

Nuts & Bolts: Accessibility and ADA Compliance in Online Learning

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Online accessibility – Why should we care?

- ❖ It's the law!
 - ❖ Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act (1973)
 - ❖ Section 508 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act (1973, amended 1998)
 - ❖ Americans with Disabilities Act (1990)
 - ❖ California Government Code section 11135 (mirrors federal anti-discrimination statutes)
 - ❖ Title 5 section 55200 (requires all online instruction to be compliant with ADA and Rehabilitation Act)

Online accessibility – Why should we care?

❖ Accreditation

- ❖ DE instruction must be of comparable quality to face-to-face instruction
- ❖ DE students must receive same services as face-to-face students.
- ❖ Federal anti-discrimination statutes not explicitly cited, but ACCJC Standard IV.B.5 (2014) states:
The CEO assures the implementation of statutes, regulations, and governing board policies

And Most Importantly...

It's the right thing to do!

And now...



A Tale of Accessibility

Jayne Johnson - Director of Accessibility and UX for the OEI



Who are you calling ugly?

Plot Points...

- ❖ In the beginning
- ❖ Trouble in the kingdom
- ❖ A quest for access
- ❖ Heroes, villains, & mythical beasts
- ❖ Slaying dragons and living happily ever after...

In the beginning...

(Ignorance is bliss)

- ❖ All we were ever taught is “Don’t stare!”
 - ❖ Issues of technology and cultural change
 - ❖ Overloaded and underfunded (situation normal)
 - ❖ Awareness and accountability (What the ???)
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Trouble in the kingdom...

- ❖ Online pioneers and trail blazers
- ❖ Legal mandates
- ❖ Policy and Procedures
- ❖ Tools, skills, and “borrowing” digital media
- ❖ Budgets and accountability

A Quest for Accessibility



Essential Considerations

- ❖ Technology infrastructure
- ❖ Digital media access strategies
- ❖ Creating and choosing accessible media
- ❖ Sustainable best practices

Digital Media Access

- ❖ Text - semantic structure (heading styles)
- ❖ Images - textual descriptions
- ❖ Audio - transcript
- ❖ Video - caption
- ❖ Complex & Interactive - All of the above and Section 508

Practical Advice for Access

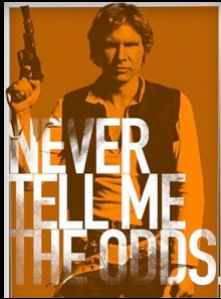
- ❖ Recognize there are many gradations of access
- ❖ Target the sweet spot of usability
- ❖ Learn how to deal with 3 simple things...



Three Simple Things...

- ❖ Semantic Structure - (Heading Styles)
- ❖ Describe non-textual content
- ❖ Recognize complexity (tables and interaction)

Heroes, Villains, and Mythical Beasts



Heroes of Accessibility

- ❖ Standards for design and quality
- ❖ Tools for creation & assessment
- ❖ Institutional support
- ❖ Faculty leadership



Villains of Accessibility

- ❖ Ignorance
- ❖ Shortcuts
- ❖ Inadequate tools and resources
- ❖ Lack of support and commitment



Mythical Beasts of Access

- ❖ Automated accessibility testing & repair
- ❖ Best format for accessibility
- ❖ HTML5 = accessible
- ❖ Mobile = accessible



Slaying Dragons...

- ❖ Pride of authorship
- ❖ Skills and tools - get some!
- ❖ Institutional and administrative support
- ❖ Sustainable, sedulous, professional development

Demonstration

- ❖ Let's evaluate a webpage for accessibility, create accessible document in MS Word & PowerPoint, and live happily ever after...

Questions?

Resources for Creating Access

- ❖ Cheat Sheet for Word and PowerPoint to Accessible PDF:
<http://ncdae.org/resources/cheatSheet.pdf>
- ❖ Tutorials and information on web accessibility:
<http://webaim.org>
- ❖ Tools and resources for creating accessible educational media:
<http://ncam.wgbh.org/>

Evaluating Access

- ❖ Web Developers Toolbar:
<http://chrispederick.com/work/web-developer/>
- ❖ OEI Rubrics for Accessible Online Course Design and Evaluation (Coming Soon)
- ❖ Web Accessibility Testing Tools:
<http://www.w3.org/WAI/ER/tools/>

CCC System Support

- ❖ Online Education Initiative: cccOnlineEd.org
- ❖ DE Captioning & Transcription:
<http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/DistanceLearning/Captioning/Pages/default.aspx>
- ❖ Compliance Sheriff Automated Testing Tool:
contact Jayme Johnson
(iohnsonjayme@fhda.edu)

More CCC Resources

- ❖ Chancellor's Office DE Web page
 - ❖ <http://extranet.cccco.edu/Divisions/AcademicAffairs/InstructionalProgramsandServicesUnit/DistanceEducation.aspx>
- ❖ Chancellor's Office Distance Education Accessibility Guidelines (2011)
 - ❖ <http://extranet.cccco.edu/Portals/1/AA/DE/2011DistanceEducationAccessibilityGuidelines%20FINAL.pdf>
- ❖ High Tech Center Training Unit (HTCTU)
 - ❖ <http://www.htctu.net>

Legal Considerations

(Consult your local legal counsel)

- ❖ Recent News @ Captioning
 - <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/13/education/harvard-and-mit-sued-over-failing-to-caption-online-courses.html>
- ❖ Third-Party Content
 - http://www.ada.gov/nueces_co_tx_pca/nueces_co_tx_sa.html
- ❖ University of Cincinnati - addresses planning requirements.
 - <http://www2.ed.gov/documents/press-releases/university-cincinnati-agreement.pdf>
- ❖ Montana University - defines legal standard for web accessibility
 - http://athenpro.org/sites/default/files/Univ_Montana_Missoula_FinalAgreement10_2014.pdf

Learning More

- ❖ World Wide Web Consortium Web

Accessibility Initiative:

<http://www.w3.org/WAI/>

- ❖ Access Technologists Higher Education Network (ATHEN): <http://athenpro.org>

Thank You!

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