

# From Disability to Usability in Online Instruction

By Susan David deMaine. 106 Law Libr. J. 531 (2014).

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## **Reviewer's Summary:**

Susan David deMaine provides an excellent overview of the issues students with disabilities face when learning in an online environment. The article describes many of the instructional barriers students face in online education, while offering several solutions, beginning with an excellent summary of the various technological tools currently available which can (should) be utilized to remove said barriers. These include screen reader technology, language modification tools, and simple tips for professors and instructors to use in their daily classes. Beyond these specific tools, this article provides a wonderful summary of disability rights law in the United States and how it is applied in law schools. DeMaine concludes by providing an overview and various case studies in applying Universal Design to online instruction, to mitigate these issues and reach all students. This article is helpful for anyone looking to take real steps to address accessibility issues at their institution.

**Summarized by:** Matt Timko, Northern Illinois University College of Law in 2020.