Making Websites Accessible

Making It Accessible: Dec 1, 2022
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Understand the WHY

It's the law: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

Lawsuits are

COSTLY

and impact the University's

REPUTATION

Understand the WHY

"But…people with disabilities make up such a small portion of our website audience. We can't afford to focus on such a small group."

Understand the WHY

According to the CDC...

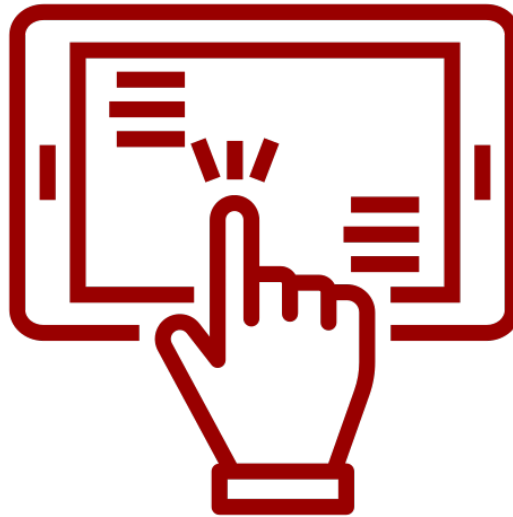## 1 IN 4 adults

in the United States has a

disability[1]

1. https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/infographic-disability-impacts-all.html

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Understand the WHY

Better Inclusivity

Better usability for all

Better Search Rankings

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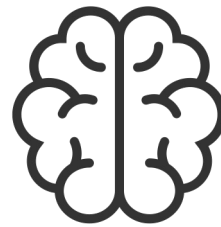
Understand the TYPES of Disabilities

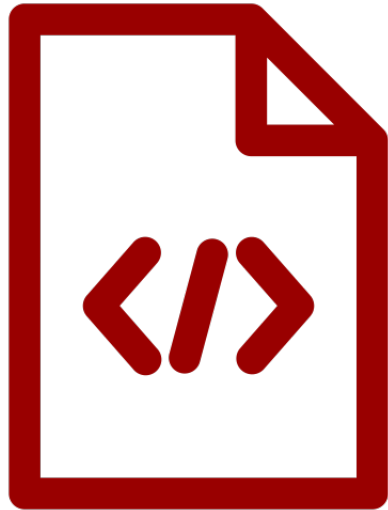Visual   Auditory   Motor   Cognitive   Seizure & Vestibular Disorders

Understand HTML Markup

- Use CSS for styling, not HTML
- Think about the meaning of the tags
- Ex: Headings vs paragraphs
- Ex: Logical heading levels
  - <h1>
    - <h2>
      - <h3>

Understand Colors & Contrast

- Impacts readability
- 4.5% of the population is color-blind
- Problematic color combinations
- Use high contrast
- Use a [contrast checker](#)

Understand WCAG

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

- Published by the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) of the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)

- Aim for WCAG 2.0 Level AA

- Most recent version = 2.1

- WCAG Quick Reference

WCAG Highlights

- Alt text for videos, audio, non-decorative images

- Color contrast

- Logical heading structures

- Tab order

- Pausable elements

- Text shouldn't be an image

- No blinking

- Descriptive links
  - no "click here"s

- Visible hover and focus states

- Bypass mechanism for repeated information

- No context change with hover

Note: This not an exhaustive list. Please refer to the WCAG quick reference.

Testing for Website Accessibility

Navigate without a mouse

- Use the tab key to navigate through the page

- Look for mechanisms to skip to the main content

- Make sure you can interact with the page the same way anyone else would.

- Make sure you can get to all visually hidden content

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Use a Screen Reader

- Learn how to use it in different modes

- Make sure you can understand the content

- Windows = NVDA or JAWS

- Mac = Apple VoiceOver

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Automated Tools

WAVE
web accessibility evaluation tool

DUBBOT

monsido®

Siteimprove

- WAVE browser extension

- Monitoring tools: Siteimprove, Monsido, DubBot

- **Do not rely** solely on automated tools, they only uncover a fraction of problems
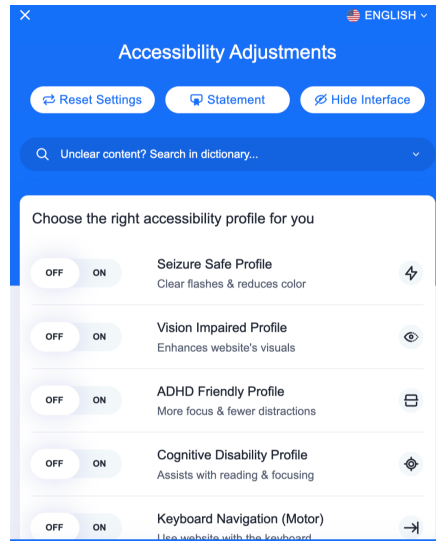
Tips for Success

Build in accessibility at the very beginning

- Design with "Accessibility in Mind" (WebAIM)

- It's much more difficult to retrofit afterwards

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Tips for Success

Beware of quick fixes and shortcuts

- Steer clear of "accessibility overlays"

- The key is to give a comparable experience for everyone

- https://overlaysdontwork.com

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Resources

- [Accessibility Resources for University Webmasters](#)

- [WebAIM](#)

- [WAVE Web Accessibility Evaluation Tools](#)

- [WCAG Quick Reference](#)

- [Contrast Checker](#)

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THANK YOU!!!