

Accessible Web

Thanks to Scott Williams at the UM Office for Institutional Equity for his materials

http://umich.edu/webaccess/



Goals

- Learn what a web accessibility professional does
- Understand how disabilities relate to the web
- Introduce the four principles of accessible interface design



What does a "web accessibility coordinator" do?

- Helps guide policy and purchasing decisions
- Evaluates web interfaces for accessibility
- Assists those with disabilities to access online infrastructure
- Keep pace with changing technology



I in 5 People Have a Disability

- There are 60 million people with disabilities in the U.S.
 - Half are impeded using the internet

- Visual Issues
- Hearing Issues
- Motor Issues
- Cognitive Issues



Visual Disabilities

- Blindness, low-vision, color-blindness
- 8 million have difficulty reading ordinary newsprint (even with glasses)
 - I.8 million are completely blind
- How is your font-size, color-contrast, font-style?



Hearing Disabilities

- Partial to total deafness
- 8 million have difficulty hearing a normal conversation
 - I million are completely deaf
- Do your videos include closed-captioning? Are you blaring music?



Motor Disabilities

- Inability to use a mouse or physical keyboard, slow response time, limited fine motor control
- Dexterity issues—8 million Americans have difficulty using their arms or hands
- What happens when someone tries to "tab" through your page? Do you require a steady hand?



Cognitive Disabilities

- Learning disabilities, distractibility, dyslexia, inability to remember or focus on large amounts of information
- Adults with ADD/ADHD: 16 million
- 38% of soldiers, 31% of Marines and 49% of National Guard members returning from combat report psychological conditions such as TBI and PTSD
- Cognitive disabilities number greater than physical and perceptual disabilities combined



More Stats

- 8.3% of the U.S. population have 2 or more disabilities
- 40,000 people the in U.S are both deaf and blind
- 41 percent of adults 65 and older have a disability
- 8.7 million people with disabilities are poor
- 70% of disabled are unemployed or underemployed



The web offers unprecedented opportunities for disabled

- Education
- News
- Commerce
- Social
- Benefits of web are amplified for disabled!!
- Web is an enabling technology



Legal

 DOJ is in the process of revising Title II and III of the ADA to include online resources of state and local entities

 Case law—individuals or entities can file civil rights complaints, e.g., Penn State, NYU, Northwestern, FSU, Target, Southwest Airlines, Priceline.com, Ramada, Kindle, etc.



What is web accessibility?

- Making the web accessible for the widest possible audience
- This audience includes Temporarily Able-Bodied users (TABs)
- Currently, online infrastructure is hostile to those with disabilities
- Inseparable from SEO, mobile, and usability: improve one and you improve the others
- Best way to accomplish accessibility? Adherence to standards.



W3C WCAG 2.0

- W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines are principle-, not technology-based
- The four principles (POUR):
 - Perceivable
 - Operable
 - Understandable
 - Robust

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Review

- Designing with accessibility in mind is the right thing to do for many reasons
- Adhering to standards (not flashy, cool effects) is key
- Pay special attention to the semantics behind the HTML5 tags



Acknowledgements/Contributions

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