

Principles of Accessible Design

- It's the right thing to do.
- It actually helps everyone.
- It's the law.

Why bother?

- Provide accurate and equivalent **content** and **function**
- Be succinct
- Don't be redundant
- Don't use the phrases "image of ..." or "graphic of ..." to describe the image

Provide (useful) alternative text



Because of his role as the Commander in Chief of American forces in the Revolutionary War, and, later, the first President of the United States, George Washington is often called the "Father of his Country".

- “Image of George Washington”
- “George Washington, the first president of the United States”
- An empty alt attribute (`alt=""`) will suffice.
- “George Washington”

Which would be best?



George Washington

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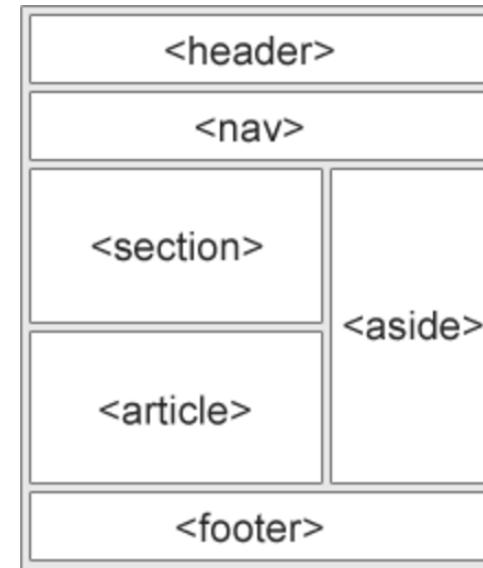
What about here?

New Semantic Elements in HTML5

Many web sites contain HTML code like: <div id="nav"> <div class="header"> <div id="footer"> to indicate navigation, header, and footer.

HTML5 offers new semantic elements to define different parts of a web page:

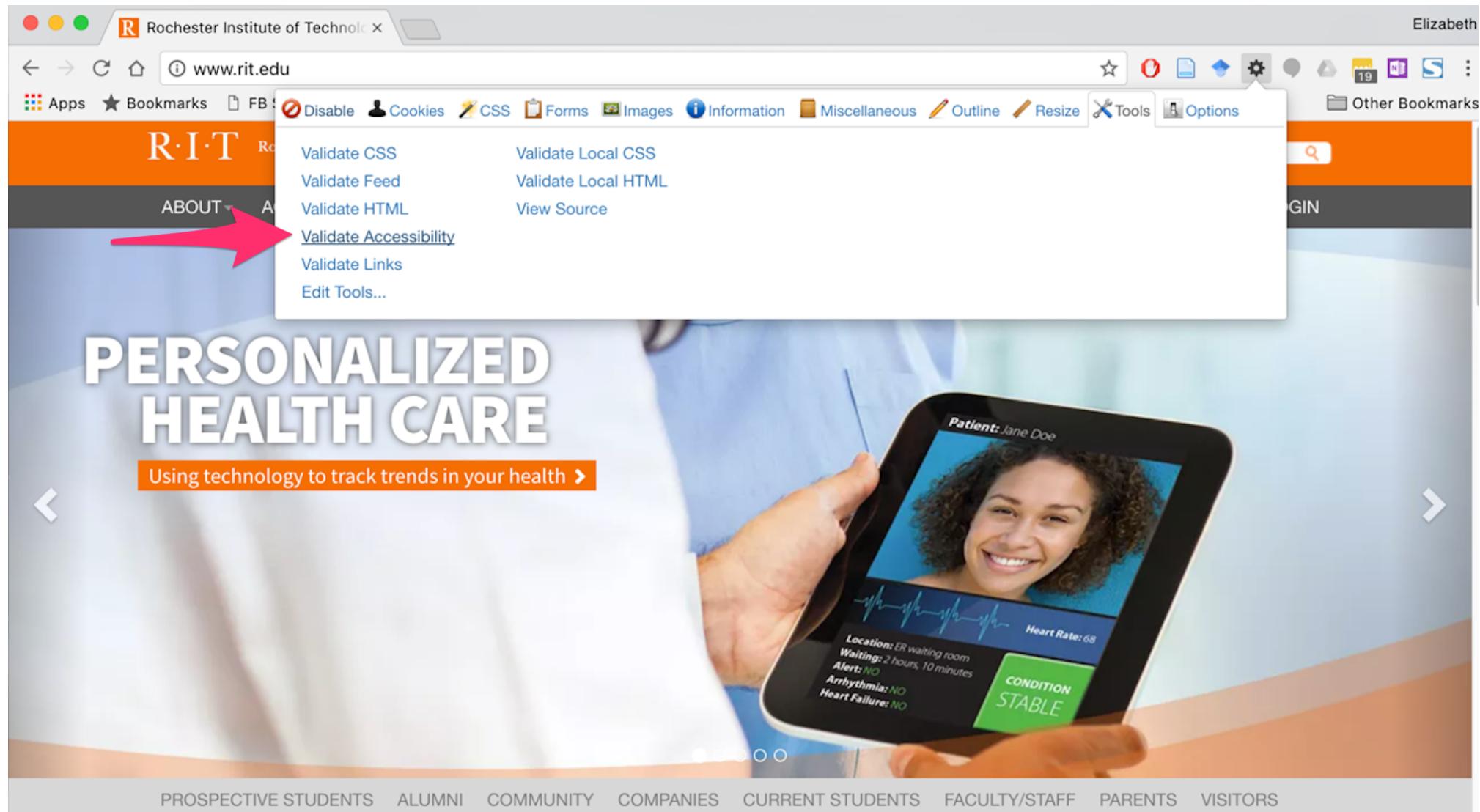
- <article>
- <aside>
- <details>
- <figcaption>
- <figure>
- <footer>
- <header>
- <main>
- <mark>
- <nav>
- <section>
- <summary>
- <time>



Provide appropriate structure

```
a#skip {  
    position: absolute;  
    left: -5000px;  
    top: 0px;  
}  
  
a#skip:focus {  
    position: block;  
}
```

Provide useful “skip” links



Validate for accessibility!

The screenshot shows the WAVE web accessibility evaluation tool running in a browser. The URL is wave.webaim.org/report#/http://www.rit.edu/. The tool's sidebar on the left displays a summary of detected issues: 21 Errors, 45 Alerts, 27 Features, 96 Structural Elements, 10 HTML5 and ARIA, and 77 Contrast Errors. It also lists panel options: DETAILS, DOCUMENTATION, and OUTLINE. The main content area shows the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) website. The WAVE tool has annotated the page with various icons and labels such as 'ARIA', 'role="button"', 'role="listbox"', and 'X2'. The central image on the RIT site is a doctor holding a tablet that displays a patient's health information, including a photo of a woman, her name 'Jane Doe', heart rate '68', and a green box stating 'CONDITION STABLE'. The RIT navigation bar at the top includes links for ABOUT, ACADEMICS, ADMISSION, CAMPUS LIFE, CO-OP, NEWS, RESEARCH, Directories, and Search RIT.

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