Jordan Taranto
Kevin Membreno
Sailor Usher
Carolynn Knapp

## References

Blindness is a sensory disability that significantly impacts an individual's ability to perceive visual information. Living with blindness requires adaptive strategies and support systems to overcome the unique challenges posed by a visually oriented world. This report aims to shed light on the daily experiences of individuals living with blindness, emphasizing the importance of accessibility and the significant impact it has on their lives.

For someone who is completely blind, each day presents a series of challenges related to mobility, communication, and information access. Navigating the physical environment becomes a complex task without the ability to see obstacles or landmarks. Dependence on alternative methods like using a white cane or guide dogs is crucial for safe navigation. Additionally, communication may require reliance on assistive technologies like screen readers and braille displays, highlighting the importance of accessible digital content.

Accessibility is a cornerstone of inclusivity, ensuring that individuals with disabilities can participate fully in society. In the context of blindness, accessibility is crucial in various aspects of life, ranging from the physical environment to digital platforms. Accessible websites, applications, and technologies empower individuals with blindness by providing equal opportunities for information, education, employment, and social interactions.

When digital applications are not designed with accessibility in mind, blind users encounter numerous challenges. Inaccessible websites and apps may lack compatibility with screen readers, making it impossible for users to access information. Poorly designed interfaces without proper labeling or navigation structures can lead to confusion and frustration. Additionally, the absence of alternative text for images further isolates blind users from visual content, limiting their overall online experience.

Implementing specific accommodations for blind users can make a significant difference in their daily lives. Features such as screen reader compatibility, voice command options, and keyboard shortcuts enhance the usability of digital applications. Descriptive alt text for images ensures that blind users can understand and engage with visual content. Prioritizing accessibility not only promotes inclusivity but also aligns with ethical and

legal considerations, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in the United States.

Living with blindness presents unique challenges that require thoughtful consideration and proactive measures for inclusion. Accessibility, both in the physical and digital realms, plays a crucial role in ensuring equal opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for individuals with blindness. By understanding the daily experiences and challenges faced by those with blindness, society can work towards creating a more accessible and inclusive world for everyone.

## **Bibliography**

[1]

I. Dimov, "Create a Text-to-Speech Chrome Extension — SitePoint," www.sitepoint.com, Mar. 01, 2016. https://www.sitepoint.com/create-text-to-speech-chrome-extension/(accessed Feb. 02, 2024).

[2]

"Voice RSS - Login," *voicerss.org*. https://voicerss.org/personel/ (accessed Feb. 02, 2024).

[3]

V. Deshmukh, "Using Chrome text-to-speech in a chrome extension," *Stack Overflow*, Sep. 03, 2014. https://stackoverflow.com/questions/25641521/using-chrome-text-to-speech-in-a-chrome-extension (accessed Feb. 02, 2024).

[4]

"Message passing | Extensions," Chrome for Developers.

https://developer.chrome.com/docs/extensions/develop/concepts/messaging#simple (accessed Feb. 02, 2024).

[5]

"Content scripts | Extensions," Chrome for Developers.

https://developer.chrome.com/docs/extensions/develop/concepts/content-scripts [6]

"Update your code | Extensions," Chrome for Developers.

https://developer.chrome.com/docs/extensions/develop/migrate/api-calls#replace-callbacks (accessed Feb. 03, 2024).

[7]

A. Shchekin, "Chrome Speech Synthesis with longer texts," *Stack Overflow*, Feb. 22, 2014. https://stackoverflow.com/questions/21947730/chrome-speech-synthesis-with-longer-texts (accessed Feb. 03, 2024).

[8]

A. Morris, "For Blind Internet Users, the Fix Can Be Worse Than the Flaws - The New York Times," *web.archive.org*, Jul. 13, 2022.

https://web.archive.org/web/20220717011807/https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/13/tech nology/ai-web-accessibility.html (accessed Feb. 03, 2024).

[9]

D. Goodwin, "We Deserve Better from Apple: Why I Can No Longer Recommend a Mac to Fellow Blind Computer Users | AppleVis," www.applevis.com, Oct. 08, 2023. https://www.applevis.com/blog/we-deserve-better-apple-why-i-can-no-longer-recommend-mac-fellow-blind-computer-users (accessed Feb. 03, 2024). [10]

"Just as one example, accessibility for blind users. Also, pages that work withou... | Hacker News," *news.ycombinator.com*. https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=5397061 (accessed Feb. 03, 2024).