Web Accessibility
Laws and Guidelines

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Accessibility

“Development of information systems flexible enough to accommodate the needs of the broadest range of users... regardless of age or disability”

8.5% of the population has a disability that affects computer use
Disability types

- Vision - blind, low-vision, color-blind
- Deaf and Hard-of-hearing
- Motor
- Cognitive
- Seizure
Myths

1. Very few actually need accommodation.
2. People with disabilities are easy to identify.
3. If someone has an issue, they will let me know and I’ll make the change then.
4. UC doesn’t have people with learning disabilities; they couldn’t compete for spots in our system.
5. Accessible technology is prohibitively expensive.
Roles

• Isn’t this someone’s job? (Not mine)
• Electronic Accessibility Leadership Team (EALT)
• Roles
  • Office for Students with Disabilities
  • Staff & Faculty Accommodation
  • Educational Technology Centers, IT groups
  • Libraries and Bookstore
  • Student Services
• Self identification/rights
Accessibility is a Continuum
Web Accessibility Guidelines and Laws

- WCAG 1.0
- Section 508
- WCAG 2.0
- The Americans with Disabilities Act
- Etc.
WCAG 1.0

- Finalized in 1999
- Checkpoint driven
- Level A, AA, and AAA
- Specific to HTML
Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

• “Electronic and Information Technology”
• Required when federal agencies develop, procure, maintain, or use E&IT.
• Technical compliance is often required when receiving federal funding.
• Many states have adopted the guidelines in state law.
• Has become a de facto, minimal standard.
Section 508

- Legalistic - easy to verify compliance. 16 checkpoints for web pages.
- Enforcement is primarily determined by market forces.
- Mapping to WCAG 2.0 A/AA.
WCAG 2.0

- Finalized December 2008
- Principles based
- Technology agnostic
- Maintains levels (A, AA, and AAA)
- The basis for most international laws
The Americans with Disabilities Act

• Discrimination law
• Predates the web
• Title II ("Communications w/ PWDs must be as effective as communications with others")
• Title III ("Places of public accommodation")
• NFB vs Target

• Current proposal to define ADA web accessibility requirements.

• “The Department of Justice is exploring what regulatory guidance it can propose to make clear to entities covered by the ADA their obligations to make their websites accessible.”

• Hopefully one set of guidelines (e.g., Section 508, which is subsumed by WCAG)
Others

• Section 501 and 504
• Telecommunications Act
• Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act Implementation
  • Broadband, mobile, emergency services, and TV and internet video
• Unruh Civil Rights Act
  • California accounts for 42% of all ADA litigation nationwide
Your site can be compliant, yet inaccessible
Your site can be technically accessible and fully compliant, yet functionally inaccessible.
Perceivable
Operable
Understandable
Robust
Ensure POUR content across disability types

- Vision - blind, low-vision, color-blind
- Deaf and Hard-of-hearing
- Motor
- Cognitive
- Seizure
Perceivable
Operable
Understandable
Robust
Perceivable
Perceivable

• Captions and transcripts
• Alternative text
• Form labels
• Table headers
• Document structure
• Color reliance and contrast
• Etc.
Perceivable
Operable
Understandable
Robust
Operable

- Keyboard accessible
- Navigation
- Form controls
- Does not cause seizures
- Not time-dependent
Perceivable
Operable
Understandable
Robust
Understandable

• Be careful with movement and other distracters
• Semantic organization (headings, lists, etc.)
• Consistency.
• Error prevention and recovery.
• Strive for brevity. Use the simplest language possible.
Perceivable
Operable
Understandable
Robust
Robust
Robust
Robust
Robust
Perceivable, Operable, Understandable, Robust
EALT Efforts

• Systemwide resources
• Inventory web scans
• IT Accessibility Policy
IT Accessibility Policy

- Designate IT Accessibility Officer
- Establish campus committee
- Sets standard
  - WCAG 2.0 AA
Practical Considerations

- Web application development (build)
- Procurement (buy)
- Companion sites (free)
- Framework/Platform vs Content
  - Course Content
  - Meeting materials
Resources

- Resources for Developing Accessible Web Sites, UC
  [http://www.ucop.edu/irc/itaccessibility/resources/](http://www.ucop.edu/irc/itaccessibility/resources/)
- Electronic Accessibility Leadership Team
  [http://www.ucop.edu/irc/ealt/](http://www.ucop.edu/irc/ealt/)
- WebAIM
- WAVE
  [http://wave.webaim.org/](http://wave.webaim.org/)
In closing...

Let technology be part of the solution, not the issue.

Questions?

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