Defining Accessibility

EXSM 3929: Module 2

Learning Outcomes

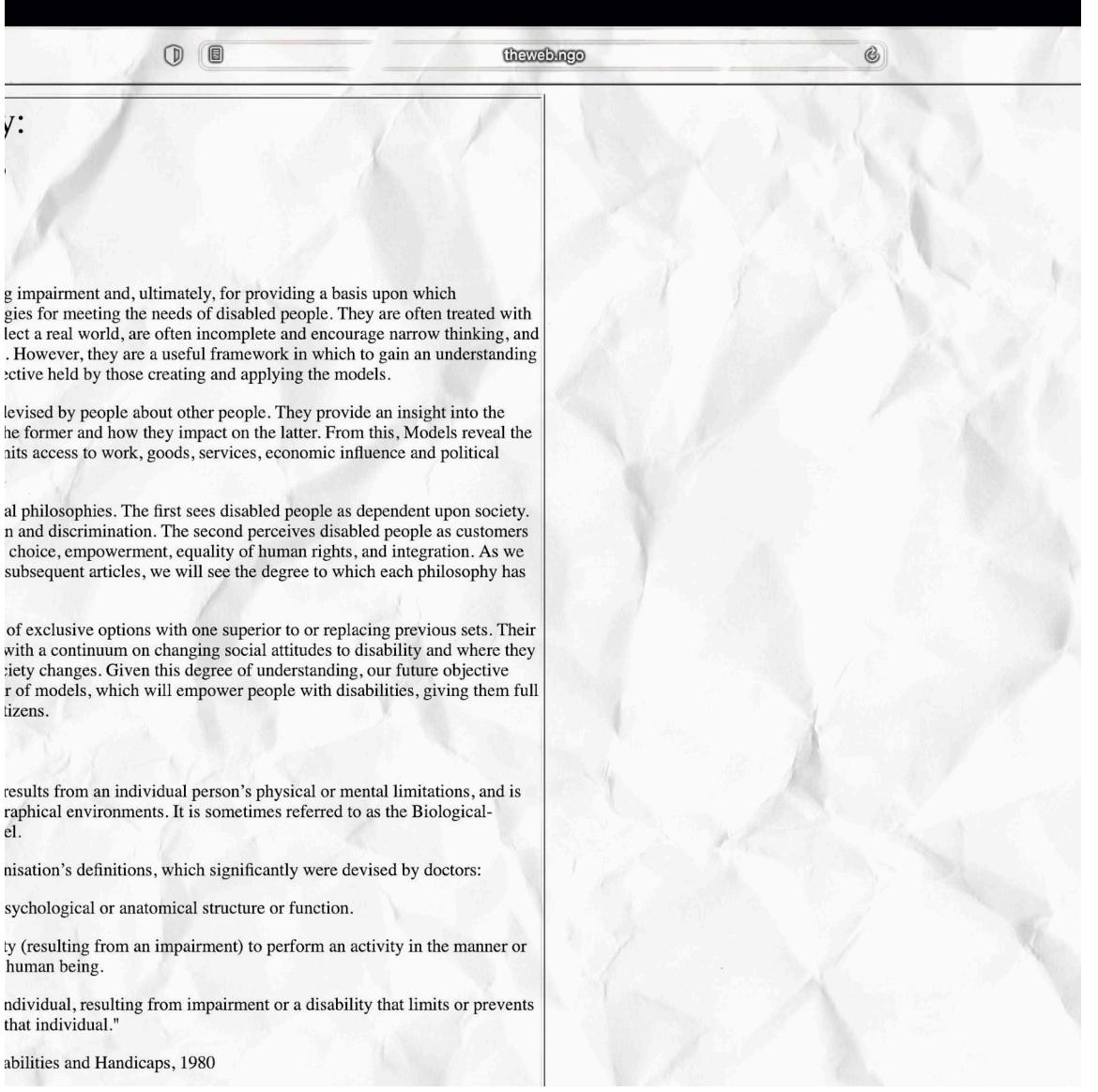
What is the purpose of this module?

- 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

thweb. (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.)

- 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

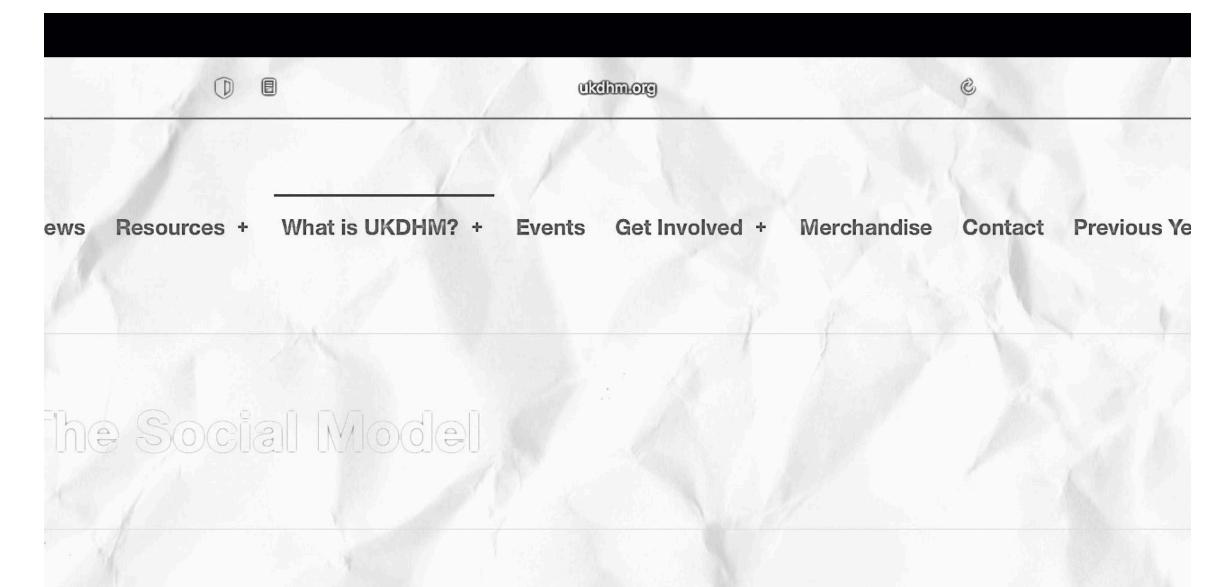
Optional Learning Exercise

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



IDERSTANDING THE SOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY: THE 'MEDICAL MODEL' VERSUS THE 'SOCIAL MODEL'

Definitions

pairment is the loss or limitation of physical, mental or sensory function on a long term, or permanent basis. Disablement the loss or limitation of opportunities to take part in the normal life of the community on an equal level with others due to ysical and social barriers. Disabled People's International 1981)

sabled People include people with: physical impairments; sensory impairments deaf people, blind people); chronic illnes health issues including HIV and AIDS; all degrees of learning difficulties and emotional and behavioral problems. It also cludes people with hidden impairments such as epilepsy, diabetes, sickle cell anemia; specific learning difficulties such a slexia, speech and language impairments, children labeled as 'delicate'; people who identify as 'disfigured'; people of ninutive stature and people with mental distress. All are excluded by barriers though not all have impairments. Two Ways viewing disablement: 'Medical Model' or 'Social Model'.

The 'Medical Model' of Disability

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)

- 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

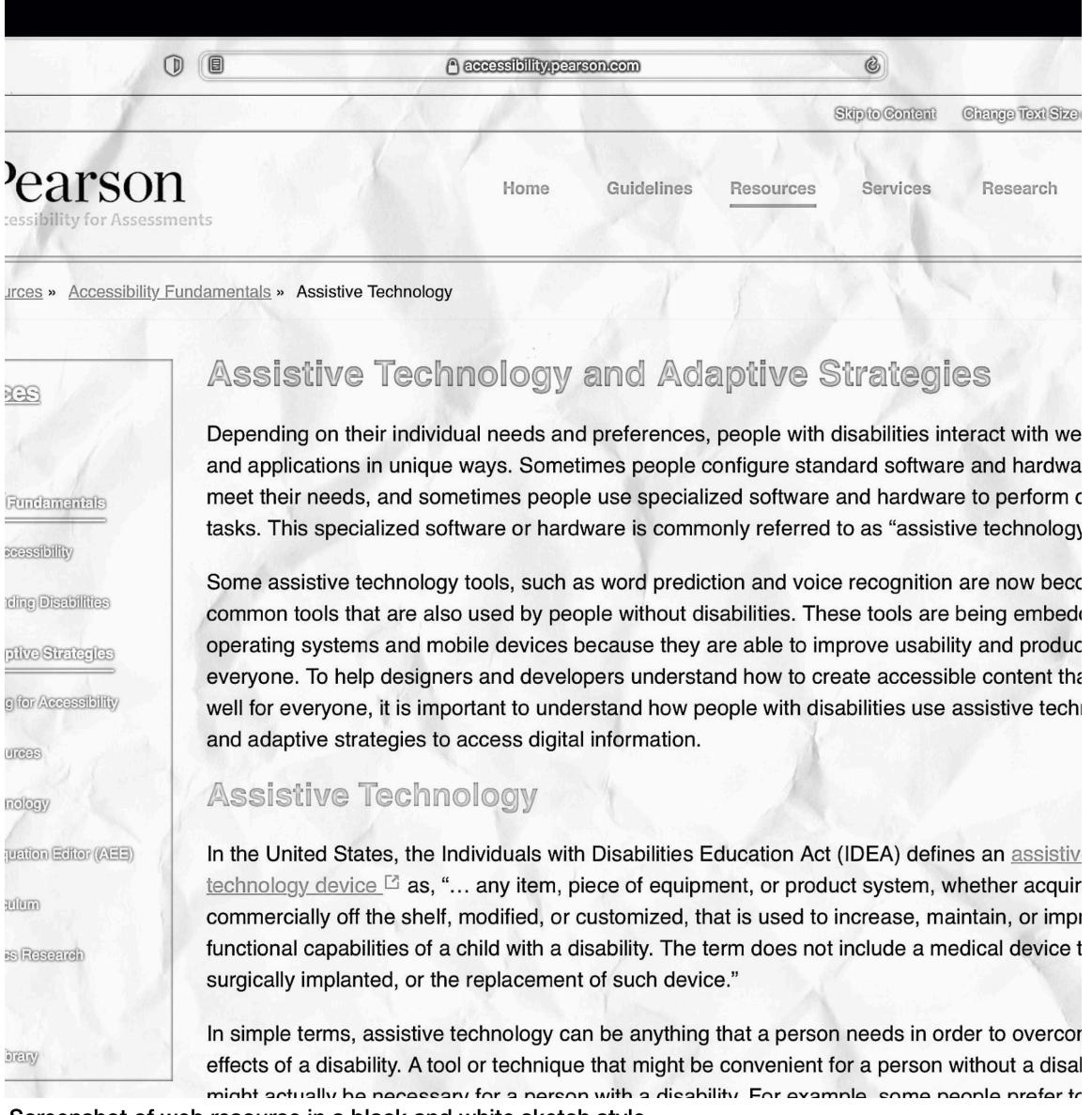
Your Thoughts

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



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.)

- 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

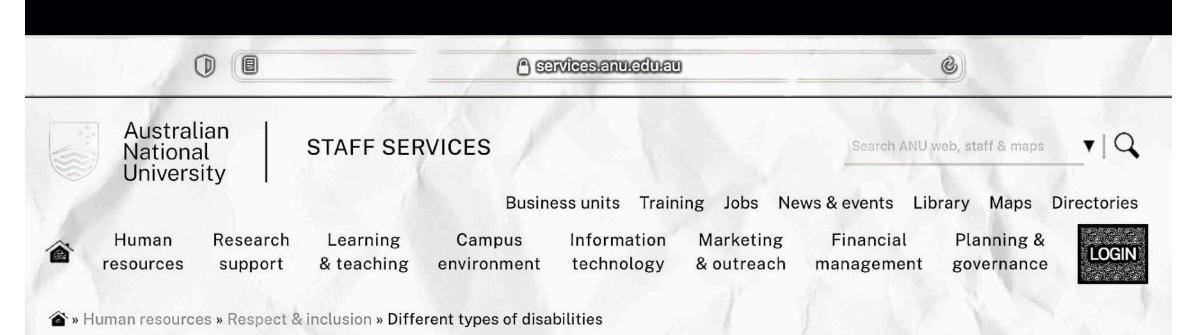
Your Thoughts

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



Different types of disabilities

You may come across many disabilities in your work life. Some examples of common disabilities you may find are:

- vision Impairment
- · deaf or hard of hearing
- · mental health conditions
- intellectual disability
- · acquired brain injury
- autism spectrum disorder
- physical disability.

If your staff member's disability is not clear to you, ask how it effects their work and if they need adjustments so they can work to the best of their ability.

DO NOT ask the person how they got the disability

Vision impairment

Vision impairment refers to people who are blind or who have partial vision.

When talking with a person who is blind or has a vision impairment:

- always identify yourself and any others with you
- ask if the person requires assistance, and listen for specific instructions, however be prepared for your offer to be refused.

If guiding a person, let them take your arm, rather than taking theirs. Describe any changes in the environment such as steps, obstacles, etc.

If the person has a guide dog, please remember the dog is working and should not be patted, fed or distracted.

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Related guidance

- · Disability resource guide
- Staff disability support
- Disability communication & etiquette

Contact



Staff Wellbeing & Disability Support



- 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?