

Introduction to Accessibility for Websites, Multimedia and Print

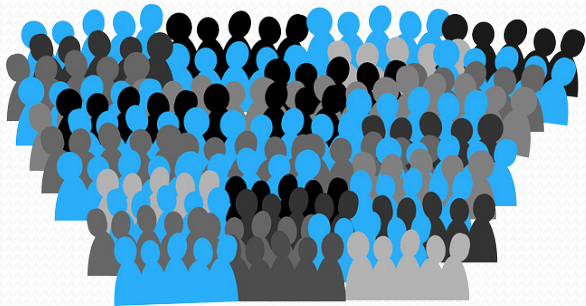
Trip Rems

CDS Media Center, 2015



CDS www.media.cds.hawaii.edu
MEDIA CENTER

Benefits of Publishing Accessible Content



Usable by the greatest number of people possible



Improved placement in search engines (SEO)



Compliance with Federal Guidelines (ADA and Section 508)

Accessibility Law: Section 504

- Section 504 is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities.
- Section 504 ensures that people with disabilities have equal access to education.

Accessibility Law: Section 508

- Applies to electronic and information technology procured by the federal government, including computer hardware and software, websites, phone systems, and copiers.
- Section 508 requires that federal employees with disabilities have equal access to and use of information and data.

Tips for Website Accessibility

- For content management systems (i.e. Drupal, WordPress, etc)—choose an accessible theme. WordPress offers a library of free themes that have been checked for WCAG conformance:

<https://wordpress.org/themes/tags/accessibility-ready/>.

- Ensure proper semantic markup in pages (i.e. markup headers, lists, data tables, etc)
- Validate pages using the World Wide Web Consortium's (W3C) HTML and CSS validators: <http://validator.w3.org/> and <https://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/>

Tips for Website Accessibility

- Use automated tools to check Web pages for accessibility errors:
 - Wave Accessibility Evaluation Tool:
<http://wave.webaim.org/>
 - AChecker: <http://achecker.ca>
- If possible, recruit assistive technology users and/or experts to test your pages for accessibility problems.

Tips for Publishing Accessible Documents

- Update your publishing software to ensure that you are taking advantage of the latest accessibility features (i.e. Office 365, etc)
- Include alternate descriptions for all images and graphics

Tips for Publishing Accessible Documents- Word Documents

- Use DOC format instead of DOCX
- Use styles to format content including headings, lists, quotes, etc.
- Include a table of contents with links to section headings
- Identify column headers for tables in Word (under Table Properties → Row → Repeat as Header Row)

Tips for Publishing Accessible Documents- PPT Documents

- Avoid using tables -- as these do not include markup for headers
- Use default themes in PPT to ensure that heading and paragraph styles are included
- Avoid excessive animation and/or audio/video tracks that play without user input

Tips for Publishing Accessible Documents- PDF Documents

- Be sure to use the latest version of Adobe Acrobat for converting Word, PPT, and other document formats.
- Use the automated accessibility tools in Acrobat to check tags and document read order (under Tools -> Accessibility)
- For untagged PDF Documents -- add tags and adjust read order as necessary

Tips for Publishing Accessible Multimedia

- For videos with an audio track, include synchronized captions
- For videos, include audio description (if needed)
- For audio files—include a link to a text transcript
- Use HTML5 embed source for publishing videos on the Web (YouTube and Vimeo default to an HTML player)

Media Center: Accessibility Consulting Services

- Accessible Website Development
- Website Evaluation and Repair
- Conformance Monitoring
- Document Evaluation and Repair
- Accessibility Training

Recent Projects

- New responsive Website for the University of Hawaii Center on Aging (Ongoing)
- Standards-Compliant Website for State ADA Coordinators: <http://www.dcabaccess.com/>
- Techniques for Publishing Accessible Content using WordPress CMS (Training)

Questions

