DIEGETIC USER GUIDE: NAVIGATING THE SITE



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Welcome!

Hello and thank you for your interest in Diegetic! We hope that you will enjoy our application, our services, and most importantly, our initiative.

What is Diegetic?

The word "diegetic" comes from the Greek word "diegesis" which translates to "the relaying of information in a fictional work through a narrative". In today's multimedia environment, society is constantly evolving the application of diegesis through film, television, and even social media. With improvements in visual and auditory mechanisms, it allows for immersive media to be sensationally appealing. However, the question remains: who can access this?

It is assumed that it is for able-bodied individuals. More specifically, those who can see and hear. It is rare that the conversation of those who are blind and/or deaf are included. Our environment's apparatus has provided challenges for deaf and blind individuals to participate communally. When one restricts another's ability to socialize or participate, you deny them the assurance of a wholesome and cultured life. Most often, this appears within leisure and art that is dependent on the interpretation of visual and hearing perceptions.¹

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "[o]ver 5% of the world's population – or 430 million people – require rehabilitation to address their 'disabling' hearing loss" and "at least 2.2 billion people have a near or distance vision impairment..."

While these statistics include legally blind and deaf individuals (especially those with congenital diagnosis), the progression of any of these impairments suggest that there is a projected and spectrummed need for accessibility in a multimedia environment.

Our Purpose

Diegetic is aimed to bridge additional services for visually impaired and deaf users who cannot access media in traditional formats. More specifically, films that have not been audio described nor subtitled (for the time being). In addition, we want to keep a track record of these requested films to promote and advocate for the use of high-quality audio description in films where the presentation of visual media is critical to the understanding and appreciation of the content.

Goals

In coalition with the <u>American Council of the Blind's (ACB) The Audio Description Project</u>, Diegetic proposes to extend the ACB's database by providing tailored audio descriptions and/or subtitling of films. Within a two month period, users can access their films into a digital file

¹ Sawako Nakajima et al., "The Possibility and Challenges for Deaf-Blind Individuals to Enjoy Films in Theater," Journal of Advanced Computational Intelligence and Intelligent Informatics 21, no. 2 (2017): pp. 350-358, https://doi.org/10.20965/jaciii.2017.p0350.

² "Deafness and Hearing Loss," World Health Organization (World Health Organization, April 1, 2021), https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/deafness-and-hearing-loss.

³ "Vision Impairment and Blindness," World Health Organization (World Health Organization, October 13, 2022), https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/blindness-and-visual-impairment.

protected under <u>the American Disabilities Act</u> and all copyright protections per distribution. We aim to use our platform to draw awareness of visually impaired and deaf individuals' needs because we want them to "be heard, be seen".

How To Use Diegetic: The User Experience

Given our aimed audience, we designed Diegetic to be simple and easily maneuverable.

Welcome Page

The Diegetic home page consists of the logo, the slogan, our purpose, a link to The Audio Description Project, type bars to insert in your username and password with a Submit button (Figure 1).

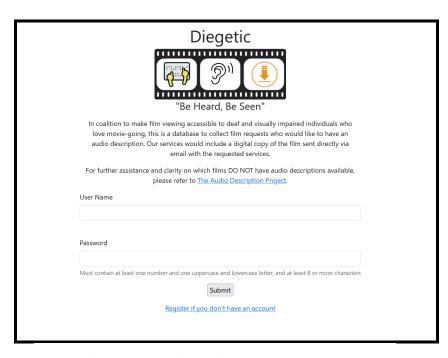


Figure 1: Diegetic Home Page.

Note: Before using Diegetic, it is strongly recommended to explore The Audio Description Project Master List that is readily provided on the home page. It entails all current cinema, DVD, TV, and streaming titles that are audio described in English in the United States. However, not all films have been approved for audio descriptions from its distributors. Nor some of its identified platforms are accessible to users and will require additional expenses.

<u>User Registration: First Time</u> Users

First time registration is provided through clicking the link "Register if you don't have an account" underneath the Submit button. From here, the User Registration

page is presented.

The User Registration page consists of the following sections: Personal Information, Username and Password, and Disability Identification.

Personal Information

The Personal Information sections constitute the fields: First Name, Middle Name, Last Name, Date of Birth, Email and Gender Identification (Figure 2). With the exception of Middle Name,

all fields are required for submission. Gender Identification includes subfields such as male, female, nonbinary, transgender, prefer not to say, and other.

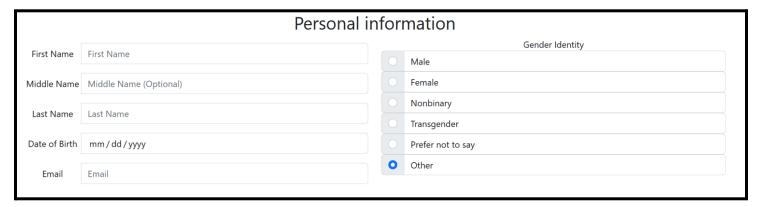


Figure 2: Personal Information Segment of User Registration.

Username and Password

For the username field, users are expected to have a minimum of six characters for submission (Figure 3). As for the password field, users should have one lowercase, one uppercase, one special character, and a minimum of eight characters upon submission of the form.

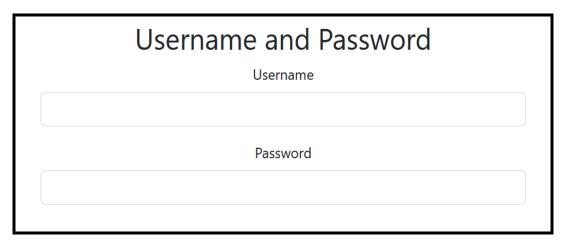


Figure 3: Username and Password fields in User Registration.

Disability Identification

The Disability Identification portion is a text-box field that allows users to type in their disabilities (Figure 4). This section is **optional** to fill in. Filling in this field will be protected under the Privacy Act of 1974 and the American Disabilities Act. The Privacy Act of 1974 entails the governing of all collections and use of records maintained on a system and may not disclose information without consent unless certain exceptions such as the right to request records; the right to request a change to records that are not accurate, relevant, timely or complete; and the right to be protected against unwarranted invasion of their privacy resulting

from the collection, maintenance, use, and disclosure of personal information.⁴ With correspondence of the American Disabilities Act, we wish to extend our platform to prohibit discriminatory practices towards our audience in receiving the needed support to engage and digest multisensory information.

By filling out this segment, this will ensure that the information shared is between the platform administration and the user themselves. In recognition of the varying disabilities that our users may and or may not have, we wish to use this information to enhance our platform's user experience and to avoid any discrepancies due to ill-diligence, or ignorance of the community's needs for engagement.

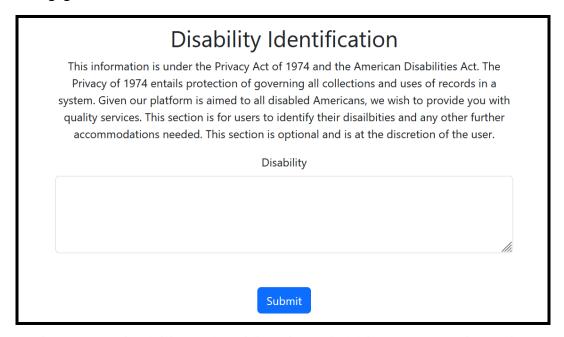


Figure 4: Disability Identification Field in User Registration.

Once completed, the user registration form will revert back to the **Welcome Page** to retype their newly-created username and password. This is to ensure and enforce an additional security measure upon submission of all users' information.

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⁴ "The Privacy Act of 1974," Privacy Program (The United States Social Security Program), accessed November 17, 2022, https://www.ssa.gov/privacy/privacy_act_1974.html.

Request Page

Once admitted, users will be shown a two columned web page titled the Request Page (Figure 5). On the left hand side is a database table with all the current requests from users. Whereas on the right is an entry chart where users can submit their requested films to be audio described.

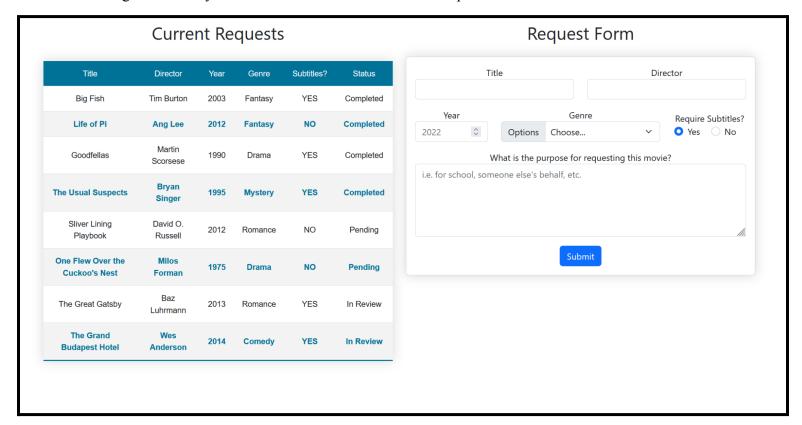


Figure 5: The Request Page Display.

Request Form

The Request Form consists of the following fields: the title of the film, the director of the film, the year of the film's release, the genre of the film, a yes or no identification of any needed subtitles, and a text-box field to describe the purpose of request.

Within the Genre sub-field, the list of genres to choose from are Action, Adventure, Drama, Comedy, Horror, Thriller, Fantasy, Romance, Musical, Science Fiction, and Documentary. Despite the recognition that some films are multi-genre, users may only select one option that best fits the description of their selected film.

The Purpose of Request sub-field is **optional**. This information will allow Diegetic administrators to further specialize and enhance our services to our audience. This information will greatly assist this initiative. Likewise, the information that is shared <u>WILL NOT</u> be shared among other users; it will only be among administration and the user if desired.

Current Requests

The Current Requests is a table display from our database to show past requests. This is to ensure no repetition occurs among users. In the case that a user sees a requested film that they would like an audio description including some modifications to the original request, contact us in the **Contact Information** section below the page.

All information that was imputed from the Requested Form section is displayed in the Current Request table. The new addition is the **Status field**. The Status column entails the standing of the film's audio description process. The typical process may range between a month to three months depending on distributor's approval period and the length of the film. There are three phases of the Status column: *In Review*, *In Process*, and *Completed* (Figure 6). *In Review* indicates the period of the request was obtained and the approval of the distributor's copyrights of the film which varies. *In Process* is the time period where the audio description is enacted upon taking roughly three weeks depending on the film's length. The *Completed* status indicates that the film has been audio described and the digital file should be sent via email within a 72 hour period. The Status will be updated accordingly by administration and such changes will be depicted on both databases for Current Requests and User Profiles.



Figure 6: Status Displays for Current Requests table.

Users can then manage their accounts in the upper right hand corner by clicking on the **Profile** link.

Profile Page

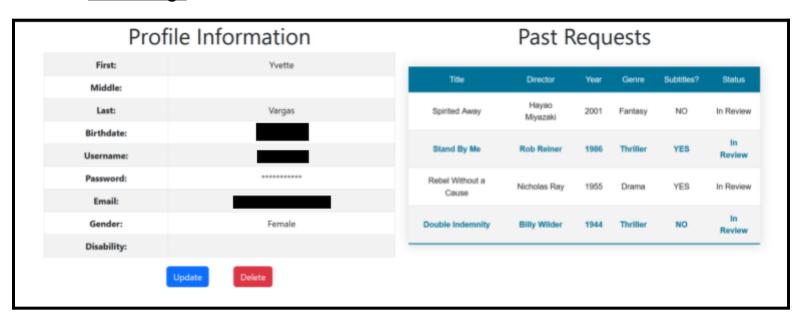


Figure 7: Profile Page Display.

Similar to the Request Page, the Profile Page is designed with two columns that constitutes the user's activity and history. On the left hand side, users can see their user history from the user registration page. With the exception of their password, user information is displayed. Given the purpose of this guide, the information is redacted. As for the right hand side, users can see their past requests and their status shown as extracted from the request database from the Request Page.

Users do have the ability to either update their information by clicking on the blue button titled **Update** or ultimately delete their account by clicking on the red button titled **Delete**.

<u>Updating Profile</u>

By choosing Update, users are transferred to a similar page layout as the User Registration page (Figure 8). Most of their previous information will be displayed such as their full name, date of birth, email, and username. However, the *Gender Identity, Password, and Disability Identification* subfields will have to be retyped for full approval.

Once completed, users click on the blue Submit button to update the user registration database. If a user decides to omit their update, users must click on the **Profile** link to return to the Profile page.

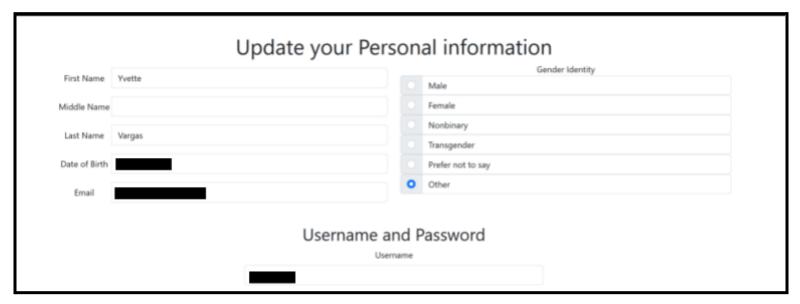


Figure 8: User Update Page.

Are you sure you want to **delete** your profile?

If not, go back to your profile please

Go back

Delete

Figure 9: Deleting an Account Page.

Deleting A Profile

If a user decides to delete their profile, by pressing on the red Delete button on the Profile page, users will be asked to finalize their decision.

By deleting the profile, all of the user's information will be permanently erased from both the user and request databases. Users will have to re-register.

Navigating Pages

By keeping the simple design, users will be able to navigate between only three pages. These page links are found throughout the entire website on the upper right hand corner as mentioned.

Request Profile Logout

Figure 10: Webpage Links to Navigate Diegetic

Logout

Once completed, users formerly logout by clicking on the Logout link. Users will be transferred back to the Welcome Page.

Contact Information

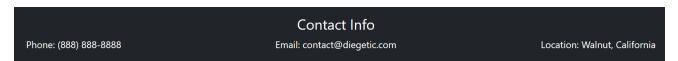


Figure 11: Contact Information Panel.

Diegetic is an aspiring start-up company aimed to bridge gaps among the disable community. For further assistance regarding any of our services and products, contact us at (888) 888-8888 and contact@diegetic.com. Our contact information is readily available on every webpage in Diegetic if needed. We will further modify our services in future pursuits.

Thank you for your patience and consideration!