Web Accessibility Research

A massively important part of the development of a website is making it as accessible as possible to those that are differently abled. In this essay I will define what web accessibility is as well as discuss some of the principals along with real examples that make use of these principals.

Firstly, one of the possibly easiest but most useful ways to make a website more accessible is through picking a good colour palette that has a high contrast between the background and the text. This will ensure that users that are colour blind can still easily navigate through the site. Websites like apple and BBC are a perfect example of this as they both have a primarily white background with black text. Additionally, the BBC website also feature a good number of videos, so they make sure to include subtitles of what is being said at the bottom of the video to ensure that deaf and hard of hearing users are able to be informed as well. Similarly, another method of ensuring accessibility is through alt text for images which ensures blind users can still get detailed visual information through a reader or text to speech if it is compatible with their device. Alternatively, a way to be inclusive to those that have issues with sight would be to include an option in a settings page to enlarge all text for easier viewing. Finally, one of the best ways to cement a websites accessibility to a broad audience is to make the design as simple as possible to make navigation easy and straight forward. This can be achieved by making the website operate in predictable ways by following layouts that have become the standard over time and picking a typeface that is easy to read instead of one that is more stylized, especially for big chunks of texts.

For my website I plan to include some of these features as well where it makes sense and where it is possible to do so. For example, I will likely make the background black with white text to combat colour blindness issues and test to see if a silver metallic look for the title text will be a good enough contrast for this as well. Using a colour palette of only 2 primary colours will also make it very I also plan to include the option to enlarge text and to ensure that I am able to do this I will make the layout of my website as simple as possible to accommodate for those that don't have good vision without sacrificing its aesthetics. Another way I plan to make the site accessible in an easy way is to make sure I always make use of simple wording and add alt text for any images I use to make it compatible with devices that have text to speech features for the blind. Lastly, I also intend to design the website as simple as possible to make navigation easy for all and to keep the coding aspect from getting too complicated.