

EXSM 3929: Digital Accessibility

M1 Weekly Response

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Instructions

Make a **copy** of this document, **edit, export** as a **PDF** and **submit** on **eClass**.

Weekly response documents are **to be completed by Saturday evening (11:59pm)**. Each response document follows the same format; there are **four web resources** with **three talking points**.

The purpose is to help prepare you for our discussions on Tuesday evenings. To receive full marks visit each web resource, respond to the prompts, and submit on eClass.

This document will be marked out of **ten points** based on the following criteria:

DESCRIPTION	VALUE	MARK
Document is submitted with proper ccid, name, and date	2	
Document is complete with talking points relevant to the course	8	

Notes

Late submissions are received at a **reduced value**, see eClass for details.

Please **keep this cover page** attached.

Weekly Response

I'm not your inspiration, thank you very much.

Link:

https://www.ted.com/talks/stella_young_i_m_not_your_inspiration_thank_you_very_much

- What barriers does Stella face?

Answer:

One of the main barriers she discusses is the societal attitude towards disability. She argues that people with disabilities are often objectified and treated as objects of inspiration rather than as real people who can achieve and contribute to society in a variety of ways.

- What changes to her environment could enable her to reach her greatest potential?

Answer:

Accessibility: Making her surroundings more accessible can considerably increase her capacity to move around and access resources. This could include installing wheelchair ramps, handrails, wider doors, and elevators, among other modifications.

Inclusive Education: It may also be advantageous to provide inclusive education that is tailored to her specific learning style and ability. This can include assistive technology, specialized teaching methods, and support services.

Employment Opportunities: Stella may have an opportunity to gain expertise, knowledge, and independence if there were more employment options for persons with disabilities. Partnerships with neighborhood companies, career training programs, and mentoring initiatives may all help with this.

Social Inclusion: Fostering social inclusion can aid in overcoming feelings of loneliness and encourage participation in the community. This might involve social gatherings, accessible transportation, and leisure activities.

- Has your perspective of disability changed, if so, how?

Answer:

Yes, my perspective of disability has changed. As more people are exposed to and understand the experiences of those with disabilities, their perspectives on disabilities may evolve over time. This might result from close friendships, education, advocacy work, or exposure to media and popular culture representations of people with disabilities. It's critical to understand that individuals with disabilities may have rich and fulfilling lives with access to resources and equitable opportunities since impairments are a natural aspect of human variety.

Welcome to Assistive Technology Success Stories

Link: <https://www.copower.org/assistive-tech/at-success-stories>

- Did any user story feel particularly impactful?

Answer:

These assistive technology stories are all unique and equally important in their own way. Each story showcases how assistive technology has made a significant impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities, enabling them to overcome barriers and achieve their goals.

- Did you notice any patterns in the user stories or proposed design solutions?

Answer:

There may be some similar patterns that emerge from the user stories and proposed design solutions. For example, users may have similar pain points or goals that they wish to attain, which may lead to the proposal of comparable improvements or functionality. Similarly, the proposed design solutions may share some characteristics, such as the use of a specific color scheme, layout, or interaction model.

It is crucial to highlight, however, that each user narrative and proposed design solution is unique and may not fit into any one pattern. Different patterns may emerge depending on the specific context or domain to which the user stories and proposed solutions are related.

- Do you have any personal stories you would like to share?

Answer:

There is a neighbor who has been helped with the assistive technology. Here's his story: John was a veteran who suffered a right arm injury. When he got back home, he had a hard time getting used to his new situation and managing with only one arm. A prosthetic limb, though, made everything different for him. He was able to restore his independence and confidence using the prosthetic leg. He could now do things that he had trouble with before, like cooking, cleaning, and even driving. John was appreciative for the assistive technology that allowed him to get his life back on track and experienced a sense of purpose.

Disability Inclusion

Link: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/disability#1>

- Do you have or know anyone with a significant disability?

Answer:

We have a relative whose child has a disability. She was fascinated by the sound of music and dreamed of becoming a professional musician. However, she was born with a visual impairment, which made reading sheet music challenging. Despite this, she began to learn the piano and was a natural musician. However, as she grew older, she found that the lack of accessible music notation made it difficult for her to pursue her passion.

- Have you felt any shift in your awareness of disabilities?

Answer:

In the above, the mentioned girl's parents had negative assumptions or beliefs about individuals with disabilities, but after interacting with and learning from individuals with disabilities, they begin to recognize their misconceptions and develop a more positive and inclusive perspective. By this time, I have felt shift in my awareness of disabilities.

- How do you perceive the awareness of disability in your community?

Answer:

I can say that, though, that a community's, regions, and cultural background can have a big impact on how aware people are of disabilities. People with disabilities may experience judgment and prejudicial thinking in some groups, whilst in others they may be totally integrated and accepted. It is critical to raise disability awareness and understanding in order to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to opportunities and are treated with dignity and respect.

Stories of Web Users

Link: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/people-use-web/user-stories/>

- Did any user story feel particularly impactful?

Answer:

As everyone's story is impactful in its way but for me Pretty's story seems particularly impactful to me. Here is her story in short: Preety is a middle school student with ADHD and dyslexia who enjoys her literature class despite substantial difficulty reading. With the help of text-to-speech software, she is able to focus on the content more easily while using digital textbooks. However, her experience with websites varies greatly depending on the use of graphics, advertisements, and navigation options. She finds websites with multiple means of navigation to be much easier to use. Preety's school also uses an online library catalog with improved accessibility, which allows her to search for materials on her own and benefit from search functionality that suggests alternative spellings and provides error corrections.

- Did you notice any patterns in the user stories or proposed design solutions?

Answer:

Yes, some patterns that can be observed from the user stories and proposed design solutions on the W3C website are: Many users with disabilities face barriers related to reading and comprehension, such as difficulty reading small text or following long blocks of text.

Assistive technologies such as text-to-speech software and screen readers can greatly enhance the experience of users with disabilities, making online content more accessible.

Navigation can be a significant challenge for users with disabilities, and multiple means of navigation such as search boxes, navigation bars, and sitemaps can greatly improve accessibility.

Users with disabilities may have difficulty with CAPTCHAs or other security measures that rely on visual or audio cues.

Overall, the user stories and proposed design solutions highlight the importance of designing digital content that is accessible to users with a variety of disabilities, as well as other issues such as text size, navigation, and use of assistive technology when creating digital.

- Do you have any personal stories you would like to share?

Answer:

Sophie, one of my friends has applied for many job opportunities in her field of study. As she has disability, so she finds trouble in moving or walking for a long time. She was looking for jobs in online. Sophie finds it difficult for her to apply for jobs as she does not have access to many online application portals. She encountered several barriers such as inaccessible CAPTCHA images, buttons that are too small to click, and forms that are not labeled properly.

Frustrated by the lack of accessibilities, Sophie contacted the company's human resources department for help with her application process.

Some companies are responsive and offer alternative submission methods such as email or phone.

As Sophie continued her job search, she found a company with an accessible online application process. The website provides clear and concise instructions, labeled form fields, and alternative methods for submitting applications.

Because of her company's commitment to web accessibility, Sophie was able to apply for the same job as other applicants.

Sophie's experience highlights the impact of her access online on the lives of all people, especially those with disabilities who rely on technology to access information and opportunities.