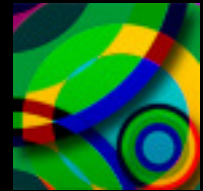


web accessibility

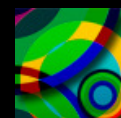
what you really need to know



- > what is web accessibility?
- > the importance
- > the issues - content and legislation
- > information requirements
- > examples



“Web accessibility means that people with disabilities can use the Web. More specifically, Web accessibility means that people with disabilities can perceive, understand, navigate, and interact with the Web, and that they can contribute to the Web. Web accessibility also benefits others, including older people with changing abilities due to ageing..”





- > **visual:** impairments including blindness, low vision or poor eyesight, various types of colour blindness
- > **motor/mobility:** difficulty or inability to use the hands, including tremors, muscle slowness, loss of fine muscle control
- > **auditory:** Deafness or hearing impairments
- > **seizures:** photo-epileptic seizures caused by visual strobe or flashing effects
- > **cognitive/intellectual:** Developmental disabilities, learning disabilities (dyslexia), and cognitive disabilities of various origins, affecting memory, attention, developmental “maturity,” problem-solving and logic skills, etc



- > **the Web has become a key resource for:**
 - > news, information, commerce, entertainment,
 - > classroom education, distance learning,
 - > job searching, workplace interaction,
 - > national and local government services,
 - > online social networking i.e. Facebook and Flickr
- > **displacing traditional sources of information and interaction**
 - > schools, libraries, print materials
 - > some of the traditional resources were accessible; some not
- > an **accessible** web helps people become **active** in society



Assistive technologies are important and you need to be aware of the sorts of technologies used by web users

- > **screen readers:** Jaws
- > **screen magnifiers:** Zoom Text
- > **speech browser:** IBM Home Page Reader
- > **hand operated devices:**
 - > trackballs
 - > joysticks
 - > touch screens
 - > reading and writing devices
 - > switching devices
- > braille displays
- > automated desktop accessibility checkers
- > **JAWS and semantic structures (video)**



US led legislation "A Call for change"

any site built by a Federal government must be

- > accessible to the public
- > relates to all areas
 - > physical
 - > virtual
- > the Access Board put web information/design practices into law
 - **Section 508**
- > web contracts and federal agency Internet content subject to strict procurement guidelines
 - > contracts can be lost
 - > agencies sued



> web information

> UK - DDA 1999, 2004

> Disability Rights Commission 2005 - running accessibility checks on sites

> Which standards do they use?

> W3C (w3.org), WAI (w3.org/wai)

> WAI enables organisations to:

> work together at design stage of Web technologies

> develop accessibility solutions

> offers help in planning accessibility



- > a group formed by the W3C
- > develops strategies, guidelines, and resources to help make the Web accessible
- > is sponsored by Government agencies and Corporate companies
- > three main authoring guides created;
 - > Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
 - > Authoring Tool Accessibility Guidelines (ATAG)
 - > User Agent Accessibility Guidelines (UAAG)

