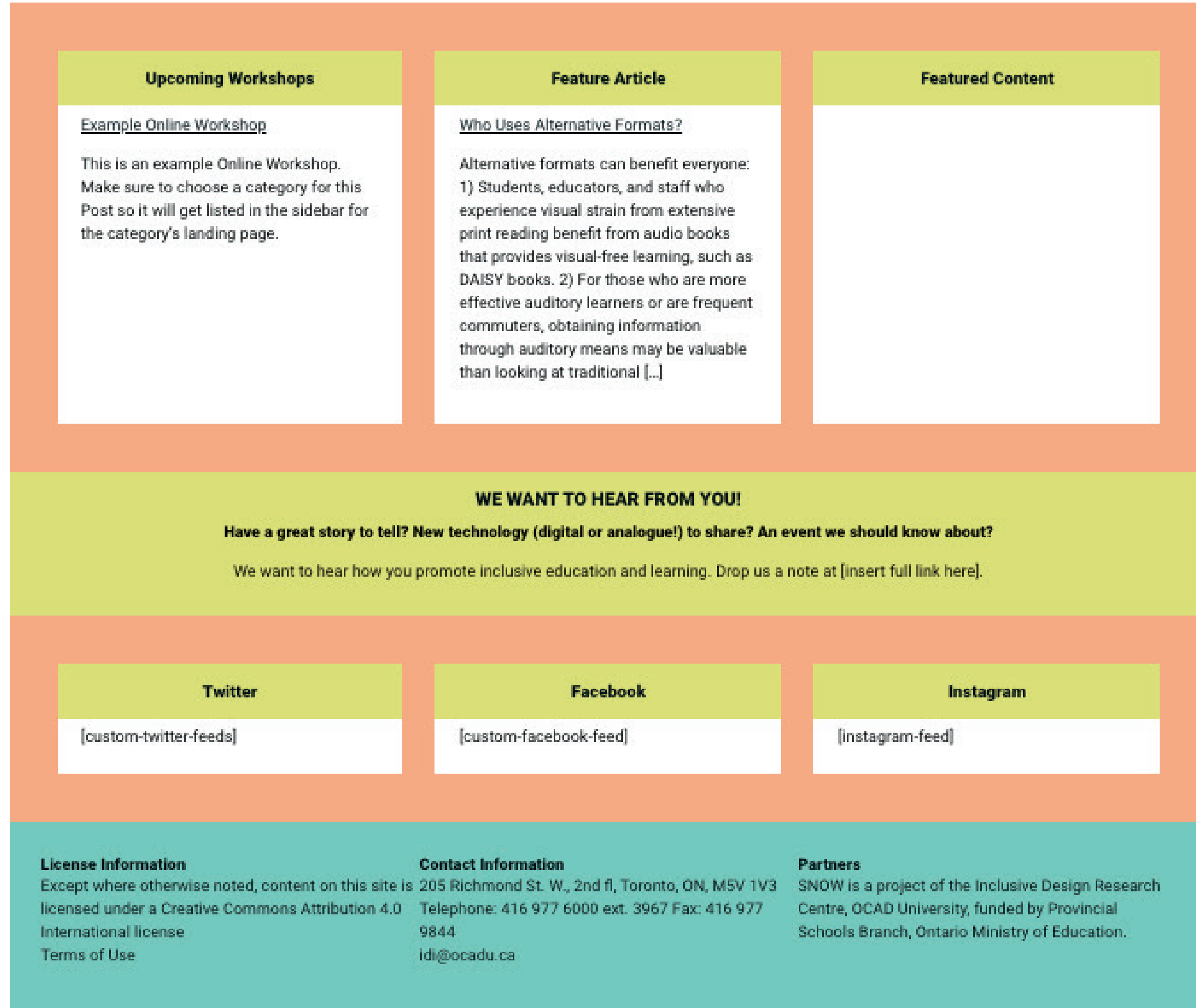
We focus on technologies for learning and promote understanding of inclusive practices.

Our objective is to provide information and training for educators, parents and students. Our resources are free whenever possible. SNOW aims to provide open source tools that can be adapted and used freely.

Find out how to get the most out of SNOW, on the About Us page.

Accessing The Site

Learn about some technologies/tips that might help you or your students use this website.

Upcoming Workshops

Example Online Workshop

This is an example Online Workshop. Make sure to choose a category for this Post so it will get listed in the sidebar for the category's landing page.

Feature Article

Who Uses Alternative Formats?

Alternative formats can benefit everyone: 1) Students, educators, and staff who experience visual strain from extensive print reading benefit from audio books that provides visual-free learning, such as DAISY books. 2) For those who are more effective auditory learners or are frequent commuters, obtaining information through auditory means may be valuable than looking at traditional [...]

Featured Content

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have a great story to tell? New technology (digital or analogue!) to share? An event we should know about?

We want to hear how you promote inclusive education and learning. Drop us a note at [insert full link here].

Twitter	Facebook	Instagram
[custom-twitter-feeds]	[custom-facebook-feed]	[instagram-feed]

Contact Information
205 Richmond St. W., 2nd fl, Toronto, ON, M5V 1V3 Telephone: 416 977 6000 ext. 3967 Fax: 416 977 9844
idi@ocadu.ca

Partners
SNOW is a project of the Inclusive Design Research Centre, OCAD University, funded by Provincial Schools Branch, Ontario Ministry of Education.

↻ Reset   + Show Display Preferences

SNOW INCLUSIVE LEARNING & EDUCATION

Search

TECHNOLOGY FOR ACCESSIBILITY | TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM | ACCESSIBLE MEDIA AND DOCUMENTS | ALTERNATIVE FORMATS | RESOURCES | WORKSHOPS | ABOUT

WELCOME TO SNOW

SNOW is a branch of the Inclusive Design Research Centre at OCAD University. We focus on technologies for learning and promote understanding of inclusive practices. Our objective is to provide information and training for educators, parents and students.

Our resources are free whenever possible.

Find out how to get the most out of SNOW, on the About Us page.

Helping you meet (and exceed) AODA

Accessibility and inclusion are rights to be protected. They are also catalysts for new ideas and innovation that can lead to better curriculum design and enhanced learning opportunities. The Accessibility for Ontarians >

AODA

Upcoming Workshops

Get rid of that clutter! Do you find clutter distracting when reading an article on the web? Many internet browsers have a Read Mode (link) that simplifies the page so you can focus on the article content. Read about this feature and other features built right into your everyday software.

Feature Article

Get rid of that clutter! Do you find clutter distracting when reading an article on the web? Many internet browsers have a Read Mode (link) that simplifies the page so you can focus on the article content. Read about this feature and other features built right into your everyday software.

Featured Content

Get rid of that clutter! Do you find clutter distracting when reading an article on the web? Many internet browsers have a Read Mode (link) that simplifies the page so you can focus on the article content. Read about this feature and other features built right into your everyday software.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have a great story to tell? New technology (digital or analogue!) to share? An event we should know about? We want to hear how you promote inclusive education and learning. Drop us a note at [insert full link here].

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Contact information
205 Richmond St. W., 2nd fl, Toronto, ON, M5V 1V3 Telephone: 416 977 6000 ext. 3967 Fax: 416 977 9844
idi@ocadu.ca

Accessibility
tk

inclusive design research centre   Ontario

SNOW is a project of the Inclusive Design Research Centre, OCAD University, funded by Provincial Schools Branch, Ontario Ministry of Education.

Annotations (right margin):

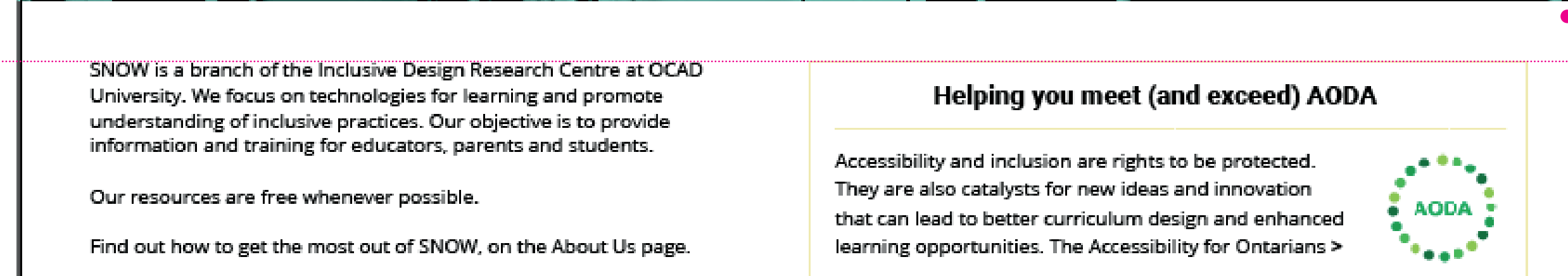• remove logo and add new with tag line
• centre vertically in white space of banner
SNOW 18

• Add colour to nav bar
• add a menu item (CW can do that)
SNOW 18

• replace image with duotone image
SNOW 18

• Change box to be AODA info with logo
• align content blocks horizontally
• reduce padding on top and bottom
SNOW 18

• add drop shadow to three boxes (maintain space between boxes as it is on the dev site. It looks good)
SNOW 18

• Can the third box be a social media stream for now, Twitter, for example? Down the road, perhaps we would add a second row of boxes with more social media streams
SNOW 20

• increase depth of this box and include social media
SNOW 18

• Centre copy in each block
• line up block on grid with three boxes in peach area
SNOW 18

• Add white footer with centred logoing and descriptor line
SNOW 19

SNOW

Search

ACCESSIBILITY AND TECHNOLOGY | TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM | ACCESSIBLE MEDIA AND DOCUMENTS | RESOURCES | WORKSHOPS | ABOUT

ALTERNATIVE CONTROL

▶ **Alternative Keyboards**

Alternative Mouse Systems

Notetakers and Non-Display Based Personal Digital Assistant

On-Screen Keyboard

Switches

Voice Recognition (Speech-to-Text Software)

Alternative Control Landing Page

ALTERNATIVE KEYBOARDS

Description

Alternative keyboard layouts allow people who experience difficulty accessing conventional keyboard designs to use computers. Sometimes adjustments can be made to the INSERTLINKLATER accessibility options of the computer, for example, changing the sensitivity of the keyboard. On other occasions, it is necessary to get a different keyboard.

Ergonomic keyboards are the most popular keyboards available. The ergonomic design of the keyboard allows for minimal muscle strain and may reduce the risk of a repetitive strain injury. A *fixed-split* keyboard has keys separated in 2 to 3 groups, allowing the user to type at different angles than the typical straight keyboard. An *adjustable split* keyboard has the keyboard split in a number of pieces so the angle can be easily changed.

There are a wide range of other keyboard options and accessories for people who have specific needs including but not limited to the following:

- Large print keyboards
- Large key keyboards
- Colourful keyboards
- Keyboards with different layouts, e.g., QWERTY, ABC, Dvorak
- Miniature keyboard
- Expanded keyboards
- One-handed keyboard
- Chording keyboard
- Keyboards that allow the keys to be programmed to perform certain functions
- Keyboards that allow you to create customized overlays that you can print out. The layout allows you to add or delete keys, add text or graphics to keys, group keys by colour or location and increase visual contrast by changing the key size and colour.
- Illuminated keyboard
- Braille keyboard
- Keyguards
- Keyboard Seals or Skins
- Keycap labels

Points To Ponder: Questions To Consider When Choosing An Alternative Keyboard

- Features
  - How do you want the keys to be arranged, i.e., is it QWERTY, ABC or Dvorak layout? Can it be adjusted?
  - What is the size of the keys? How many keys are available on the keyboard?
  - Is the keyboard design fixed, split or adjustable?
  - Is a keyguard needed? Is it available?
  - Are the keys recessed or do they protrude?
  - Is it handheld?
  - Are there any positioning requirements? (e.g. Is the angle of the keyboard adjustable? Does it have its own mount?)
  - Is it programmable? (i.e. can you customize keys to perform specific commands/actions?)
  - For programmable keyboards, does it have different overlays? How easily can you create macro commands?
  - How much force is required for key activation?
  - Does it provide tactile feedback that a key has been pressed?
  - Will the student be typing with one hand or two hands?
- Usability
  - Are there any visual, hearing, cognitive or developmental difficulties that may impact the ability to use the keyboard? (e.g. Do you need a specific colour combination or layout to support the student's vision or act as a cue?)
  - Do you need to adjust any settings within the computer's operating system (e.g. sticky keys)?
  - How easy it is to take with you if portability is required? (e.g. size, weight, carrying case, battery life/power source, connection). Consider back-up options if transporting the device is not feasible (e.g. keyboard stickers for a large print keyboard).
- Compatibility
  - Does the device require a driver and if so, does it have a driver for your computer or device's operating system?
  - How does it connect to your computer? Is it a wired or a wireless connection? (e.g. USB, wireless, Bluetooth, etc.)
- Support
  - What is the warranty available for the technology? How are repairs handled? (e.g. is there someone in your area?)
  - How will you get support if you need it? (e.g. a technician in the school, a local vendor, by telephone, by email, remote access, etc.)

↺ Reset   + Show Display Preferences

SNOW INCLUSIVE LEARNING & EDUCATION

Search

TECHNOLOGY FOR ACCESSIBILITY | TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM | ACCESSIBLE MEDIA AND DOCUMENTS | ALTERNATIVE FORMATS | RESOURCES | WORKSHOPS | ABOUT

Technology

TECH AND ACCESSIBILITY

TECH IN THE CLASSROOM

ACCESSIBLE MEDIA AND DOCUMENTS

ALTERNATIVE FORMATS

Intro blurb

Ergonomic keyboards are the most popular keyboards available. The ergonomic design of the keyboard allows for minimal muscle strain and may reduce the risk of a repetitive strain injury. A fixed-split keyboard has keys separated in 2–3 groups, allowing the user to type at different angles than the typical straight keyboard. An adjustable split keyboard has the keyboard split in a number of pieces so the angle can be easily changed.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis autem vel eum iriure dolor in hendrerit in vulputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel illum dolore eu feugiat nulla facilisis at vero eros et accumsan et iusto odio dignissim qui blandit praesent luptatum zzril delenit augue duis dolore te feugait nulla facilisi.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, cons ectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis autem vel eum iriure dolor in hendrerit in vulputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel illum dolore eu feugiat nulla facilisis at vero eros et accumsan et iusto odio dignissim qui blandit praesent luptatum zzril delenit augue duis dolore te feugait nulla facilisi.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, cons ectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut laoreet dolore magna aliquam erat volutpat. Ut wisi enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerci tation ullamcorper suscipit lobortis nisl ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat. Duis autem vel eum iriure dolor in hendrerit in vulputate velit esse molestie consequat, vel illum dolore eu feugiat nulla facilisis at vero eros et accumsan et iusto odio dignissim qui blandit praesent luptatum zzril delenit augue duis dolore te feugait nulla facilisi.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have a great story to tell? New technology (digital or analogue!) to share? An event we should know about? We want to hear how you promote inclusive education and learning. Drop us a note at [insert full link here].

CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Margin notes (suggested design changes)

- Maintain header and nav bar as per home page
- lower hang (will eventually accomodate breadcrumb)
- add padding
- limit line length on web version
- lighten colour of sidebar

SNOW 19 19 19 21?

I liked the idea of keeping these calls to action in the footer. What do you think?

- Maintain footer as per home page