

Task 1 – Research Document

Web Accessibility Research (KU3)

In **not less than 500 words**, make sure to **explain what Web Accessibility** is, detailing some of its **principles** with **examples from existing website**, and t.

Submission: One PDF document hosted in a GitHub repository

Grading Criteria: KU3

Deadline: 21st March 2024

The web accessibility are guidelines that are designed to make content on desktops, laptops, tablets and mobiles more accessible to a wider range of people with and without disabilities , and that any barriers to accessing the web are removed. These include people with blindness, low vision and colour blindness, deafness and hearing loss, limited movement, speech disabilities, photosensitivity and those with learning disabilities such as dyslexia. The guidelines state that the content and user interfaces should be perceivable, operable, understandable, robust and reliable.

Perceivable means improving visibility and readability through clear and consistent headers that enhance the user experience. Descriptive alt text for images are considerations for screen readers. First example of a website that uses the principle of Perceivability is Time of Malta (<https://timesofmalta.com>) by constructing a page of main topic information. It presents a caption using main keywords for each news image, making it more eye catching for users, white bold text grasping one's attention more and using images as the background of each topic giving the person a clearer idea what the information is about without reading anything in detail yet. The layout of the images is a column grid making it a more structured page and easier for users to read in a more organised manner.

Operable navigation and user interfaces means that users can navigate to the keyboard alone without using a mouse or trackpad. They have time to read and interact with your content, understand their position on the page and easily move through your websites. Finding all the information they are looking for. A website example using this principle is W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (www.w3.org/WAI/). This website is fully keyboard navigable since everything can be accessed without a mouse. There are no flashing images such as

animations or clips that could effect those who could get startled because of their disability. Furthermore, it also has a structured page layout seen by the well designed paragraphs containing the a clear typeface, bold text and a readable font size.

Understandability focuses on the importance of making one's content and the user journey as easy as possible to understand. Using clear and simple language and being consistent throughout the navigation. Example by providing meaningful error messages to minimize confusion. A website example is Apple's accessibility page (<https://www.apple.com/accessibility/>) . This is because it uses simple and direct keywords making the information clearer to all users. It makes sure that information is accessed easily seen by the interactive animations and other elements such as buttons and dropdowns, colour scheme used and the spacious look filling up the whole page making it more unique than other websites. The large fonts, bold typefaces and hierarchy used makes it more eye catching to users.

Robust and Reliable are used when building websites and it's important to ensure compatibility with various browsers and assistive technologies. Allowing users user to access your content regardless of the tools they use. This means both future proofing and iterating for the latest technology. A website that uses these principles is Dropbox (www.dropbox.com). The reasons being is that it is an interactive application and website across all devices and contains a clear navigation system seen from the animations and well guided process when scrolling down the website.

In conclusion, for my own project I'd provide alt text for images so people using screen readers can understand what's being shown, I'd make sure the website could be accessible with just the use of a keyboard, keep the language clear and understandable and use proper HTML.