

Web Development Task 1

Accessibility:

A website can become difficult to navigate and understand when proper design elements are not used. In some cases, aesthetic choices may negatively impact usability, making it harder for people, especially those with disabilities, to access the content.

Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) and World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) published the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). These guidelines offer recommendations to make web content more accessible for individuals with disabilities and for user agents such as mobile phones and other devices with limited functionality.

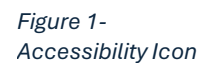
Accessibility features can have benefits to broaden societal and ethical implications such as:

- Legal compliance- which is different based on the region.
- Market expansion- taps into a wider audience and an untapped market.
- Innovation- improves usability for all users and creating new ways to have an accessible website.
- Corporate Social Responsibility- valuing diversity.
- Quality of life- it provides persons with disabilities a new independence.

In any accessible website, four key principles are being used:

- Perceivable- having visible and understandable content. (i.e. Alt Text)
- Operable- a website that is easy to navigate. (i.e. Keyboard navigation)
- Understandable- having a website with easy-to-read information (i.e. readable font style, size, and colour)
- Robust- having a responsive website that is compatible with different devices. (i.e. screen readers)

To ensure inclusivity, many websites provide an accessibility options tab, as shown in Figure 1, which allows users to customize their experience. If this feature is not available, the website itself could already be accessible as is.



A website such as Userway, as seen in Figure 3, has a variety of accessible options including changing the typeface, text alignments and line height. There is also an option to have specific options for different disabilities, or impairments.

The screenshot shows the MCAST website's 'Accessibility Tools' section. The header is green with the MCAST logo and navigation links. The main content area is titled 'Our GREEN COMMITMENT' and 'THE MCAST ECO CHARTER'. It features a large image of a group of people and a green leaf graphic. A sidebar on the right lists accessibility tools like 'Accessible text', 'Accessible links', 'Accessible forms', etc.

[illegible]

Figure 4- Vibe.fm Website <https://vibe.mt/>

Two websites which seem like polar opposites are the UK Government's website and The New York Times website as seen in Figure 5 and 6, respectively.

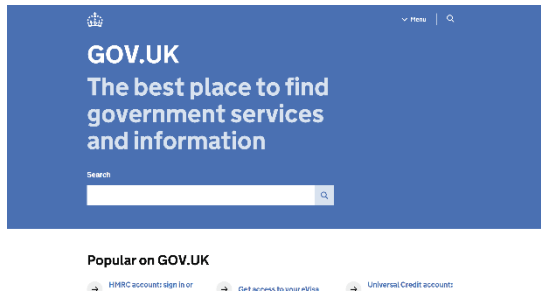


Figure 5- UK Government Website
<https://www.gov.uk/>



Figure 6- The New York Times Website
<https://www.nytimes.com/international/>

Between these two websites, it is obvious which one is easier to understand because of typefaces, font size and over all layouts. The Gov.UK website is well known for having built in accessibility features such as high contrast in the colour palette, large font size and a simple interface helping you find what you need immediately. The NY Times website is more cluttered with text and image while having a small font size with a serif typeface. The serif typeface can be hard to read especially in the set size of the website. Not only is the website not accessible, but the UI in general is not organised making it difficult even for able users. In contrast to The NY Times website, the Gov.UK website is cleaner and simpler.

My website accessibility features:

- A built in high contrast colour palette.
- Having a clear Alt Text for images descriptions.
- Large font size.
- A clear and simple typeface for bodies of text or descriptions.
- Simple points over paragraphs for better focus.