The Accessible Website: If You Build It, Everyone Can Come!

An Infopeople Webinar
Presented by Kelli Ham
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Recommended Reading

Introduction to Web Accessibility
This is a good introduction and overview for anyone interested in accessibility issues.
http://webaim.org/intro/

Accessibility
Another good overview, this page includes links to many useful resources.
http://www.w3.org/standards/webdesign/accessibility

Guidelines for Accessible and Usable Web Sites: Observing Users Who Work With Screen Readers
This classic article is cited often; it reports on a study of blind users: the behaviors, experiences, and frustrations that blind people experience when using screen readers to access web content.
http://redish.net/content/papers/interactions.html

For Administrators

Leading the Charge: Ensuring Your Institution's Web Presence Works for Everyone
http://ncdae.org/goals/actionpaper.php

Budgeting for Your Web Accessibility Plans
http://ncdae.org/resources/tips/budget.php

Organizations and Initiatives

National Center on Disability and Access to Education (NCDAE)
http://ncdae.org/index.php

WebAIM – Web Accessibility in Mind
http://webaim.org/

W3C: The World Wide Web Consortium
http://www.w3.org/

Web Accessibility Initiative
http://www.w3.org/WAI/

Standards and Laws

WCAG 2.0 Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
Broadly accepted guidelines include recommendations for making Web content accessible to a wide range of people with disabilities, including blindness and low vision, deafness and hearing loss, learning disabilities, cognitive and physical limitations, and other disabilities.
http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/REC-WCAG20-20081211/

Section 508
Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. 794d), as amended by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-220), August 7, 1998.
http://www.section508.gov/index.cfm?fuseAction=1998Amend

Tools

WAVE Tool (web-based)
Check any web page to quickly identify accessibility errors or other issues that might cause a problem for users with disabilities.
http://wave.webaim.org/

WAVE Toolbar for Firefox
The WAVE toolbar is similar to the WAVE tool above, but has the advantage of being able to evaluate a page as it is dynamically rendered on the local machine. It works for scripted content and private, password-protected and intranet pages.
http://wave.webaim.org/toolbar/

FANGS Screen Reader Emulator – Firefox Add-on
This tool presents text as a screen reader would read it, allowing developers to see exactly how the user will hear the content as it is read aloud. It also has the ability to show just the headers and a list of links.
https://addons.mozilla.org/en-us/firefox/addon/fangs-screen-reader-emulator/

WCAG Contrast Checker – Firefox Add-on
The contrast between text and background should be at least 4.5:1; analyze your pages with this tool.
https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/wcag-contrast-checker/

Functional Accessibility Evaluator (FAE)
This tool developed at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign analyzes web pages for markup based on a defined set of best practices (defined by the Illinois Center for Information Technology and Web Accessibility.)
http://fae.cita.uiuc.edu/
http://html.cita.illinois.edu/

Google Accessibility Tools for Developers
Links to tools for checking that your site is accessible on the Chrome browser, a list of Chrome extensions that improve accessibility, and information about YouTube captioning.
http://www.google.com/accessibility/building/

Tutorials and Help Materials

Web Accessibility and Section 508 Tutorials – Jim Thatcher
See this site for excellent training tutorials and resources.
http://www.jimthatcher.com/webcourse1.htm

Cheatsheets
A series of "cheatsheets," with all the essentials in a concise, one page format. Topics include Microsoft products, Adobe InDesign, Captioning YouTube Videos, PDF Conversion, and more.
http://ncdae.org/resources/cheatsheets/

LibGuides and LibGuides/CMS and 508 Compliance
Information about accessibility features of LibGuides and tips for content creators.
http://help.springshare.com/accessibility

Techniques for WCAG 2.0
An essential guide for web developers, this is a comprehensive listing of general and specific techniques for meeting the standards outlined in WCAG 2.0.
http://www.w3.org/TR/2012/NOTE-WCAG20-TECHS-20120103/

Communicating Web Accessibility to the Novice Developer From User Experience to Application. Youngblood, S. A. (2013). *Journal of Business and Technical Communication*, *27*(2), 209-232.
This article describes the importance of gaining an appreciation for the user experience by web developers. It includes practical information about validation tools, screen reader emulators, and built-in accessibility checkers in certain software products, and best practices.

Videos

Accessibility Video "Playlist"
This blog post is a good compilation of videos about the user experience, the importance of accessibility, and short tutorials on creating accessible content. It includes reader recommendations for even more videos.
http://ncdae.org/blog/accessibility-video-playlist/