

# What is Web Accessibility?

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August 1, 2017



**ILLINOIS STATE  
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# Web Accessibility

Good accessibility is designed for all capabilities

- Provides an inclusive online environment
- Offers equal access to information and functionality
- Removes barriers preventing access to websites and digital content



Image source: <https://pixabay.com/photo-418449/>

# Why we do what we do

- **Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)**
  - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability
- **Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973, 1998)**
  - Requires federal agencies to make their electronic and digital content accessible to people with disabilities (Revised – January 2018)
  - Web Accessibility Content Guidelines (WCAG 2.0)
- **Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Act (2007)**
  - Establishes specific standards and encourages the state of Illinois to address accessibility proactively

# Technology Concerns

Dear Colleague Letter, Office for Civil Rights  
(June 29, 2010)

“It is unacceptable for universities to use emerging technology without insisting that this technology be accessible to all students.”

“The potential audience of a website or app is *anyone human*. Inclusivity of ability, preference and circumstance is paramount. Where people differ – and they always do – inclusive interfaces are robust interfaces.”

## **Improving everyone's experience through inclusive design**

Pickering. 2016. *Inclusive Design Patterns:  
Coding Accessibility Into Web Design*

# Let's talk...

Who benefits from accessible content?

# Type of Disability

## Conditions

<b>Permanent</b>	Long-term disability
<b>Temporary</b>	Temporary loss of ability due to injury or illness
<b>Situational</b>	Current circumstances make it difficult to interact with web content as you normally would

## Best Practices

- Accessibility practices that ensure people with these conditions are still able to access and interact with web content

# Visual Disability

## Conditions

<b>Permanent</b>	Blind/Low vision Color blindness
<b>Temporary</b>	Light sensitivity (e.g. migraine) Cataracts Eye surgery
<b>Situational</b>	Responsible driver

## Best Practices

- Readable documents
- Use true headings
- Use true ordered lists (1, 2, 3)
- Use true unordered lists (bullets)
- Meaningful link text
- Alternative text for non-text content and images
- Font magnifies without distortion
- Color contrast



# Auditory Disability

## Conditions

<b>Permanent</b>	Deaf or Hard of hearing
<b>Temporary</b>	Illness (e.g. ear infection, tinnitus)
<b>Situational</b>	Working in a quiet or noisy area International student

## Best Practices

- Closed captioning
- Transcripts
- Document language, i.e. `<html lang="en">`

# Motor Disability

## Conditions

<b>Permanent</b>	Limited dexterity Loss of limb Cerebral Palsy Paralysis Parkinson's Disease
<b>Temporary</b>	Broken or sprained arm/wrist/hand Temporary paralysis Aging population
<b>Situational</b>	Mobile users

## Best Practices

- Logical tab order
- Keyboard navigation
- Large touch targets and buttons

# Cognitive Disability

## Conditions

<b>Permanent</b>	Autism Learning disability (e.g. ADHD, Dyslexia) Traumatic brain injury
<b>Temporary</b>	Aging population
<b>Situational</b>	Mobile users Noisy, distracting environment

## Best Practices

- Simple and consistent page layout
- Important information high on the page
- Prioritize content
- Obvious calls-to-action
- Left-align text
- Legible fonts and typography
- Large touch targets and buttons

“Universal design implies a process that goes beyond minimum access codes and standards, to design environments that are comfortably usable by people from childhood to their oldest years.”

## **Accessibility is our responsibility**

Nasar & Evans-Crowley, eds. 2007. *Universal Design & Visitability*

# Resources

- [Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool \(WAVE by WebAIM\)](http://wave.webaim.org/)  
(<http://wave.webaim.org/>)
- [Functional Accessibility Evaluator \(FAE\) by University of Illinois](https://fae.disability.illinois.edu/)  
(<https://fae.disability.illinois.edu/>)
- [Dos and Don'ts on Designing for Accessibility Posters](https://accessibility.blog.gov.uk/2016/09/02/dos-and-donts-on-designing-for-accessibility/)  
(<https://accessibility.blog.gov.uk/2016/09/02/dos-and-donts-on-designing-for-accessibility/>)

# Resources (continued)

- [Student Access and Accommodation Services website](http://www.studentaccess.illinoisstate.edu/)  
(<http://www.studentaccess.illinoisstate.edu/>)
- [Creating Accessible Electronic Content – NCDAE](http://ncdae.org/resources/cheatsheets/electronic-content.php)  
(<http://ncdae.org/resources/cheatsheets/electronic-content.php>)
- [Social Media Accessibility – DigitalGov](https://www.digitalgov.gov/resources/federal-social-media-accessibility-toolkit-hackpad/)  
(<https://www.digitalgov.gov/resources/federal-social-media-accessibility-toolkit-hackpad/>)