ADA Checklist

Usability & Accessibility Recommendations for Web Developers

ADA Checklist:

* Improve legibility for visually-impaired and colorblind users by ensuring all text meets contrast ratio requirements. Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) recommend at least a 4.5 to 1 contrast ratio for normal text.
* All multimedia (<img>, <audio>, <video>) elements should have alt text describing the content for the visual- or audio-impaired to access via screen-reader or other assistive technologies.
* Descriptive link text (“Click here to see search results”) instead of generic link text (“Click here”) because some screen readers have settings to only read the links available on a page.
* HTML5 section elements are used for applicable content types to enable browser accessibility tools & screen readers
  + <header> once per page inside of <body> tag, denotes header. Different from the <head> tag with page title, meta info, etc.
  + <nav> once per page, denotes navigation bar. Should not be a standard “div”.
  + <main> once per page, denotes main body for “jump to Main” accessibility features
  + <article> many times per page, denotes independent, self-contained content (eg. Location Search result). Does it make sense without surrounding context?
  + <section> many times per page, denotes related content (eg. Each column within a data table)
  + <footer> once per page, denotes footer
* Headings (<h1>, <h2>, etc) used to represent information hierarchy
* <figure> used where data visualization elements necessary, and <figcaption> provides description
* <input> fields have appropriate <label>s to indicate expected data type and parameters, id=”” and name=”” fields. Example date input:
  + <input type="date" id="pickdate" name="date"></input>
* Radio button forms are surrounded by <fieldset>, include a <legend> description (not a <p>), and each <input id=””> option has a corresponding <label for=””> that matches the <input>’s id.
* Standardized times / dates with HTML5 “datetime” attribute, e.g.:
  + <time datetime="2020-03-20">Thursday, March 12th</time>

Usability & Accessibility Improvements:

* Add keyboard shortcuts to navigation items
  + E.g., make nav items keyboard accessible <nav><button accesskey="l">Home</button></nav>
* Make navigations tab accessible
  + E.g. When navigating to site for the first time, hit TAB to focus an item on the nav bar

<nav><button tabindex="1">Home</button><button tabindex="2">Menu</button></nav>

Tip: adding tabindex attribute enables the CSS pseudoclass “:focus” to apply styles to the currently-focused item, like a highlight.

* Glossary of terms and acronyms accessible from app footer
* FAQ/Info/Tooltips available to describe specific functionalities that may not be obvious to naïve user