

## Web Accessibility

Creating websites which are accessible means that people of all kinds can use it, people suffering from any type of disability and people who are not. There are various types of disabilities that may affect users, these can be categorised into: visual, physical, auditory, cognitive and neurological conditions <https://www.w3.org/WAI/fundamentals/accessibility-intro/> . There are also people who may have small screen devices such as mobile phones and TVs, people with temporary disabilities such as a broken hand, people with limited bandwidth or unable to listen to audio.

The principles of web accessibility include perceivability, operability, understandability and robustness.

Perceivability refers to how accessible a website is for people with disabilities. Content may not be arranged in a particular way to make this possible. Perhaps one may find alternatives to text such as images, video, charts or infographics. The last two however, may be tedious for people with vision-related disabilities since screen readers are often inaccurate in the way they read such visuals. <https://www.blueatlasmarketing.com/resources/part-1-web-accessibility-principles-perceivable/>

Operability refers to “how easy it is to operate and navigate” <https://www.digitalsilk.com/digital-trends/what-is-website-accessibility/> the website. The standard way of using a website entails using a keyboard, mouse and perhaps a monitor or another secondary screen. However, some people may have physical limitations so they may need to use just a keyboard, speech recognition and control or a trackball or joystick. <https://www.digitalsilk.com/digital-trends/what-is-website-accessibility/>

A website should be understandable instantly, reinventing the wheel is unnecessary and impractical. Most people want to understand your site and if it's useful and will not want to waste time learning how to navigate an unfamiliar site. Additionally, the easier it is to use and understand your site, the larger the range of people it caters for, and this is the goal.

<https://www.digitalsilk.com/digital-trends/what-is-website-accessibility/>

The robustness of a website is the difference between surviving and thriving. Creating a website that works well with tools commonly used by people with disabilities.

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Furthermore, when creating a website there are certain criteria that need to be considered and followed. Firstly, there are legal and ethical considerations which may vary by country or region. Web accessibility is an ethical responsibility and not just the law, as everyone deserves the right to have access to the internet and the world of knowledge it comprises of. Nowadays, testing tools exist for web accessibility and are rather simple to use such as Wave, Lighthouse or Axe <https://openai.com/index/chatgpt/>. Web accessibility also puts sites higher up on the search engines if the SEO is effective.

An example of bad web accessibility is a case study of Domino's in America which was not compatible with a screen reader. The problem was that a blind person could not order food and he sued the company. The company ignored or was not interested in this aspect of the company and as a result got a bad reputation, lost customers, and had to pay legal fines.

<https://userway.org/blog/the-dominos-verdict/>

My main focus is on making websites more accessible for individuals with ADHD, dyslexia, colour blindness, and blindness. To do this I would implement clear structure, user-friendly navigation and customisable features.

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