

WAHEP Website Check-up

A Look at the Project Midway Website
Evaluations

Web Accessibility in Higher Education Project (WAHEP)



Timeline

- Project kickoff, 2012
 - Initial website evaluations by WebAIM
 - Looked at:
 - Homepage
 - Department or course page
 - Library page
 - Disability Services page
 - Human Relations page

Midway Evaluations

- Performed fall, 2014
- Reports sent on or after October 15
 - Looked at:
 - Homepage
 - Department or course page
 - Library page
 - Disability Services page
 - Human Relations page

Variables

- Website redesign
- New content in existing design
- Staff turnover, changing roles
- Participation in Project webinars
- Use of Project technical assistance

KEYBOARD INPUT

“Input Device Independence”

Keyboard Navigation

- Hidden focus for navigation, links, controls
 - Significant barrier for keyboard users
 - CSS outline:0 or outline:none
 - <http://webaim.org/blog/plague-of-outline-0/>

More Keyboard Navigation

- Navigation menus
 - Accordion menu, flyout menu, rollover menu
 - Tab order?
 - Tab focus?
 - Visible? (Match mouse hover and keyboard focus states)
- General tab order
 - <http://webaim.org/techniques/keyboard/tabindex>
 - <http://www.paciellogroup.com/blog/2014/08/using-the-tabindex-attribute/>

Keyboards and Dialog Boxes

- Error messages, welcome messages, etc.
- Focus management
 - Does it grab focus? (tabindex = -1)
 - Does it keep focus?
 - Does it make user close the dialog before they can get back into content?
- www.webaim.org/contact as a test
 - Submit empty form to see error handling

Unlabeled Fields

- Especially Site Search fields
 - Placeholder text doesn't do it
 - Make label, associate with field
 - <http://webaim.org/techniques/forms/controls>
 - Hide off-screen (no display:none)
 - <http://webaim.org/techniques/css/invisiblecontent>
 - What about Title attribute?

CAPTCHA

- Ouch

Carousels and Sliders

- Cost/benefit
 - Lots of effort to make accessible, but possible
 - Click-throughs?
 - Usability?

Links

- Link text behaves differently with keyboard
 - a:hover should not be alone; add a:focus where you have a:hover
 - Ideal: behavior should be the same with keyboard and mouse
- Links are not adequately identified
 - Link behavior in WCAG 2
 - <http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20-TECHS/G183.html>
 - Need visual cue in addition to color cue for links in content

Headings

- Lots of illogical, blank, or no headings
- Headings should be unique to content on page
 - Content managers and authors
 - Work training/education into style guide, CMS training

Ease Navigation

- Still really helpful to use skip to main content links
 - Redundant navigation on most sites
 - Can have hundreds of navigation elements in navigation menus
 - Top nav
 - Side nav
 - Hide until it receives keyboard focus (remember, just hide off-screen).
 - Make visible on focus
 - Remember: Skip to Main Content links are not just for people who are blind
- Heading structure

VISUALS

Images, color, and zoom

Alternative Text Attributes

- Match alt text with text in images
- Really important for linked images, custom form fields and controls
- Some content driven, some in templates
 - Logos for institutions, programs

Background Images

- If an image conveys meaning, then bring it out from the shadows
 - Background images are hidden to assistive technology
 - Attributes like alternative text, title are hidden to browser
 - No interaction
 - Social media icons
- Background images should not have meaning

Color Contrast

- Especially in
 - Page footer
 - Form fields
- All fonts need to hit the WCAG 2 A and AA mark
- Easy checks:
 - Colour Contrast Analyser plugin for Firefox
 - Web Accessibility Toolbar for IE
 - The Paciello Group Colour Contrast Analyser
 - WebAIM Color Contrast Checker

Text Zoom

- What does the page look like with text zoomed to 150%?
 - Firefox: Ctrl + Shift + +
 - Internet Explorer: Alt > View > Text Size
 - Chrome: Chrome menu > Settings > Show advanced settings > Web Content > Font Size dropdown

MULTIMEDIA

Captions and transcripts

Multimedia

- Audio: transcript only
- Video: captions (transcript synchronized with video)

TESTING

Quick, cheap, helpful. You get all three.

Quick Desk Checks

- WAVE toolbar and website
 - <https://wave.webaim.org/toolbar/>
 - wave.webaim.org
- World Wide Web Consortium Easy Checks
 - <http://www.w3.org/WAI/eval/preliminary.html>

Let's Fix Some Stuff!

- The Accessibility Fix-it Contest!
- High points
 - Sign up after the first of the year
 - Fix barriers identified in your institution's report
 - Scoring based on priority assigned, number of barriers
 - Contest will be during fixed period beginning around mid-January, running around 6 weeks
 - More to come! Watch your email Inbox just after the first of the year!

Thank you!

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