Final Project

Web Accessibility for Screen Readers

Sources:

**W3C WAI. (n.d.). Making the web accessible. Retrieved April 12, 2021, from** **https://www.w3.org/WAI/**

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) determines and publishes guidelines for making the web more accessible for everyone. On their website they have practical guides, legal guidelines and interviews with diverse website users. They say that they developed their guidelines after consulting with a bunch of different people including lawmakers, disability advocacy organizations, industry groups and research organizations. I will likely use multiple pages on their website for sources and will have to create separate citations for those, so I used the homepage here. W3C WAI is a source that is quoted in many of the other pages about the topic that I have looked at. They are considered the official authority on this topic.

**Access for all. (2018). What screen readers are - and why they are so important to accessibility testing. Retrieved April 12, 2021, from** **https://www.accessibility-developer-guide.com/knowledge/screen-readers/what-and-why/**

“Access for all” is a Swiss web accessibility foundation that published the Web Accessibility Developer Guide to share knowledge about how to develop for web accessibility. The article “What screen readers are – and why they are so important to accessibility testing” gives some background knowledge about screen readers and why they are important for web developers who are testing for web accessibility. They say that a website being accessible for screen readers is a good sign that they are generally accessible, and they advocate for web developers to learn how to use a screen reader.

**Sandhya, S., & Sumithra Devi, K. (2011). Accessibility evaluation of websites using screen reader. *2011 7th International Conference on Next Generation Web Services Practices*. doi:10.1109/nwesp.2011.6088201**

This is a scholarly article from the 7th International Conference on Next Generation Web Services Practices, written by Sandha and Sumithra Devi, who are affiliated with a college of engineering in India. It is a peer reviewed article that has multiple credible sources including the World Wide Web Consortium. The article talks about how web accessibility for users with screen readers is impacted by technologies like AJAX which make websites more dynamic. The interactivity of AJAX often leads to elements changing frequently on the screen, things losing focus from the screen reader and elements that aren’t semantically labelled which is bad for screen reader users.

**Gevorkian, D. (2020, January 15). Why is web accessibility important for your small business website? Retrieved April 12, 2021, from** **https://www.score.org/blog/why-web-accessibility-important-your-small-business-website**

This article is published on Score, which is a company that helps small businesses and the article is written by David Gevorkian, who started an organization called Be Accessible and has worked in web development. These sources are credible, because they have active experience in the field they are talking about. The author has written other articles about this topic. The article also make similar points to other sources I have found on the web. The article talks about the importance of web accessibility for small businesses, including legal obligations, like the possibility to be sued, and the benefits for a business such as increased usability for all users and improved search engine rankings.

**Schmutz, S., Sonderegger, A., & Sauer, J. (2017). Implementing recommendations from web accessibility guidelines: A comparative study of nondisabled users and users with visual impairments. *Human Factors: The Journal of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society,* *59*(6), 956-972. doi:10.1177/0018720817708397**

This article is about a scientific study done about how the accessibility of websites affects both users with visual impairments and nondisabled users. Two of the authors of the study are PhD students in organizational psychology and focus on UX and human computer interaction. The last author is a professor of Cognitive Ergonomics. The study had two hypotheses, the first that a more accessible website would help out both users with visual impairments and users without disabilities, and the second that the users with visual impairments would have a greater benefit from more accessible websites. The first hypothesis was confirmed, the second rejected.