

Accessible Design in a Web 2.0 World

For updates and links to electronic resources, visit <http://www.ohioregion14.org/accessible>



A Brief History Of Accessibility

- The ever-changing nature of web design has caused accessibility to work in a reactive, not a proactive, manner, in most cases.
- Presently, a trend exists where assistive technology originally developed for people with disabilities is finding mainstream use.

Legal Issues

- Guidelines vs. Regulations
- WAI – Web Accessibility Initiative
- WCAG - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
- US Rehabilitation Act, Sections 504 and 508
- Americans with Disabilities Act
- Which regulations apply to your organization?

Identifying Barriers

- Sensory/Kinesthetic: Visual, Auditory, Motor, Cognitive
- Technological: Hardware, Software, Connection Speed

Automated Testing Tools

- Toolbars: [Web Accessibility Toolbar \(IE\)](#), [WAVE Toolbar \(FF\)](#)
- Online: <http://wave.webaim.org/>, <http://www.cynthiasays.com/>, <http://validator.w3.org/>
- Offline tools? A few still exist, but they are going away fast.

User Experience (Assistive Technology)

- Windows
 - JAWS and ZoomText are considered “industry standard” AT
 - Free or lower cost alternatives perform similar functions
- Mac OS X
 - Some built-in AT, but does not necessarily work well with Mac web browsers
 - Third-party AT has suffered, perhaps in the wake of historic high performance?

Designing for Accessibility

- Familiarity with WCAG/508 is essential, even if/when an organization is “exempt”

The Top Six Things You Can Do to Improve Your Site's Accessibility

- Give all images and multimedia content appropriate alternative text.
- Give all links meaningful descriptions.
- Give all form elements appropriate labels.
- A 'skip-nav' link allows skipping repetitive navigation.
- Provide a text-based Site Map.
- Test.