Workshop Reflection: Accessibility of Online and Digital Resources

Attending the "Accessibility of Online and Digital Resources" workshop was an enlightening experience that provided me with valuable insights and practical tools to enhance the accessibility of my teaching materials.

Key Takeaways

1. **Understanding Accessibility**: Accessibility is about ensuring all learners, regardless of their disability status, can effectively access course materials. This requires ongoing flexibility and adjustments.
2. **UDL Principles**: The three core UDL principles are:
   - **Engagement**: Motivating students by involving them in setting course goals and integrating reflective activities.
   - **Representation**: Providing various ways to interact with the materials, such as videos, readings, and interactive activities.
   - **Action and Expression**: Offering multiple methods for students to demonstrate their understanding, including written assignments, presentations, and creative projects.
3. **Basic Accessibility Practices**: Key practices include using alt text for images, captions and audio descriptions for videos, thoughtful hyperlink usage, and proper color choice and contrast.

Implementation in Teaching Practice

As a math teaching assistant, I plan to implement the following strategies:

- **Engagement**: I will involve students in setting their learning goals and include reflective activities that connect mathematical concepts to real-life applications. This approach will help increase their motivation and engagement with the material.
- **Representation**: I will diversify the presentation of mathematical content by incorporating multimedia resources such as instructional videos, interactive simulations, and visual aids. This will cater to different learning preferences and make complex concepts more accessible.
- **Action and Expression**: I will offer various options for students to demonstrate their understanding of mathematical concepts. This includes traditional problem sets, group projects, presentations, and creative assignments that allow students to showcase their strengths and ensure fair and inclusive assessments.

Additional Notes

The resources provided during the workshop, such as the MSU Web Accessibility site and the QM Accessibility and Usability Resource Site, are invaluable. They offer guidelines, tutorials, and templates that will support me in creating accessible learning materials. I plan to regularly consult these resources to stay updated on best practices and continuously improve the accessibility of my courses.