



# BLACKBOARD TIP OF THE WEEK

## **Do you want your students to be able to access reading material in a new way?**

At Science & Technology, we have a diverse student body who have many different preferences in relation to obtaining knowledge. Some people like to read large amounts of material. Others learn with digital solutions like e.g. video and audio. In addition, it is very different where and when the students prepare and many of the students use their phone/tablet on the go.

It can be difficult accommodating to all of these approaches for preparation. Therefore, in the spring of 2018, we would like to launch a pilot project testing the tool Ally on a number of courses. Ally is a tool that automatically transforms electronic text material (including Danish), such as PDF files, Word files etc. into audio and other materials.

Ally was developed by Blackboard and can be seamlessly integrated into the learning platform. Initially, Ally was designed for students with reading disabilities, but everyone can use it. It allows the students to listen to text material rather than reading it – maybe on the bus, while cycling/running, or just while lying on the couch to get a break from reading.

You can read more about [Ally on Blackboard's website](#) and watch the video below:

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<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/ueUkzcgNik" frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>
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If you would like to be part of the pilot project and make Ally available on your course, or just have questions about the project, please email us at [blackboard@stll.au.dk](mailto:blackboard@stll.au.dk).

As mentioned above, Ally is useful to all students, and especially the slightly more text-oriented courses could be interesting to include in the project. How Ally handles scientific material, whether the students benefit from Ally, and if there is an increase in learning are some of the things we would like to investigate.

Happy Blackboarding and have a nice weekend.

Kind regards,  
ST Learning Lab