

More information on section 508:

<http://1.usa.gov/1MWpkCW>

W3C (World Wide Web Consortium) is the organization that regulates the WCAG standards, more information about them could be found:

<https://www.w3.org/>

More about WCAG (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines)

<http://bit.ly/26rBb27>

ARIA:

<http://bit.ly/1Uf3gEV>

POUR:

<http://bit.ly/1NwTkoV>

Screen readers:

- Mac: VoiceOver (on all devices)
- PC
  - JAWS: <http://bit.ly/1yJkxuV>
  - NVDA: <http://www.nvaccess.org/>

# Research Brief:

## Thought leaders

### Molly Holzschlag

- US author, Lecturer, and advocate for the Open Web
- Active speaker on Open web technologies, web design & Accessibility
- Chaired the CSS Accessibility Community Group
- Worked at Knowbility
  - Nonprofit company that focuses on improving technology access for people with disabilities. They believe accessible technology is key to help those with disabilities

### Sharron Rush

- Executive Director of Knowbility (and founding Member)
- Wrote a book (Maximum Accessibility) with co-author Dr. John Stalin

### Wayne Dick

- Professor, Computer Science at California State University, long beach

- he develops assistive technology for people with moderate low vision

## Judy Brewer

- Directs the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) at the World Wide Web Consortium.
- Worked on several US- based initiatives to increase access to mainstream technology for people with disabilities and to improve the dialog between industry and the disability community. These initiatives included
  - Section 508 of the workforce investment act
  - Section 255 of the telecommunications act
  - accessibility of the Windows 95 Operating System

# Topic Origins

## Section 508

- Amendment made in 1998 to Rehabilitation Act that required:
  - individuals with disabilities who are federal employees to have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to that of individuals without disabilities

- individuals of the public with disabilities to have access to information, services, and data from a federal department or agency comparable to that of individuals without disabilities
- Soon after, The Access Board Created an Advisory committee to develop recommendation on the standards to be developed

## Future Of Web Accessibility

- [According to Bartek Lenarth](#)(blind accessibility expert):
  - Sites have become more graphically complex, which doesn't help accessibility. Now, the principles of flat or material design have helped make things more readable for the blind and low vision
  - Web accessibility will improve in part because Google's bots are very similar to screen readers used by blind people
- Because of WCAG, more sites have a basis for how to create web content in an accessible manner. They have lots of documentation on how to go about making accessible sites

## More Information and Resources

ARIA

- Accessible rich internet application Specification (ARIA)

- is a set of attributes that you can add to HTML elements to make the content more accessible to people with disabilities
  - [W3 info for ARIA](#)
  - [Mozilla Developer Network: ARIA](#)

## Section 508 Web Standards

- a thorough list of Web Standards related to the Section 508 Amendments

## University of Washington Article

- Focuses on how you can make a website more accessible with:
  - Good use of HTML headings
  - navigation with a keyboard
  - high contrast (for low vision)
  - ARIA
  - etc.

## Web Accessibility Initiative(WAI)

- WAI develops guidelines widely regarded as the international standard for Web accessibility

# Conclusion

Web accessibility Standards and practices started almost at the same time that the Web emerged but has severely lagged behind. While there are a lot of resources available to make the web more accessible to those with disabilities, developers are prone to pushing Accessibility to the back burner.

Going to back to simple web design such as flat or material design has made things easier for those who need the web to be accessible. Developers have also made the web more accessible due to the benefits accessibility brings to Browser Search Engine bots.