Accessibility Test Results

November 3, 2015

About the Test

The Dev instance of Science Online (sciencedev.aaas.org) was tested using WAVE Web Accessibility plugin for Chrome. The WAVE (**W**eb **A**ccessibility **E**valuation **T**ool) test evaluates web pages using WCAG 2.0 Level AA guidelines as well as Section 508 guidelines.

The WAVE test was run against a comprehensive list of content types, landing pages and static pages integral to ER2.

General overview of results

The site's main issue seems to be with proper `alt` attributes for images. In certain cases, Digital Media Web Technologies can remedy this with alt tags that replicate what is found in the captions. This, however, can make things difficult for the visually impaired users who may be confused by hearing the same text twice from their screen reading programs.

For the most part, missing `alt` text traces back to the content creators. It is important that editors/production staff include `alt` text for every image imported into the system, no matter how small. This text is for the benefit of those who are hard of hearing or who may have trouble deciphering the nature of the image they are viewing.

Images used for advertisements must also be considered. If this information is not drawn in from OAS, we must include some sort of accompanying text to make the ad images compliant.

Empty `form` labels also present a problem. Digital Media Web Technologies will need to come up with a way to provide form label information to footer forms (the "Subscribe Today" and "Get Our Newsletters" Forms, which use suggested text instead of labels).

Some common issues

Alternative Text - "missing alternative text" and "linked image missing alternative text" are common. Often, "linked image" missing alt comes from images in Drupal that have no `alt` text, or their `alt` text is not included as part of the template setup.

Proposed Solution - Digital Media Web Technologies should devise a way to include `alt` text for an image as part of the upload process, perhaps by making `alt` text a required field for upload?

Form Labels - There are missing or empty form labels for several forms around the site.

Proposed Solution - Make form labels the standard where we can. If we must avoid labels for a given form, can we come up with the kind of label that is only visible for users that demand screen reader access?

Document Language Missing - Did we forego the doc language elements for a specific reason?

Proposed Solution - Set the doc language to English?

Empty Link - Our social media buttons are all set up in such a way that no actual text is placed inside of them. This throws an error as textual links must have actual text inside.

Proposed Solution - Find a way to work text into social buttons.

Broken Skip Link - The "Skip to Content" link is not working. Is this link a necessary compnent of the design?

Redundant Links and Text - In the case of pages like Sifter, there are links both on the image and the text beneath, in both cases having the same `alt` text and link text. This is not an *error*, merely an alert, but this would be a concern for people using screen readers.

Long `alt` text - This is another alert, not an error, but worth discussing: if we were to come up with an automated way to put article headers or caption text into the alt tags, would that be a detriment to accessibility?

Images with the same `alt` text - In certain cases, images have similar or the same `alt` text as images near them. We'll have to account for this somehow.

Links to PDF - We have a few ways to call out PDF downloads, but these links should always be clearly marked.

[ARIA labeling and Accessibility](#)