

# Defining Accessibility

EXSM 3929: Module 2

# Learning Outcomes

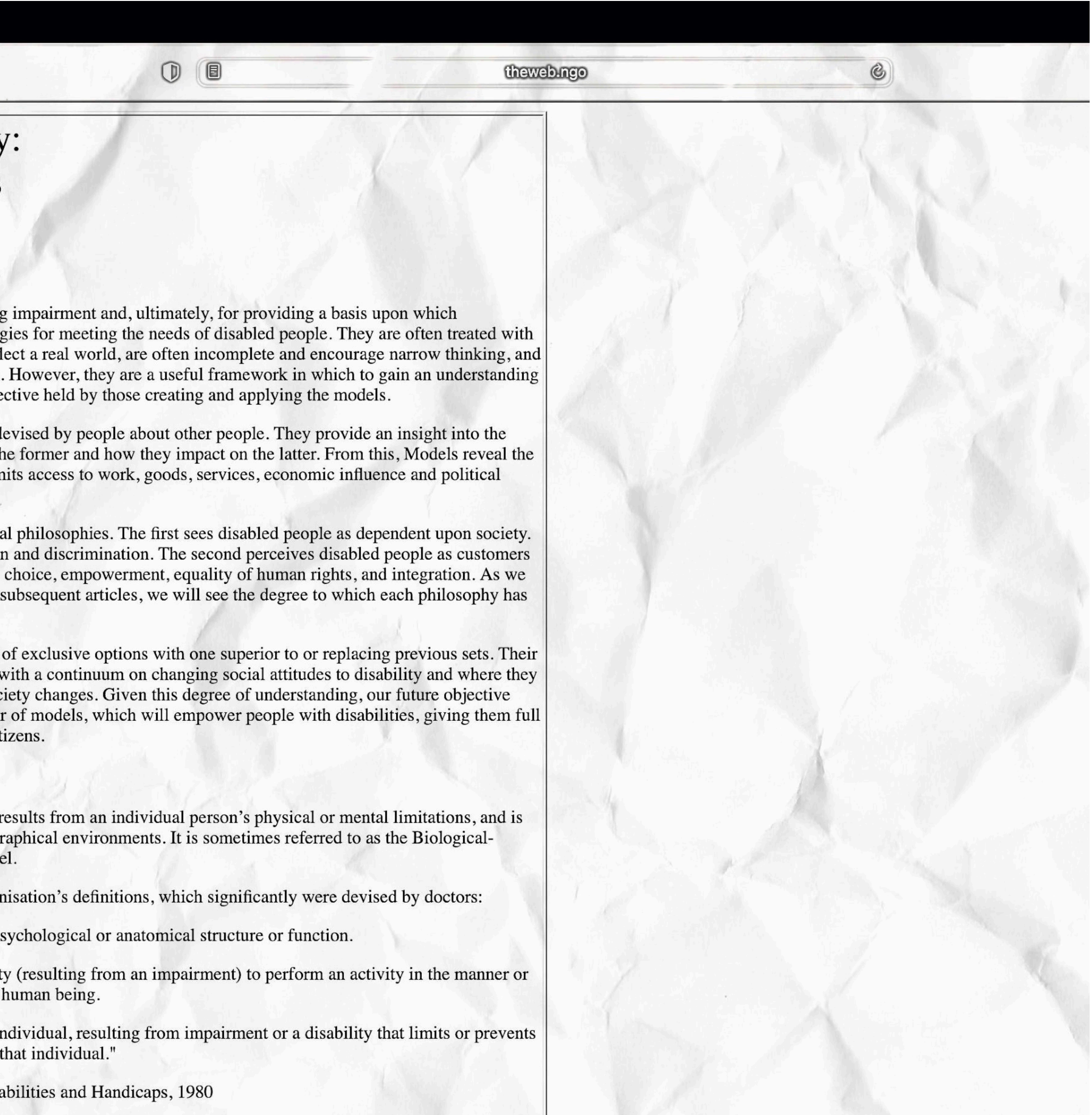
What is the purpose of this module?

- Describe the **models of disability**
- Compare and contrast the **Medical Model** and **Social Model** of disability
- Define **assistive technology** and **adaptive strategies**
- Describe the main **types of disabilities**

# Module Resources

# Models of Disability: Keys to Perspective

theweb. (n.d.). theweb.ngo



Screenshot of web resource in a black and white sketch style

**“Models of Disability are essentially devised by people about other people. They provide an insight into the attitudes, conceptions and prejudices of the former and how they impact on the latter.”**

**- TheWeb, (n.d.)**

# Summary

- models of disability are tools for defining impairment
- provide a basis for government and society to strategize how best to meet needs of disabled people
- Models: medical model, expert model, charity model, social model, social adapted model, economic model, customer model, religious model

# Optional Learning Exercise

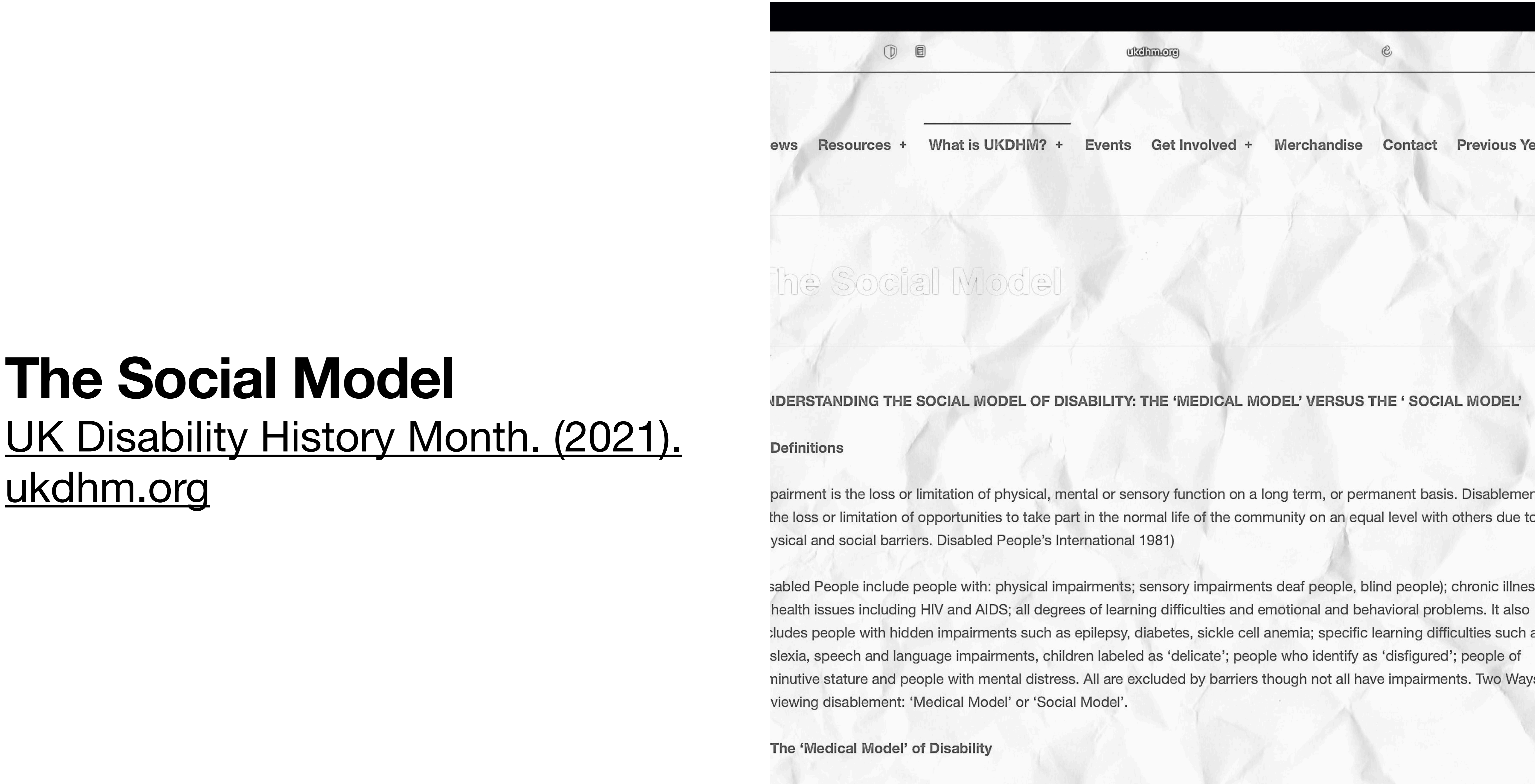
Try this exercise to help focus your attention and consolidate your knowledge

- Make a list of the models of disability
- Briefly describe the model in your own words



# The Social Model

UK Disability History Month. (2021).  
ukdhm.org



Screenshot of web resource in a black and white sketch style



**“Disablement is the loss or limitation of opportunities to take part in the normal life of the community on an equal level with others due to physical and social barriers”**

**- Disabled People's International, (1981)**

# Summary

- See definition of impairment and disablement
- Medical model - emphasis on science and cures, stereotypical views are reinforced by the media, creates a cycle of dependency and exclusion
- Social model - disabled people are subjected to a common oppression, society needs change

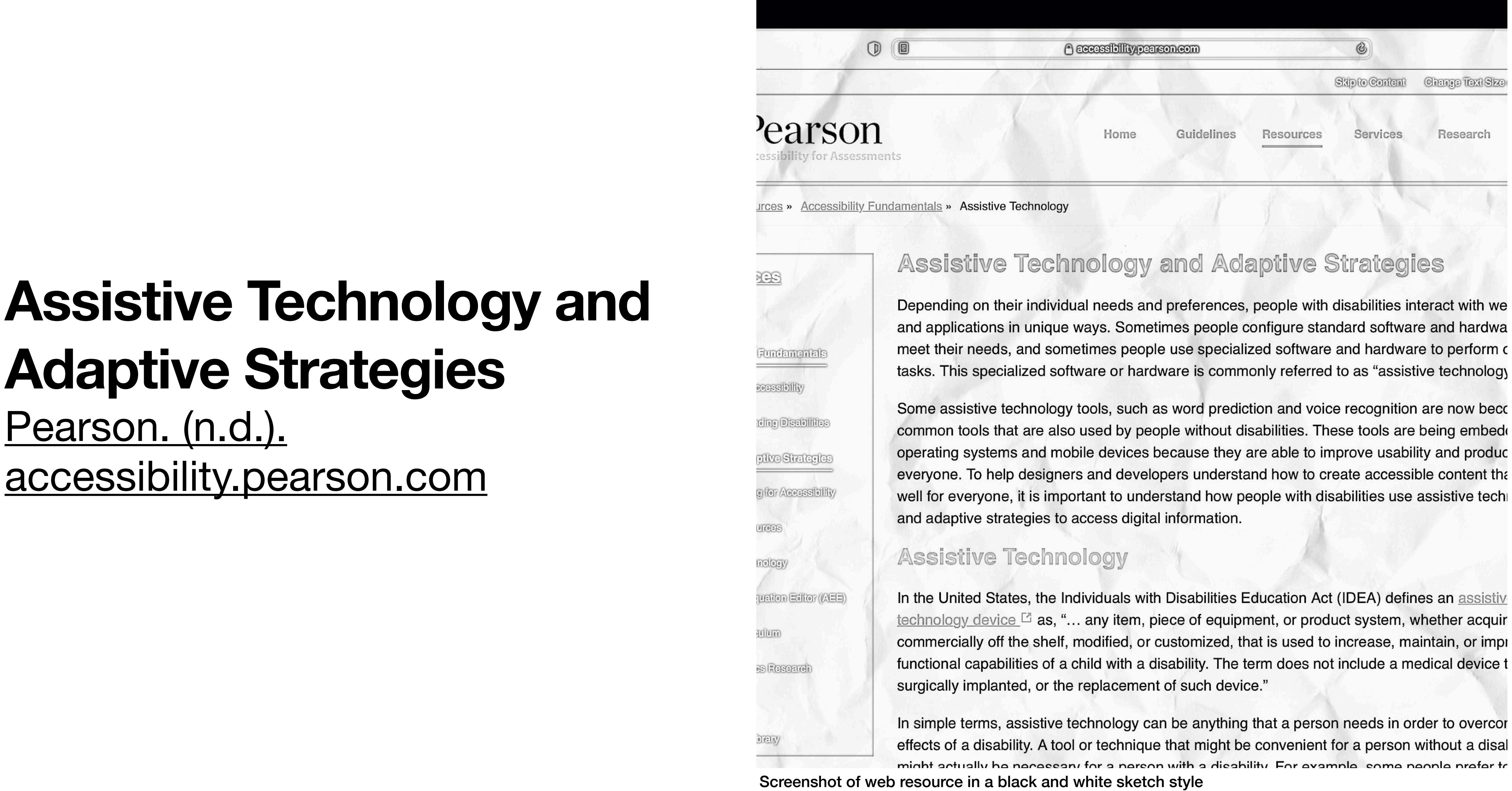
# Your Thoughts

Consider the following questions for our group discussion

- What are models of disability?
- Can you explain the difference between the two main models in your own words?
- How does understanding the models of disability impact our efforts as designers?

# Assistive Technology and Adaptive Strategies

Pearson. (n.d.).  
[accessibility.pearson.com](https://accessibility.pearson.com)



Screenshot of web resource in a black and white sketch style

**“Assistive technology can be anything that a person needs in order to overcome the effects of a disability”**

**- Pearson Accessibility, (n.d.)**



# Summary

- People with disabilities interact with websites and applications in unique ways
- sometimes Assistive Technology is used by people without disabilities
- Adaptive Strategies are techniques that everyone can use to improve interaction with websites or applications

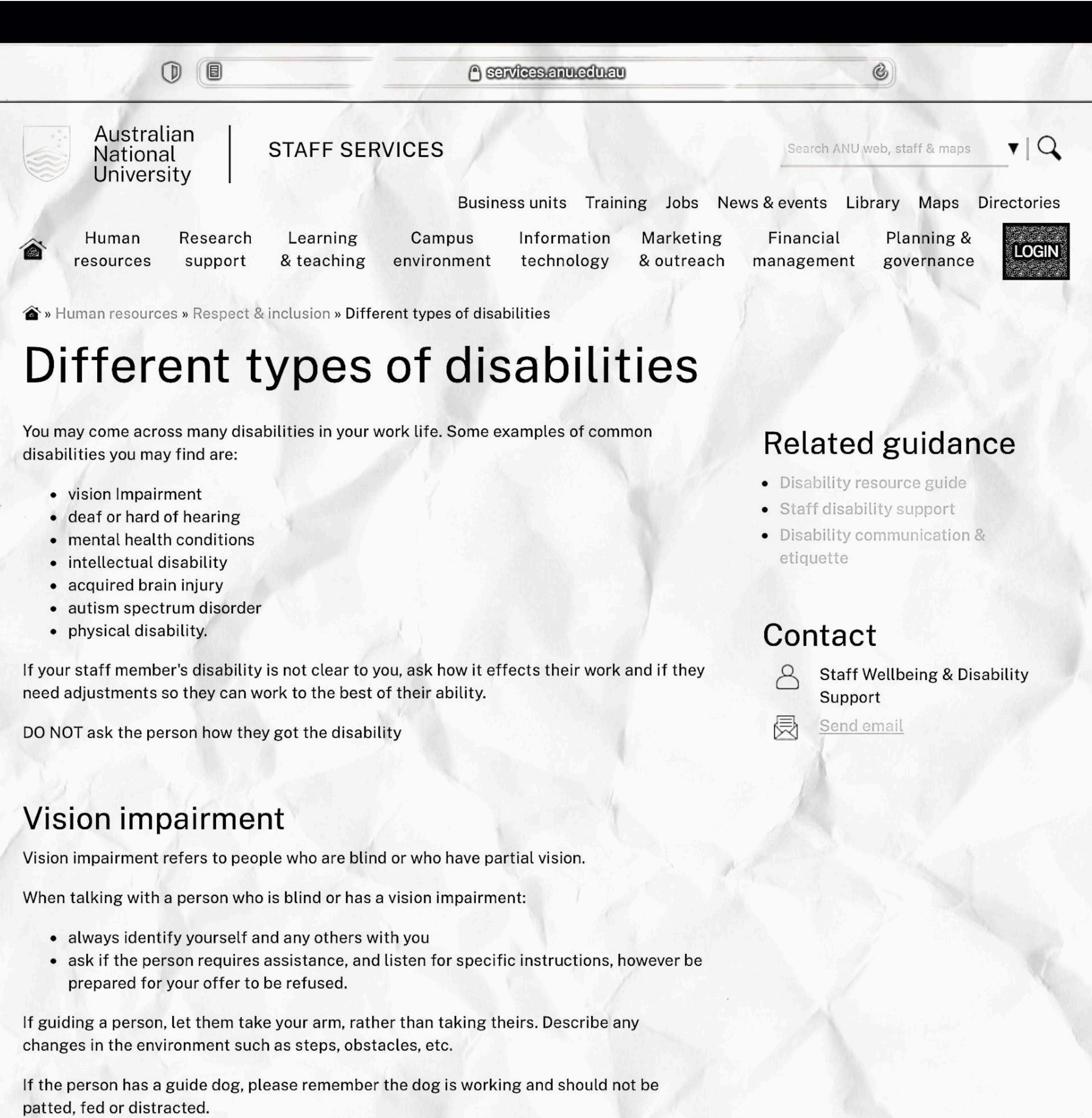
# Your Thoughts

Consider the following questions for our group discussion

- Do you have any experience with assistive technologies?
- Do you have any experience with adaptive strategies?
- What can we learn by sharing our experiences?

# Different types of disabilities

adu. (n.d.). services.anu.adu.au



Screenshot of web resource in a black and white sketch style

# Summary

- Vision impairment
- Deaf or hard of hearing
- Mental health conditions
- Intellectual disability
- Acquired brain injury
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Physical disability

# Your Thoughts

Consider the following questions for our group discussion

- What are the differences in the design needs of someone who is blind and someone who has partial vision?
- Is it possible for a design to achieve perfect accessibility?
- What are your greatest concerns thinking now about your current or past designs?