Web Accessibility Basics Cheat Sheet

by Jason Reiche (jreiche) via cheatography.com/33853/cs/10601/

Web Accessibility - Definition

Web accessibility refers to the inclusive practice of removing barriers that prevent interaction with, or access to websites, by people with disabilities. When sites are correctly designed, developed and edited, all users have equal access to information and functionality. -

Disability - Definition

U.S. Federal Law defines a disability as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual, a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment. ADA Title II § 35.108

Web Accessibility Aim to Help

Visual	Blindness, low vision, various types of color-blindness
Auditory /Hearing	Deafness and hard-of-hearing
Motor Control /Mobility	Inability to use a mouse, slow response time, limited fine motor control
Cognitive /Intellectual	Learning disabilities, distractibility, inability to remember or focus on large amounts of information

Find more at WebAIM's People with Disabilities on the Web

United States Access Board

The **Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board**, more formally known as the **United States Access Board**, was created out of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The U.S. Access Board is a federal agency that promotes equality for people with disabilities through leadership in accessible design and the development of accessibility guidelines and standards for the built environment, transportation, communication, medical diagnostic equipment, and information technology.

Abbreviations

a11y	**Accessibility** - 11 represents the number of letters between A & Y
AEM or **AIM**	**Accessible Educational Material** **Accessible Instructional Material**
ADA	**Americans with Disabilities Act** of 1990 is a US labor law that prohibits unjustified discrimination based on disability
ADAAA	**ADA Amendments Act** of 2008 amended the ADA and other nondiscrimination laws to broadened the definition of a disability
ATAG	WAI's **Authoring Tool Accessibility Guidelines**
CRPD	UN's **Convention\Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**
DSGWG	**DHTML Style Guide Working Group** provided guidelines to WAI for use in creating the WCAG.
i18n	**Internationalization** - 18 represents the number of letters between I & N
ICT	**Information and Communication Technology**
IDEA	**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act** of 1990
NVDA	**NonVisual Desktop Access** is a free "screen reader"
POUR	WCAG 2.0's 14 guidelines broken into 4 sections **Perceivable**, **Operable**, **Understandable**, & **Robust**
RIA	**Rich Internet Application**
TTS	**Text-to-Speech**
UAAG	WAI's **User Agent Accessibility Guidelines**
UDL	**Universal Design for Learning**
W3C	**World Wide Web Consortium** is the main international standards organization for the World Wide Web
WAI	W3C's **Web Accessibility Initiative** is an effort to improve the accessibility of the World Wide Web (WWW or Web) for people with disabilities
WAI-ARIA	WAI's **Accessible Rich Internet Applications** is a technical specification that specifies how to increase the accessibility of web applications
WCAG	WAI's **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines**



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Assistive Technologies

- Refreshable **Braille Displays** provide an braille alternative to audible screen readers.
- **Eye Tracking**, **Head Tracking** and **Gesture** solutions can be used as an alternative to a mouse or cursor keys.
- **Specialty Keyboards** and **Switches** including Large-Print and braille for visually impaired, large buttons, macros, overlays and custom configurations for motor control
- **Magnification** software can make regions of the screen larger. Some can change contrast and other visual filters.
- **Screen Readers** audibly reads contents of a computer or phone's screen.
- **SNP (Sip-and-Puff)** systems track inhaling or exhaling in a specifically designed tube.
- **Speech Recognition** software can be used as a keyboard and mouse alternative.
- The **Tongue Drive System** (TDS) may be used as an alternative to a mouse or cursor keys.

These technologies are some of the most common types of assistive technology used to access the internet. For a more complete list visit Wikipedia:Assistive Technology or AFB's Product Database for People Who Are Visually Impaired.

WCAG2 at a Glance: POUR

Perceivable

- Provide **text alternatives** for non-text content.
- Provide **captions and alternatives** for audio and video content.
- Make content **adaptable**; and make it available to assistive technologies.
- Use **sufficient contrast** to make things easy to see and hear.

Operable

- Make all functionality **keyboard accessible**.
- Give users **enough time** to read and use content.
- Do not use content that causes **seizures**.
- Help users **navigate and find** content.

Understandable

- Make text **readable and understandable**.
- Make content appear and operate in **predictable** ways.
- Help users **avoid and correct mistakes**.

Robust

- Maximize **compatibility** with current and future technologies.



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Accessibility Legislative Timeline

1934	**Communications Act of 1934** created the FCC and regulation for telecommunications and radio frequency use.
1973	**Rehabilitation Act** **Section 504** created and extended civil rights to people with disabilities. Section 504 has provided opportunities for children and adults with disabilities in education, employment and various other settings. It allows for reasonable accommodations such as special study area and assistance as necessary for each student.
1975	**Education for All Handicapped Children Act** (EAHCA or EHA) required all public schools accepting federal funds to provide equal access to education and one free meal a day for children with physical and mental disabilities.
1986	**Section 508** added to the Rehabilitation Act establishes requirements for electronic and information technology developed, maintained, procured, or used by the Federal government. Section 508 requires Federal electronic and information technology to be accessible to people with disabilities, including employees and members of the public
1990	**Americans with Disabilities Act** (ADA) of 1990
1990	**Individuals with Disabilities Education Act** (IDEA) ensures schoolchildren with a disability, ages 3-21 (or until high school graduation) are provided with Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) that is tailored to their individual needs.
1996	**Telecommunications Act** of 1996 amends the Communications Act **Section 255** to require telecommunications products and service to be accessible to people with disabilities.

Accessibility Legislative Timeline (cont)

1998	**Federal Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility and Compliance Act** amended **Section 508** to correct the shortcomings of the original section 508; the original Section 508 had turned out to be mostly ineffective, in part due to the lack of enforcement mechanisms.
2008	**ADA Amendments Act** (ADAAA) of 2008
2008	United Nation's **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** (CRPD)
2017	Refresh of the Section 255 Guidelines and the Section 508 Standards

This list reviews the major U.S. and U.N. rulings which have influenced the evolution of Web Accessibility. For a more complete list visit Colorado State University's A Brief History of Legislation.

Understanding Legal Obligations

CAST UDL on Campus

University of Washington: Resolution Agreements and Lawsuits

Cielo 24: Public and private university accessibility law explained



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