

Web Accessibility



Part of the Technology Translators Series

ABA Legal Technology Resource Center

Joshua J. Poje, J.D.

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What is Web Accessibility?

- Allowing people with disabilities to perceive, understand, navigate, interact with and contribute to the Web.
- World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) & Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
- Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI)
<http://www.w3.org/WAI/>

Why is it important?

- The more accessible the website, the broader the potential audience
- ABA Resolution 108: the ABA urges that websites provided by individuals and entities in the legal profession “...be created and maintained in an accessible manner...”
- Potential legal concerns (e.g. *National Federation of the Blind v. Target Corp.*)

How is it achieved?

- Perfect accessibility isn't always practical (for now)
- Understand WCAG 2.0 principles and guidelines
- Solicit feedback from disabled users
- Encourage awareness of the issue

WCAG 2.0 Structure

- Principles
- Guidelines
- Criteria
 - Graded A, AA, AAA
- “...to the extent possible.”

WCAG 2.0 – Principles

- Perceivable
- Operable
- Understandable
- Robust



Principle 1: Perceivable

- Information and user interface components must be perceivable by users
 - Text alternatives for non-text content
 - Synchronized alternatives for multimedia
 - Content can be presented in multiple ways
 - Make content easy to access
- [View Demos](#) (Forms, “Alt”, Media Use)

Principle 2: Operable

- User interface components must be operable by users
 - Keyboard functionality
 - Avoid time limits on content
 - Avoid seizure-causing content
 - Facilitate navigation within website
- [View Demos](#) (Forms - Labels, “Title”)

Principle 3: Understandable

- Information and operation of user interface must be understandable by users
 - Text should be readable and understandable
 - Website should function in predictable ways
 - Help users avoid and correct mistakes

Principle 4: Robust

- Content must be robust enough that it can be interpreted reliably by a wide variety of user agents, including assistive technologies
 - Maximize compatibility with current and future technologies

More WCAG 2.0

- WCAG 2.0 Working Draft
www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/
- Web Accessibility Initiative
www.w3.org/WAI/

Evaluate Accessibility

- Run automated accessibility checkers
 - <http://www.w3.org/WAI/ER/tools/complete>
- Test in graphical browsers with adjusted settings
- Test in non-graphical browsers (e.g. Lynx) or with accessibility software such as JAWS.

Involving the Community

- Take advantage of the legal community:
 - National Association of Blind Lawyers
www.blindlawyer.org
 - Deaf Attorney Community
www.deafattorneys.com



Questions?

- Josh Poje
pojej@staff.abanet.org
ex. 5930
- Visit LTRC's website:
<http://www.lawtechnology.org>
- LTRC Hotline:
ex. 5465