

# Annotated Portfolio



**JournaListen Prototype**

Team Pomme de Terre

DECO3500: Social and  
Mobile Computing

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# Problem Space

News is fundamental to society, providing up-to-date information regarding current events and topics, however only 3-5% of print material is accessible to a particular group in Australia - the blind and vision impaired (Vision Australia, 2016). This figure is astonishing low as there are currently over 350,000 people in Australia who are visually impaired or have low vision, and this number is expected to grow to 564,000 people by 2030. It is evident that this a problem that needs to be addressed to ensure everyone has the ability access all material, especially in the form of news content.



# Addressing the Problem

The proposed technology intends to stream video or voice recordings of local journalists as a new way of sharing breaking news with an audience, rather than through typed articles. This facilitates the delivery of news to persons who are unable to visually read news articles including people with vision impairment or auditory learners.



Using the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI), a set of strategies and guidelines to make the Web accessible to people with disabilities, our group set out to design a website that would:

- Allow journalists to upload video recordings of latest news content in a descriptive manner, rather than visual.
- Encourage more people who are blind or have low vision to the journalism profession.
- Connect the gap between journalists and their followers.

**Research**

**Requirements**

**Design**

**Development**

**Testing and Implementing**

# RESEARCH

Research was fundamental when initially exploring this problem space as it provided an opportunity to gain knowledge about vision impairment and assistive technology. The group explored academic studies, primary data, observational data and additional documents and developed requirements based on this information.

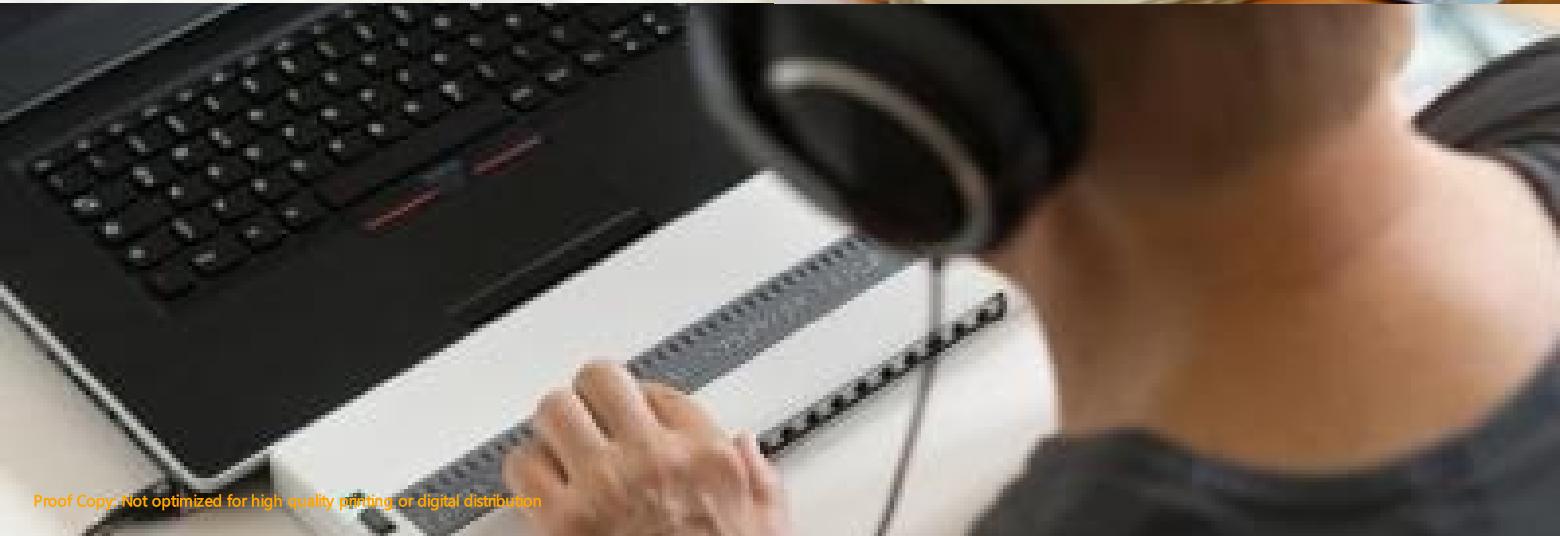
There are a large number of assistive technologies currently available for vision impairment including:

- Screen Reading Software (JAWS Screen Reader)
- Text-to-Speech Software
- Braille displays and printers
- Video magnifiers

iOS and Windows also provide alternative options and features for visually impaired users.

"I guess not a lot of people have met people with disabilities, and not a lot of people are open-minded about what they're capable of..."

- Nas Campanella





At least 1.5 million Americans with vision loss use computers  
- American Foundation for the Blind

▶ ▶ | 0:12 / 7:23

CC ⚙ □ ☰ ☱ ☲

## Web accessibility for people with vision impairments



awdsgn

Subscribe

183

9,703 views

Research was conducted through analysing YouTube videos featuring users using JAWS, Job Access With Speech, the world's most popular screen reader, developed for computer users whose vision loss prevents them from seeing screen content or navigating with a mouse. JAWS provides speech and Braille output for the most popular computer applications on your PC and provides many useful commands that make it easier to use programs, edit documents, and read Web pages (Freedom Scientific, 2010).



Nas Campanella, a Triple J newsreader, has been blind since she was six months old, when a rare abnormality caused the retinas to tear away from her eyes. Her love of music and radio launched her into a career in journalism where she relies on audio books, electronic text and the speech program Jaws. She believes there is not enough existing information about the assistance available to help employees with disabilities (Albert, 2014).

# Current Mobile Accessability Features:

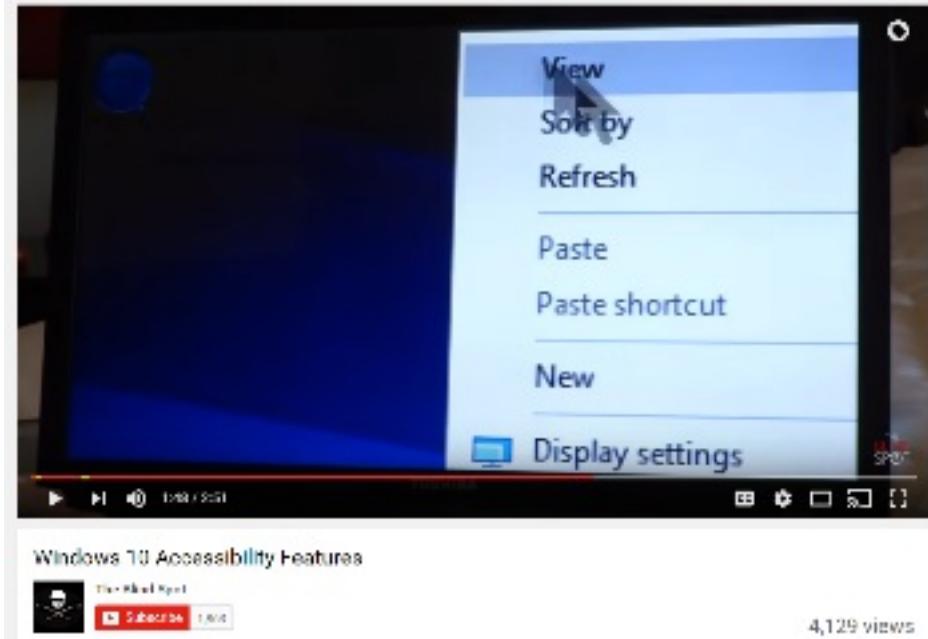
iPhone 6 Features	User/Benefit to Prototype
VoiceOver	Screen reader informing users about what is occurring on the multi-touch screen. Can be used in conjunction with mobile apps and requires no additional installation or configuration.
Siri	Integrated with Voice Over.
Speak Screen	Speak Screen can read emails, messages, books or web pages to the user. The voice's dialect and speaking rate can be adjusted.
Pronunciation Editor	Allows you to create a list of words and phrases along with the ways you want them to be pronounced phonetically.
Dictation	Allows the user to talk instead of typing.
Magnification	Works like a digital magnifier for real life.
Braille Support	Built-in braille support allowing a user to connect their braille device.
Display Accommodations	iOS allows colours to be inverted and white points reduced to support different forms of colour blindness.

Android 7.0 Features	User/Benefit to Prototype
TalkBack	TalkBack describes your actions and provides alerts and notifications.
Voice Access	Allows the device to be controlled with spoken commands, however this is only in beta.
BrailleBack	Allows the user to connect a refreshable braille display to the device using Bluetooth.
Screen Adjustments	The screen can be adjusted by altering the display and font size, temporarily zooming or adjusting colour and contrast options.



We explored YouTube videos demonstrating the use of these accessibility devices on both Mac and Windows. This image shows a man using a screen reader device to read and compose emails.

A man using Windows Zoom to provide a clearer and more accessible display.



# Web Accessibility Initiative

A major part of the research focused on the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) which aims to make the web accessible to people with disabilities. WAI supports the entire stage of a website with information focused on designing for inclusion and the diversity of potential users. We were able explore how Sandra Smith uses the web to perform their work.

SANDRA SMITH



*"Access to the Webby everyone regardless of disability is an essential aspect."*

**Age:** 43  
**Work:** Accountant  
**Family:** Married  
**Location:** Sydney

## Personality

Introvert	Extrovert
Analytical	Creative
Conservative	Liberal
Passive	Active

## Bio

Ms. Smith is the chief accountant at a company that uses web-based documents over a corporate intranet. She is blind, but like many other blind computer users, does not let it stop her from doing her job.

To use her computer and the Web,

- Screen reader software that interprets what is on the screen and generates speech output
- Web browser with keyboard support without a mouse

She uses the keyboard to navigate through a page, jumping from heading to heading to find what is on a web page. Her screen reader also reads structural information on a web page such as column and row headings in tables, form controls, and more. She has become accustomed to listening to speech output at a speed that she can understand at all.

## Frustrations

- When websites are not coded properly, they do not include structural information as screen readers read every web page from top to bottom, missing important information that she needs.
- When images do not contain alt text, it is difficult to understand what the image is about.
- When information is organized in a way that is difficult to read using a screen reader, such as tables with multiple rows and columns.

which provides guidelines and resources to make the Web accessible to people focusing on design, planning, implementing and evaluating. We focused on three personas of users who are vision-impaired and how they would potentially

at an insurance documents and forms and, like many do not read braille.

Ms. Laitinen uses: screen reader software to help use websites

websites, often by screen reader to get an overview of the page such as headings, list items, links, form fields. She is not accustomed to this and she has noticed that her co-workers

properly and do not know where to click. She would have to scroll to the bottom to find the right text.

text. She wants to enter data into a table as it is easier.

## Motivations

Incentive

Fear

Achievement

Growth

Power

Social

Motivated

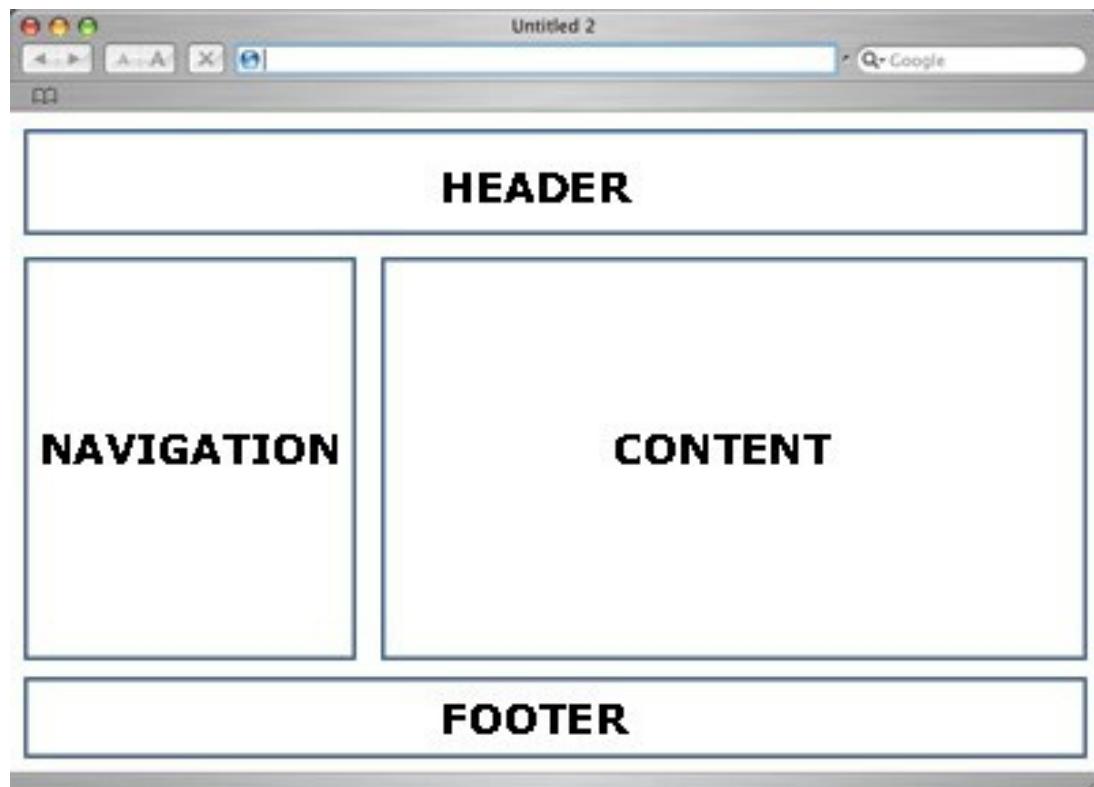
Quick-learner

## Goals

- Manage and alter documents
- Communicate with clients using virtual environments to video-conference and screen-share.
- Increase awareness about disabilities in the workplace.

People with disabilities using computers have similar interaction limitations as people without disabilities who are using mobile devices and both experience similar barriers when interacting with websites and web applications. To combat this WAI provided a number of tutorials for web developers, web designers and project managers focusing on importance of Page Structure, Menus, Images and Table. In the Page Structure tutorial it highlighted its importance as if a user is unable to find content or navigate inside a website than it creates major accessibility barriers.

- Page Sections – Use correct elements such as `<header>`, `<nav>`, `<body>` and `<footer>` as well as “roles” to help people navigate throughout the page.
- Headings – use of different level headings (H1, H2 etc.)
- Styling – distinct hierarchy through use of paragraphing, bullet points, font size and text alignment.



Does the image contain text?

Yes:

- ... and the text in the image is also present as *real* text nearby.  
→ Use an empty `alt` attribute. See [Decorative Images](#).
- ... and the text is only shown for visual effects.  
→ Use an empty `alt` attribute. See [Decorative Images](#).
- ... and the text in the image is not present otherwise.  
→ Use the `alt` attribute to include the text of the image. See [Images of Text](#).

No:

Continue.

Is the image used in a link or a button, and would it be hard or impossible to understand what the link or the button does, if the image wasn't there?

Yes:

- Use the `alt` attribute to communicate the destination of the link or action taken. See [Functional Images](#).

No:

Continue.

Does the image contribute meaning to the current page or context?

Yes:

- ... and it's a simple graphic or photograph.  
→ Use a brief description of the image in a way that conveys that meaning in the `alt` attribute. See [Informative Images](#).
- ... and it's a graph or complex piece of information.  
→ Include the information contained in the image elsewhere on the page. See [Complex Images](#).
- ... and it shows content that is redundant to *real* text nearby.  
→ Use an empty `alt` attribute. See [Functional Images](#).

No:

Continue.

Is the image purely decorative or not intended for the user?

Yes:

- Use an empty `alt` attribute. See [Decorative Images](#).

No:

Continue.

Is the image's use not listed above or it's unclear what `alt` text to provide?

This decision tree does not cover all cases. For detailed information on the provision of text alternatives refer to the [Image Concepts Page](#).

In the Image tutorial it explained how there are various types of images such as informative images, decorative images, functional images etc. It is important to provide appropriate text alternatives based on the purpose of the image. For example if the image is purely decorative than a null alt text would be used as it does not contribute to the visually-impaired user's experience. The tutorial highlighted a decision tree that should be used when determining this.

Research

Requirements

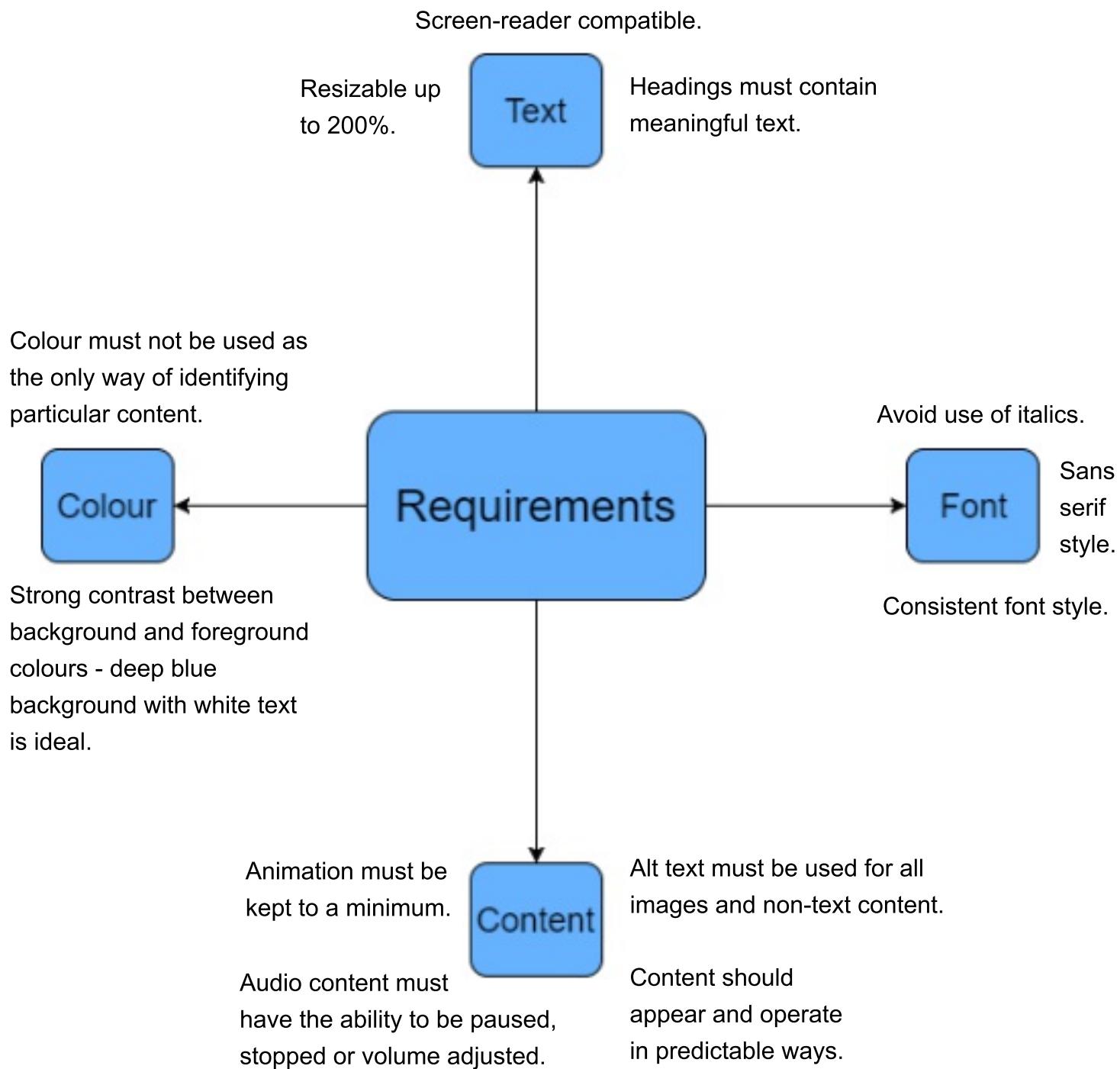
Design

Development

Testing and Implementing

# REQUIREMENTS

Based on this research the group believed it was essential that the following requirements were to be incorporated into the website's design.



Research

Requirements

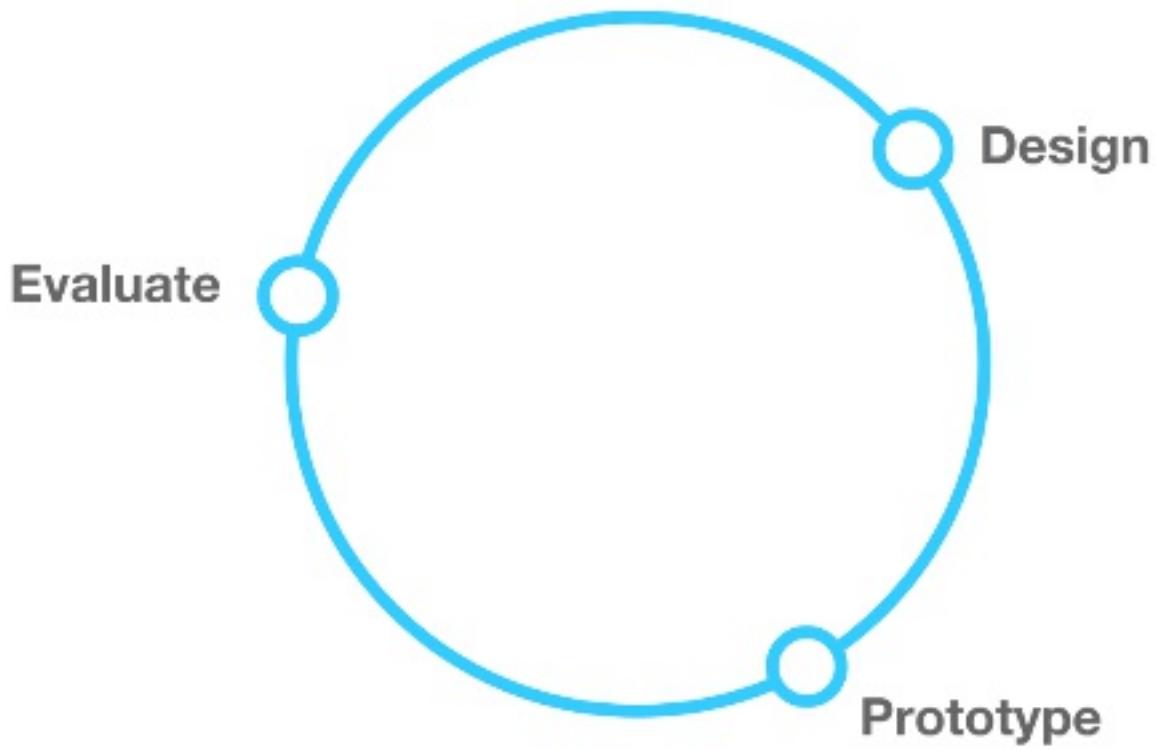
Design

Development

Testing and Implementing

# DESIGN

The following section will highlight how the research and requirements impacted the overall design process and additionally the significance of Iterative Design.



The iterative design process is essential when developing an idea as it encourages a better understanding of the problem space through continual developments and refinements based on feedback and evaluation. Through this rapid prototyping it ensures the quality and functionality of the design is continually improved (Culatta, 2013). Our group has adopted this approach and the main iterations of our design have been grouped into phases.

# 1. Initial Concept

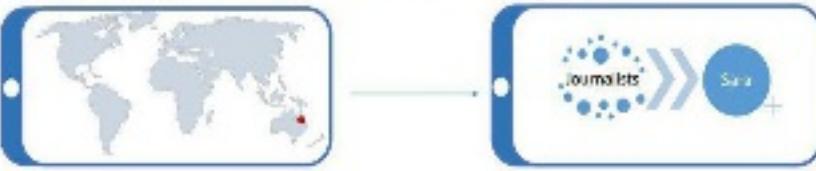
**Journalists' Map**

**The Problem:**

Today's generation addicted to social media applications which begin to represent primary resources for daily news. These applications led to a noticeable gap between news broadcasters and audiences. As a result, the journalism industry needs to keep pace with the change and finds a new way to deliver their news and increase their followers. The way has to be in the same domain and concept the social media applications have adopted.

**The Solution:**

The proposed technology intends to stream video or voice records of the journalists as a new way of interacting with the users rather than just typed texts. The application has two interfaces: user interface and journalist interface. Journalists have to have verified accounts that are associated with their locations. On a daily basis, they upload voice or video records of the news that they want to deliver. On the other side, the user login to the application and by pointing on the map, the application shows all journalists in the selected city or country. The user then follows the desired journalists. Later, once the user opens the application, the user plays the chosen journalists' daily records while they are working, playing, or driving.



The diagram illustrates the application's interface flow. It starts with a world map on the left, with a red dot indicating a specific location. An arrow points from this map to a second screen on the right. The second screen features a blue header with the word 'Journalists' and a blue footer with the word 'Start'. Between these headers and footers is a central area containing several small blue dots, representing journalists, and a large blue circle with a plus sign, representing the ability to add more journalists.

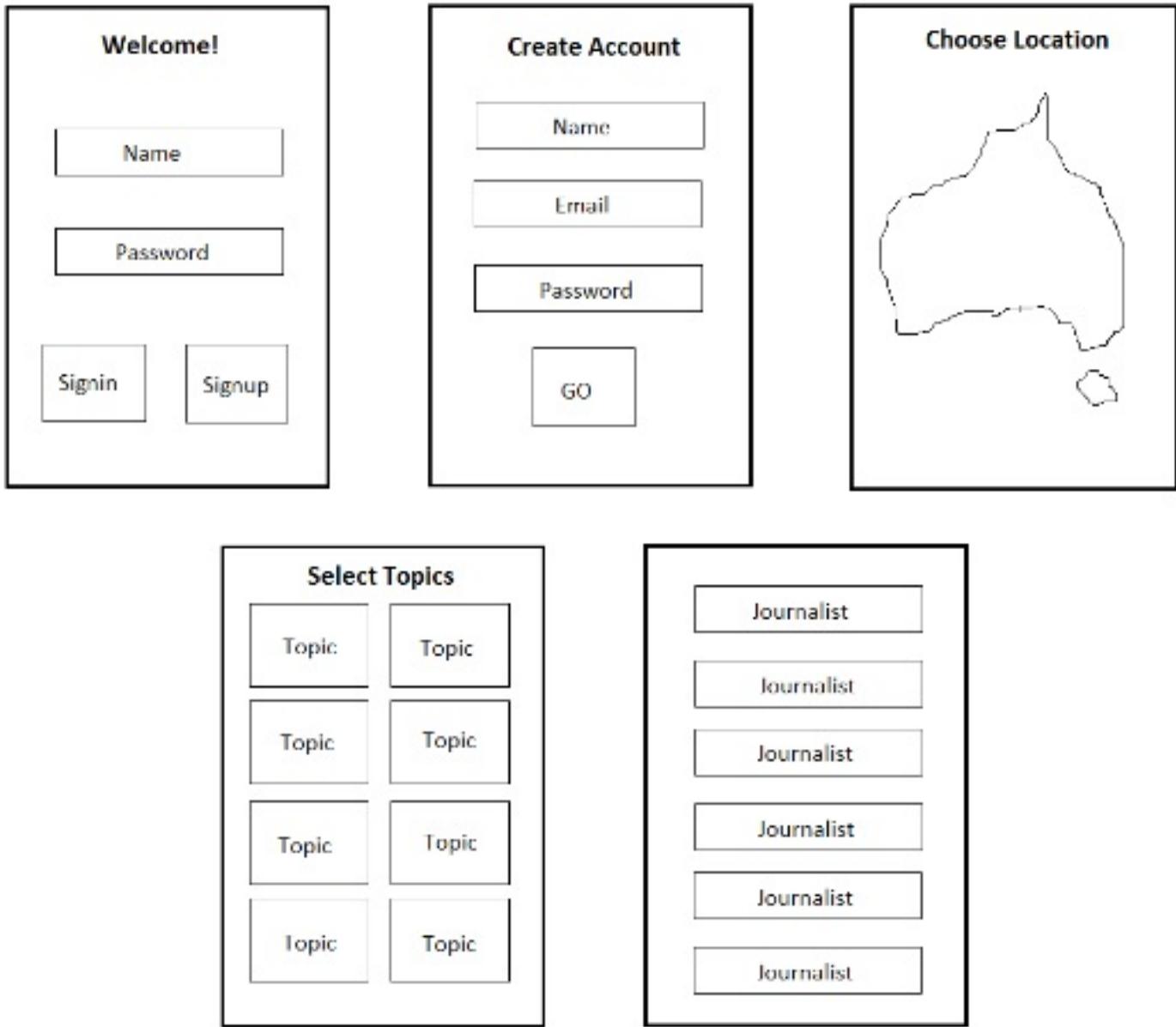
The design process started with this initial project idea, "Journalist's Map" developed by Rawan, which addressed the problem of the noticeable gap between news broadcasters and their audiences. The proposed solution focused on closing this gap and encouraging journalists to interact more with their followers. The mobile application would allow journalists to deliver the news in a new way, through uploading voice recordings of local news events rather than simply typed text articles.

## Evaluation

The group believed this concept was an appropriate starting point for the proposal but agreed it needed further development to ensure it supported the problem space and social interaction to a larger degree. The iteration of the design featured the following efforts:

- ➡ Refinement of target audience – targeting users with a visual impairment, auditory learners or people completing an activity (such as work or driving) that prevent their ability to read articles.
- ➡ Title – needed to reflect new focus of auditory functions, therefore the group believed "JournalListen" would be more appropriate.
- ➡ Generation of revenue – subscription plans etc.
- ➡ Additional enhancements – audible notifications and voice commands to support the target audience.

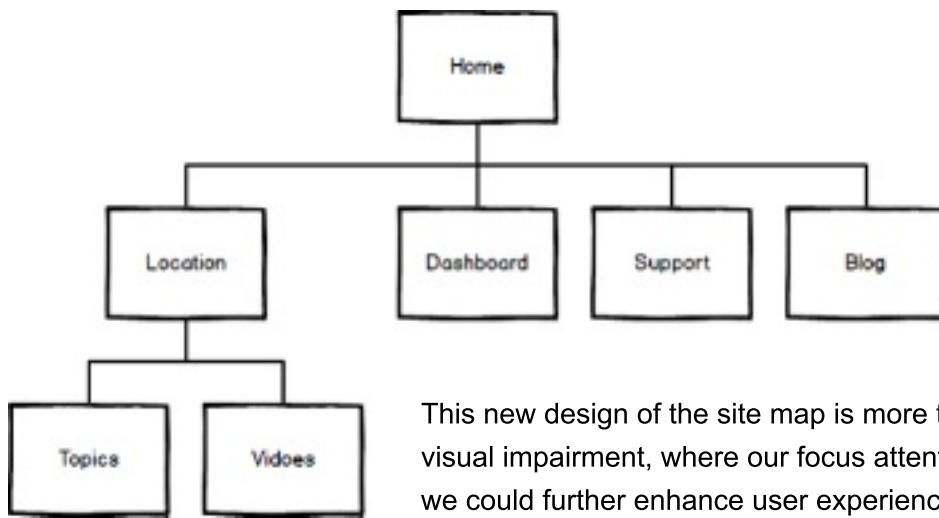
## 2. Proposal Concept



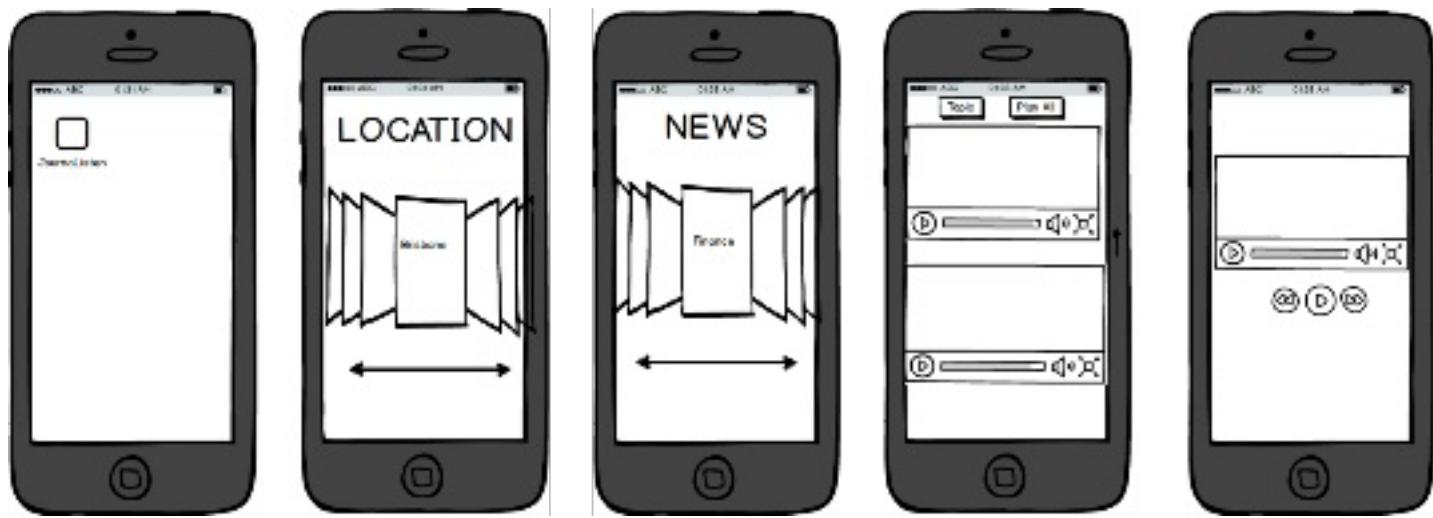
The above image are the wire frames that were mapped out during a brainstorming session in the second iteration as the group prepared the proposal. The wire frames demonstrate the sign up process for a first time user. After entering login details they are directed to select a location and news topics of interest (Sport, Breaking News etc). The app then provides some recommended journalists whom the user can choose to subscribe to. For repeat users, they would open the app and be directed straight to the homepage that would host all their preferences. The colour scheme of white, grey, light purple and blue(dark) will be adopted from the "Journalists Map" concept.

### 3. Proposal Feedback

After receiving feedback from the tutors regarding our proposal, the group believed we needed to further explore how a person with visual impairment would interact with our app, leading to the next iteration. We focused on utilizing the accessibility features of Apple IOS including VoiceOver, Speak Screen, Dictation and Siri.



This new design of the site map is more tailored to use by users who had visual impairment, where our focus attention was on accessibility and how we could further enhance user experience.



The new design removed the process of user registration and instead when a user accesses the app for the first time, there is be a 'Welcome' Alert, and also a mini tutorial describing how the app works (all done with a VoiceOver). The remaining steps feature the consistent use of swiping motions with VoiceOver incorporated. Similarly, to the previous iteration, repeat users would skip this process and just have their preferences loaded.

# 4. "Why not a website?" Feedback

## Evaluation

After evaluating the wireframes as a group, receiving feedback from the tutors and conducting a concept testing session with potential users, the following issues were raised:

- ➡ Concept was appealing, but the mobile application was fiddly
- ➡ Large amounts of whitespace
- ➡ Belief that journalists would be more inclined to use a website
- ➡ More powerful assistive technology designed for computers
- ➡ How could we encourage the social aspect?

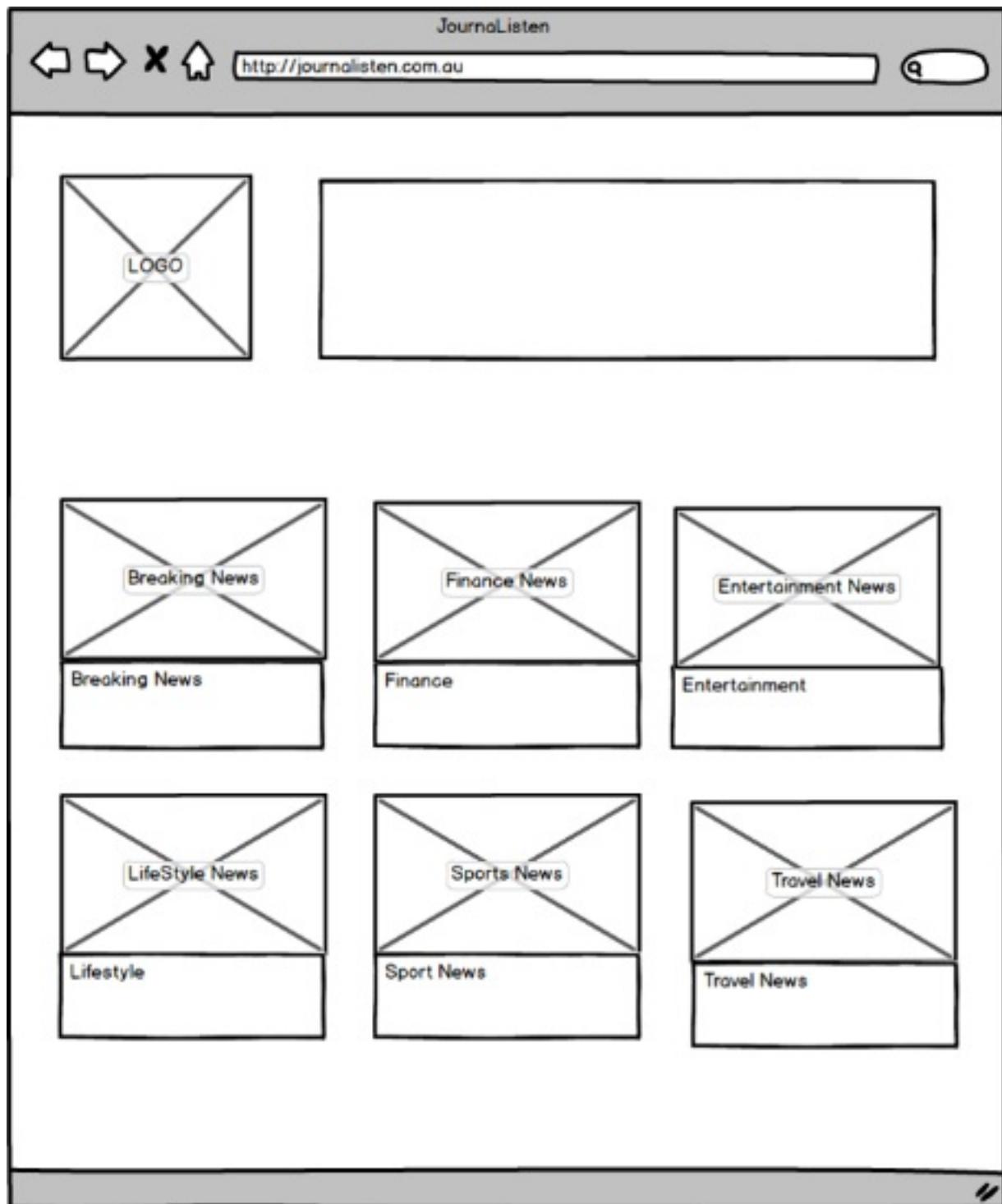


Concept testing was conducted with a small group of participants to gather input about the current prototype. Results from interview questions and additional observations helped the evaluation process.

"Why are you making an app? Not a website?"

- Joe, participant

# 5. Website Concept



Drawing upon knowledge gained from extensive research, utilisation narration, large text, and topic outlines were key to the design of this site. This is the initial mockup of the home page. The site will also include user identity, audio based discussionm, keyboard control and the addition of a navigation bar.

Research

Requirements

Design

Development

Testing and Implementing

# DEVELOPMENT

After numerous iterations of design the group commenced work on creating the web prototype for "JournalListen".



JournalListen, a service dedicated to delivering timely news to people living with low visibility or are visual impaired. It is aimed at giving people living with a visual impairment an opportunity to listen to lively news articles and create social interactions.

This site encourages users with journalistic flair to record news articles for its users. Furthermore, enables the visually impaired to join discussions on breaking news and news articles compelling the user to state their opinion. Thus creating an inclusive environment encouraging social, online interaction for people living with a visual impairment.

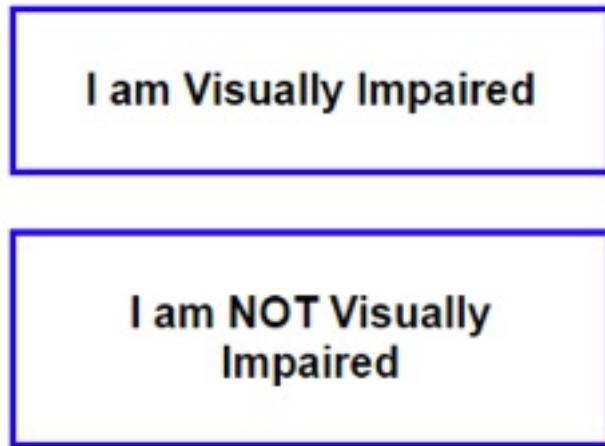
# Walking through JournaListen...

Splash Screen



## 1) Splash Screen

The website begins with a splash screen.



A splash screen was added to invite both visually impaired people and non-visually impaired people to use the website. The user selects the suitable option from the below choices on arrival to the website and certain features (such as images) and zoom are adjusted accordingly. It has been designed to be easily accessible to those who are visually impaired to ensure they do not access the wrong area.

## 2a) Home Page - Visually Impaired

The following is the home page when the "I am Visually Impaired" option is selected from the Splash Screen. The user can navigate back to the splash page by clicking the "Back to Splash" button.

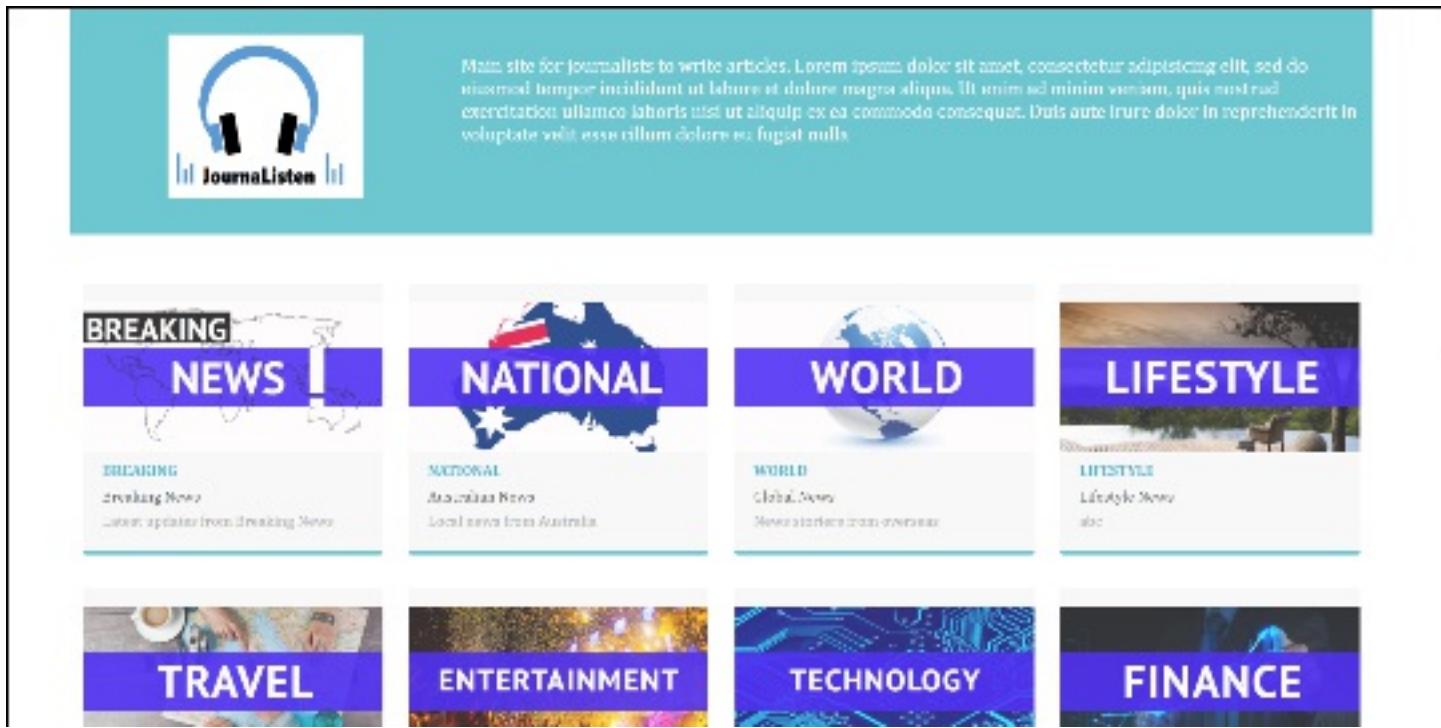
The screenshot shows a news website designed for visually impaired users. At the top left is a logo featuring headphones and the text 'JournalListen'. To its right is a large blue banner with white text: 'A news service dedicated to the visually impaired, straight from the journalists' mouth.' Below the banner is a navigation bar with links: HOME (highlighted in blue), Breaking, National, World, Lifestyle, Travel, Entertainment, Technology, Finance, and Sports. Underneath the navigation bar are two buttons: 'Record a Story' and 'Back to Splash' (the latter is highlighted with a red border). The main content area is divided into eight sections arranged in two rows of four. The top row contains 'BREAKING NEWS', 'NATIONAL NEWS', 'WORLD NEWS', and 'LIFESTYLE NEWS'. The bottom row contains 'TRAVEL NEWS', 'ENTERTAINMENT NEWS', 'TECHNOLOGY NEWS', and 'FINANCE NEWS'. Each section has a small sub-section below it with descriptive text and a link.

Section	Description	Link
BREAKING NEWS	BREAKING Latest updates from Breaking News stories	<a href="#">Read More</a>
NATIONAL NEWS	NATIONAL Australia-wide news stories and headlines from today	<a href="#">Read More</a>
WORLD NEWS	WORLD Headlines from the four corners of the Globe	<a href="#">Read More</a>
LIFESTYLE NEWS	LIFESTYLE Get your daily horoscopes, recipes and fitness tips here	<a href="#">Read More</a>
TRAVEL NEWS	TRAVEL The latest in travel news from around the world	<a href="#">Read More</a>
ENTERTAINMENT NEWS	ENTERTAINMENT Find out what is happening in Hollywood today	<a href="#">Read More</a>
TECHNOLOGY NEWS	TECHNOLOGY Tech updates, latest releases, and what's coming in the future	<a href="#">Read More</a>
FINANCE NEWS	FINANCE Check the stockmarket and keep your finances in check	<a href="#">Read More</a>

The background is a deeper blue colour to improve the contrast as stated in the requirements. Similarly, the font was a sans serif font and only one font style is used without italics. The navigation and content of the webpage is predictable and will appear consistently on all pages, again satisfying the requirements. A block style has been used to aid the use of a screen reader. The user can tab through each block to navigate.

## 2b) Home Page - Non-Visually Impaired

The following is the home page when the "I am NOT Visually Impaired" option is selected from the Splash Screen.



It can be seen that this varies greatly from the homepage for the visually impaired users. Images have been used and there is less of a focus on the meaningfulness of text. It is more visually appealing for users as the contrast is not overbearing. However, the navigation and topic content remains the same.

"How will you attract non-visually impaired users as well?

- Tutor

### 3) Topics

#### BREAKING NEWS

##### BREAKING

Latest updates from Breaking News stories

#### NATIONAL NEWS

##### NATIONAL

Australia-wide news stories and headlines from today

#### WORLD NEWS

##### WORLD

Headlines from the four corners of the Globe

#### LIFESTYLE NEWS

##### LIFESTYLE

Get your daily horoscopes, recipes and fitness tips here

#### TRAVEL NEWS

##### TRAVEL

The latest in travel news from around the world

#### ENTERTAINMENT NEWS

##### ENTERTAINMENT

Find out what is happening in Hollywood today

#### TECHNOLOGY NEWS

##### TECHNOLOGY

Tech updates, latest releases, and what's coming in the future

#### FINANCE NEWS

##### FINANCE

Check the stockmarket and keep your finances in check

A user is then able to select a topic of interest. These topics were selected as research demonstrated they were amongst the most popular and would generate the most website traffic. They cover a wide range of areas (Politics, Sport) which encourages journalists of differing backgrounds and interests to use the website. A brief summary has been included to highlight what each topic contains.

## 4) Listen to a Story

### Snakebite warning as Qld heads to summer

Original: Michael Lang (Brisbane Goodwill News), 10:10:2016 at 4:31pm  
Recorded by: Matt Davies - 11:10:2016 at 4:45pm - 1min, 51secs



Reference Reading

#### Comments

Comments from Other Users

[Listen to Previous Comments](#)

3 of 10

mattg - 3 minutes, 15 seconds  
11:50am - 6 Oct, 2016



[Reply](#) [Report](#)

tamm - 5 minutes, 45 seconds  
11:46am - 6 Oct, 2016



[Reply](#) [Report](#)

matty replied - 6 minutes, 1 second  
11:53am - 6 Oct, 2016



[Reply](#) [Report](#)

tamm replied - 3 minutes, 0 second  
11:58am - 6 Oct, 2016



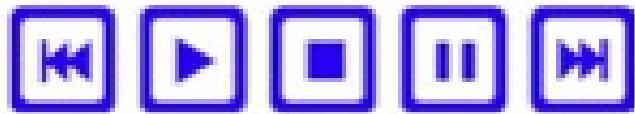
[Reply](#) [Report](#)

[Leave a Comment](#)

[Join the Discussion](#)

After navigating to a desired topic a user can listen to the various stories. As required, the audio content for the uploaded stories can be paused, stopped and volume adjusted as stated in the requirements. This ensures the content is user-friendly for the visually impaired users. To promote social interaction comments can be added to all news stories. These comments can also be recorded as audio content to continue the theme of providing accessible content for the visually impaired.

**mattg - 3 minutes, 15 seconds  
11:50am - 6 Oct, 2016**



[Reply](#)

[Report](#)

## 5) Record a Story

The ability to Record a Story has been designed in simple and interactive way. This was to ensure that it encouraged more people with disabilities. There is an instruction box, which provides the following verbal cues to the user on how to record a story.

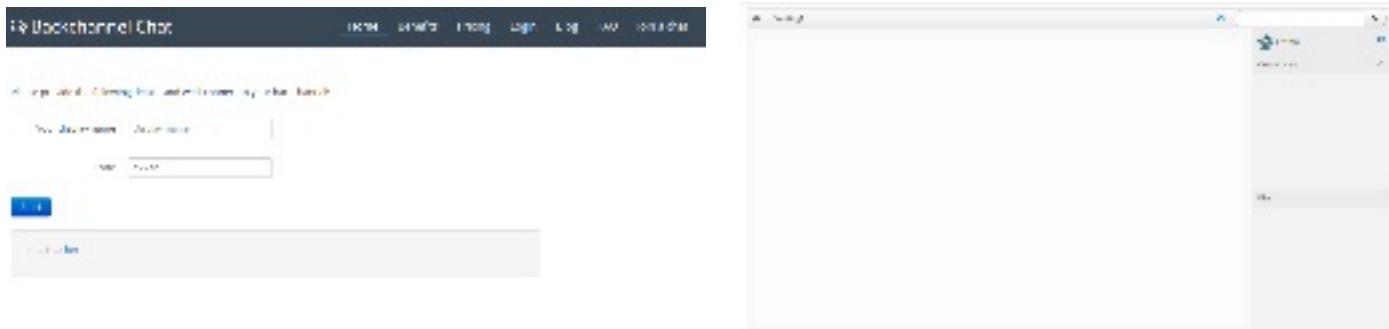
*"Press 1 to play the recording.  
Press 2 to record a story.  
Press 3 to stop recording.  
Press 4 to pause the recording.  
Press 5 to hear the instructions again."*

The screenshot shows a web page with a navigation bar at the top. The bar includes links for HOME, Breaking, National, World, Lifestyle, Travel, Entertainment, Technology, Finance, Sports, Record a Story, and Back to Splash. Below the bar is a media control area with a progress bar showing 0:09 / 0:20, a play button, and other controls. A large rectangular box contains the title "Record a News Story below" and instructions to use the keyboard. It features five large, outlined buttons for play, record, stop, pause, and refresh, along with a "Submit" button and an "Instructions" button.

This navigation feature was included based on the research from WAI as it allows the user to easily control their actions by the use of keyboard buttons. When the user is happy with their recording they can navigate to the submit button. The instruction box is located on the top right of the page, ensuring logical navigation.

## 6) Participate in a Live Chat

To increase the social aspect of JournaListen, rather than simply allowing users to add comments, there is also a “Live Chat” feature that they can join. It allows users to speak in real-time with other people listening to the articles and share opinions.



Backchannel Chat was used to host the live chats as it simply requires a user to enter a display name and they are then taken to the chat page of the corresponding story.

Research

Requirements

Design

Development

Testing and Implementing

# TESTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for 'Pomme-de-Terre'. At the top, there's a header with the repository name, a star icon (0 stars), and a fork icon (1 fork). Below the header is a navigation bar with links for Code, Issues (0), Pull requests (0), Boards, Reports, Projects (0), Wiki, and a dropdown menu. A note below the navigation bar states 'No description or website provided' with a link to 'Edit'. Below this are summary statistics: 56 commits, 1 branch, 0 releases, and 2 contributors. A 'Branch: master' dropdown and a 'New pull request' button are also present. The main content area displays a list of recent commits:

Author	Commit Message	Time Ago
Taylor Rose	Adding User Testing Scans	Edited 1 commit seen for 4 hours ago
	.metadata	Metadata
	Journalisten	Added Instructions for record.html, added favicon to site, removed un...
	User Testing Documents	Adding User Testing Scans
	README.md	Updated roadmap to reflect finished product.
	README.md	

Below the commit list, there's a section titled 'Pomme-de-Terre - "JournaListen"' with instructions for using the prototype:

Prototype (GitHub Preview - Updated 26.10.16): <http://bit.ly/2eleuSK>  
In order to get the full functionality of the JournaListen site, please use Google Chrome.  
You will also need to install the ChromeVox extension before you begin: <http://www.chromevox.com/>

Testing was completed consistently throughout the design process and the main documentation is contained in the [User Testing Documents](#) on the GitHub page. The final implemented prototype is also located [here](#), along with the [promotional material](#).

# THE TEAM

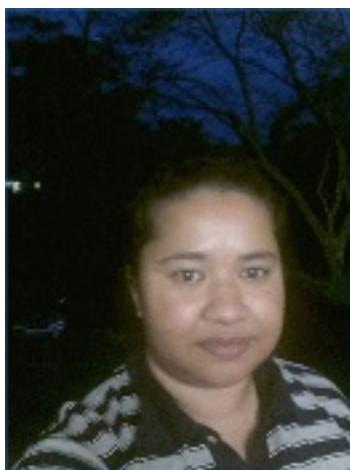
As the scope of the project was significant, each member was allocated a different role based on their strengths:



Emma - research and requirement gathering and annotated portfolio.



Taylor - web application design/generation and user experience testing.



Gima - prototype design and content generation.



Rawan - backend of the application such as design and programming.

# REFERENCES

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