

Website Accessibility

Webpage accessibility has become an important concern for people with disabilities, especially those who are blind, have low vision, or cannot use a keyboard. In this regard there are a number of components needed within the design of a website to ensure it is accessible. Below are several resources that have proved to be helpful to website developers.

This website has a survey for website designers to ensure that a website is accessible.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/508/web2.htm>

These sites explain what makes a website accessible.

<http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/pubs/ada/>

<http://www.w3.org/WAI/References/Browsing>

There are different screen readers that allow people to have the screen read to them. One of the most prevalently used is Jaws. Their website includes good information about what is needed for a website to be used by their product.

http://www.freedomscientific.com/Training/training_HQ_accessibility.asp

TechTalk Radio Show - Interview with Cindy Leonard, Technology Service Analyst, Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management, on web accessibility:

<http://www.garageband.com/mp3player?|pe1|WdjZPXLrvP2rYVKwYW1IBA>

Article on “Usable Accessibility: Making Web Sites Work Well for People with Disabilities”

<http://www.uxmatters.com/mt/archives/2009/02/usable-accessibility-making-web-sites-work-well-for-people-with-disabilities.php>

American Foundation for the Blind

The most comprehensive site has been developed by the American Foundation for the Blind. This link will take you directly to their Web Accessibility area:

www.afb.org/webaccess.asp. There is a plethora of information there, including descriptions of how assistive technology reads the web, tips on making a web site accessible, a list of resources for more in-depth guidelines, and information about how to make blogs and forms accessible. AFB Consulting also works directly with firms and organizations (for a fee) to evaluate websites and recommend accessibility solutions, if you need more customized help. The contact person at AFP is:

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IBM Human Ability and Accessibility Center

There is a good web accessibility checklist on this site:

<http://www-03.ibm.com/able/guidelines/web/accessweb.html>

EASI: Equal Access to Software and Information

Online training on accessible information technology for people with disabilities. They offer a variety of free and paid courses and webinars.

<http://people.rit.edu/easi/#content1>

Welcoming Customers with Disabilities: A free, accessible, self-paced web course for people interested in discovering best practices for working with customers who have disabilities. This course has recently been revised and expanded in response to requests from more than 10,000 participants who have taken the course. It was funded with federal dollars for training local public customer service representatives, but has been found to be a valuable training tool for the private sector. <http://www.wiawebcourse.org/>

Organizations and individuals in our region who have experience in website accessibility are:

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