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Discussion Post

Post 5 - User-centered, universal design

Starting with a user-centered design method that incorporates universal design from the very beginning ensures that the site you create will be accessible for as many people as possible. In this way accessible design isn't an afterthought; it's incorporated as a basic building block.

In my experience with some of the beginner html training that I've completed, I've been frustrated that accessibility standards aren't taught from the beginning. For example, including alt attributes on tags so that screen readers can read a description of an image for those who can't see it. Many tutorials start with only the bare-bones element (i.e. just the tag with no alt attribute). I understand that those tutorials/books do so to start from the basics and then build on them, but I would much rather learn the right way from the start. For me, among other things, that means learning to always use an alt attribute with an tag, so that I learn to code accessibly from the start. Too often in these tutorials, accessibility is mentioned separately at the end. I think it should instead be *integrated* into each section of any tutorial. If possible, let's just learn to design accessibly from the start.

On the other hand, perhaps these tutorials cover accessibility separately as a way to highlight its importance. What do you think?