

1.2 Time Based Media

Definition

"Provide alternatives for time-based media." - World Wide Web Consortium.

What's that mean?

Similar to section 1.1, to meet this criterion, you must provide an alternative for any time-based media such as pre-recorded audio, videos, or even live broadcasts. This is not to be confused with media that is provided as an alternative to text content, but is instead provided as the main source of content.

Why?

While certain types of media may be understood only by some individuals, it is good practice to provide an alternative to allow understanding by all. Hearing impaired individuals will not be able to listen to audio-only content, such as a podcast, and those that are visually impaired will not be able to view a silent video describing how to make a paper airplane.

Types

The following are examples of alternatives that can be used to meet the time-based media criterion. For more information regarding these alternatives, refer to section 1.2 Time Based Media.

- Audio descriptions
- Captions
- Sign language interpretation
- Text descriptions

Example

An example of this criterion would be a podcast. Podcasts are, by definition, audio files used as the primary method of information. In order to ensure the podcast is accessible and understood by everyone, you would need to provide an alternative such as a text description that is synchronized with the podcast. This means that the equivalent information provided in the text description is at the same pace as the audio file so the user can follow along at the same rate as the audio file.