Web Content Accessibility

The internet is the key information source in education and making online content accessible is therefore an essential requirement. Web content accessibility is usually defined in terms of conformance to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines(WCAG).

These are organized around 12 Guidelines based on the following four major principles

1. Perceivable-Information and user interface components must be presentable to users in ways they can perceive (i.e. access process and understand content). For example images cannot be perceived by blind people and a text alternative must be provided.
2. Operational-User interface components and navigation must be operable. The website needs to work no matter how you access it. For example you should be able to access it via the keyboard.
3. Understandable -Information and the operation of user interface must be understandable.
   The language of the page whether it is English Spanish or whatever should be specified so that the appropriate speech technologies can be used. Language should be clear and simple and understood by as many users as possible.
4. Robust
   Web content should work on as many devices and with as many assistive technologies such as screen readers as possible.

There are three conformance levels   A (Mandatory), AA (Should have) AAA (Desirable) and the aim is to be at least accessible to level AA

General guidelines

- Have you provided a suitable **text equivalent for everything that's not text**?
- Can students get all the important information from your **videos and audio**, even if they can't see them or if they can't hear them?
- Did you **structure your information**, so that browsers and technology can understand its structure?
- Is there enough **colour contrast** between the website's written information and its background? Is there enough **volume contrast** between your website's spoken information and its background noises?
- Is it possible to use your website with **only a keyboard**?
- Is there **enough time** to read and use your website?
- Have you made sure that **nothing flashes** quickly?
- Can people **find what they're looking for** on your website easily?
- Can they make their way around the website easily?
- Can your customers **read your information easily**, and can they **understand it**?
- Does your website **work as its users would expect** it to work?

- Does your website help **prevent your users from making mistakes**?
- Will your website work on as many modern computers, phones, and browsers as possible?

Detailed Guidelines, Techniques and Rationale are available on the [WCAG 2.0 Page](#) Note [WCAG 2.1](#) is launched in June 2018 and this includes guidelines covering cognitive issues

Resources

[W3C Web Accessibility Initiative Website](#)

The [Web Accessibility in Mind (WEBAIM) Website](#) is a very valuable Resource

[WEBAIMS WAVE Tool](#) is a useful Automatic Accessibility Checker: Simply submit URL for Audit

More Accessibility Tools available at https://www.w3.org/WAI/ER/tools/

The National Disability Authority's Centre for Excellence in Universal Design has [web accessibility techniques](#) for developers, designers, and content providers and editors.