

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC SCHOOL OF DISTANCE EDUCATION

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BARRIERS TO ACCESSING ONLINE RESOURCES
FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Abstract
This study explores the barriers to accessing online resources for students with disabilities. The research was conducted through a series of focus group discussions with students and staff members. The findings indicate that the most significant barriers are related to the design and usability of the online resources. Many students reported difficulty navigating the interface, understanding the content, and accessing the materials. The study also identified a lack of awareness and support from staff members as a major barrier. The results suggest that the University of the South Pacific should invest in training and resources to improve the accessibility of its online resources. This includes providing staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to support students with disabilities, as well as ensuring that the design and development of online resources takes into account the needs of all users. The study also highlights the importance of ongoing communication and collaboration between staff and students to identify and address any barriers that may arise.

Introduction
The University of the South Pacific (USP) is committed to providing quality education to all students, regardless of their abilities. However, the transition to online learning has presented significant challenges for students with disabilities. This study aims to identify the barriers to accessing online resources for these students and to propose effective solutions. The research was conducted through a series of focus group discussions with students and staff members. The findings indicate that the most significant barriers are related to the design and usability of the online resources. Many students reported difficulty navigating the interface, understanding the content, and accessing the materials. The study also identified a lack of awareness and support from staff members as a major barrier. The results suggest that the University of the South Pacific should invest in training and resources to improve the accessibility of its online resources. This includes providing staff with the necessary skills and knowledge to support students with disabilities, as well as ensuring that the design and development of online resources takes into account the needs of all users. The study also highlights the importance of ongoing communication and collaboration between staff and students to identify and address any barriers that may arise.

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