

Task 1:

In not less than 500 words, make sure to explain what Web Accessibility is, detailing some of its principles with examples from existing website, and giving some examples of what aspects of Web Accessibility you intend to implement in your own project.

Web accessibility refers to the practice of designing and developing websites in a way that allows people of all abilities and disabilities to access, navigate, and interact with web content effectively. It ensures that users with disabilities such as visual, auditory, motor, or cognitive impairments are able to use a website with ease (W3C, n.d.).

The goal of web accessibility is to create an inclusive online environment where everyone, regardless of their abilities, can obtain the same level of information and services. The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines are the global standard for web accessibility.

These guidelines are built on four fundamental principles:

1. Perceivable – Information must be presented in ways users can perceive.
2. Operable – The user interface and navigation must be usable.
3. Understandable – Information and operation of the UI should be comprehensible.
4. Robust – Content must be robust enough to be interpreted by a variety of user agents, including assistive technologies. (WebAIM, n.d.).

Examples of Web Accessibility in Existing Websites:

1. Mysa Skincare (<https://mysa-skincare.com/>)

Mysa Skincare implements various web accessibility features that make the website more inclusive. Some of the notable aspects include:

- Readable and contrasting text: The website ensures that text has a high contrast against its background, making it easier for users with visual impairments to read content.
- Keyboard navigation: Users can navigate the site using only the keyboard, which is essential for those with motor disabilities who cannot use a mouse.
- Alternative text for images: The website includes descriptive alt text for images, allowing visually impaired users to understand image content through screen readers.

2. Patreon (<https://www.patreon.com/>)

Patreon, a platform that supports content creators, also integrates various accessibility features:

- Clear and consistent navigation: The website has a well-structured and predictable navigation system, making it easier for users to move around the site without confusion.

- Accessible forms and buttons: All interactive elements, such as forms and buttons, are labeled appropriately, allowing users with assistive technology to interact with them efficiently.
- Captions for video content: Patreon provides closed captioning for video content, ensuring that users with hearing impairments can access the information presented in multimedia formats.

As I plan to develop my own website in the future tasks, I intend to implement several web accessibility features inspired by Mysa Skincare and Patreon:

1. High-contrast text and readable fonts: Ensuring that text is easy to read by using sufficient contrast between text and background, as well as choosing accessible fonts.
2. Alt text for images: Adding descriptive alt text to all images so that screen readers can convey the image content to visually impaired users.
3. Clear Structure and Headings: Using proper HTML heading structures to improve readability.
4. Accessible Forms: Labeling form fields correctly and providing error messages that help users understand mistakes and correct them easily.
5. Responsive Design: Making sure that the website adapts to different screen sizes and devices, allowing for easy use across desktops, tablets, and mobile devices.

Web accessibility is essential for creating an inclusive digital experience that accommodates users of all abilities. By following the WCAG principles and drawing inspiration from well-designed websites such as Mysa Skincare and Patreon, I plan to implement key accessibility features in my own project. Ensuring readability, keyboard navigation, alternative text, and multimedia accessibility will contribute to a more user-friendly and inclusive website. Ultimately, prioritizing web accessibility will not only improve usability for people with disabilities but also enhance the overall experience for all users (W3C, n.d.; WebAIM, n.d.).

References

W3C. (n.d.). Introduction to web accessibility. Retrieved from <https://www.w3.org/WAI/fundamentals/accessibility-intro/#what> [Date accessed: 11.03.2025].

WebAIM. (n.d.). Web accessibility principles. Retrieved from <https://webaim.org/resources/quickref/#principles> [Date accessed: 11.03.2025].