Accessibility online

Accessibility for digital websites is something that often is forgotten while designing a webpage. We have a wide range of people that we need to get to including individuals who have visual, motor, auditory, speech, or cognitive disabilities.

From what I have read it does not take much time to create a website that suits everyone if you do it from the beginning. It may take some time for an old page to go through everything and find the errors and fix them, but you should do it because you get more customers when you finish making your site accessible.

For visually impaired people, you need to think about colors with high contrast. It is often forgotten when people or website designers. The contrast ratio of text and its background should be at least 4.5 to 1. But if you use larger and heavier fonts the contrast can be less, it can be difficult for visually impaired individuals to read if the colors are too similar. You usually use colors to get people's attention online, but that dose does not work for people with poor eyesight and color blindness. To reach everyone it’s better to also use icons, patterns, or text marks.

You need to be careful where you put placeholder text when designing. Using placeholder text as labels is a big mistake, it is usually gray with low contrast, which makes it difficult to read. Usually, you will forget what you are even writing because the text disappears when you start writing, when the label is gone. People who need to use a screen reader usually navigate through a form by pressing the TAB button to jump through the forms. Doing that with placeholder labels would not work as the placeholder text would not be read and they who need it would not know what to write. It is always better to put the text outside the placeholder so everyone can use it.

It is important to navigate through the page using only the keyboard before publishing it to make sure that the web is set up correctly. Those who are forced to navigate the web by these means will then be able to follow the web in the correct order and click on all the buttons that need to be clicked.

People with visual impairments often use a screen reader to "hear" the web page. These tools turn text into speech so that people hear what they are watching instead of trying to read it. It is important how you describe images in the aria attributes so people that needs to use it get the right information but if the image is purely decorative you can just have the attribute empty and let the text around be descriptive enough.

<https://uxdesign.cc/designing-for-accessibility-is-not-that-hard-c04cc4779d94>