Introducing accessibility in 2023: a repository / CRIS perspective

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George Macgregor
University of Glasgow
https://purl.org/g3om4c
Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) & WCAG 1.0

No proliferation of user devices!

W3C HTML 4.0 compliance
2023

● Few websites / apps can claim 100% accessibility
  – 100% impossible to achieve…?

● Ethos towards making services ‘more accessible’

● For repositories…
  – Heavy lifting: technical & socio-technical
  – But BIG wins beyond human accessibility
European perspective

• Significant change within EU/EEA
  – EU Web Accessibility Directive

• Public sector websites and mobile applications
  – Encompasses most (all?!) repositories
  – Other services in repository orbit…

• Enshrined in local jurisdictions, e.g. UK
• Significant change within EU
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EU Web Accessibility Directive

● Directive expectations
  - Content to be ‘perceivable, operable, understandable and robust’
    ● 4 Principles of WCAG
  - Reducing barriers for persons with disabilities (and developers)

● Technical expectations
  - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) – always evolving
  - BUT directive goes beyond WCAG
  - Accessibility statements, feedback mechanism for users, monitoring of compliance by local bodies / member states
Relevant exemptions

**Directive exemptions**

- There are many – worth checking!
- ‘Office file formats’ published prior to September 2018
  - Łukasz, Michał, Antoni – *PDF documents*
  - *Unique challenges*...
- ‘Archive’ definitions surrounding website content
- ‘Heritage collections’
WCAG Principle 1 & 2

● Perceivable
  - Serving text alternatives (see: Web Accessibility Initiative – Accessible Rich Internet Applications (WAI-ARIA))
  - Adaptability of content (meaningful sequence, repurpose, etc.)
  - Distinguish (colour, contrast, resizing text)

● Operable
  - Keyboard accessible
  - Easily navigable (pages properly structured, obvious link purposes, skip blocks, etc.)
WCAG Principle 3 & 4

● Understandable
  – Readable (think: language used, abbreviations)
  – Input assistance (e.g. error identification / prevention, help, etc.)

● Robust
  – The easiest principle from a repository front-end perspective?
  – Well formed mark-up, CSS, etc.
Where to start?

- Understand the WCAG principles
- Repository evaluation and corrective actions
  - WAVE Web Accessibility Evaluation Tools
  - Browser plugin alongside code inspection
    - Not a panacea – only helps to solve UI; not documents
- Consider accessibility statement afterwards
  - Accessibility an on-going process
  - Remember: 100% unachievable
Accessibility statement for Strathprints - University of Strathclyde

Skip to content...

- Accessibility overview
- How accessible this website is
- What to do if you cannot access parts of website
- Reporting accessibility problems with website
- Enforcement procedure
- Technical information about this website's accessibility
- Non-accessible content
- How we test our website
- What we are doing to make our website more accessible

Strathprints accessibility overview

Strathprints (hereafter referred to as 'website') is run by the University of Strathclyde. We want as many people as possible to be able to use this website. For example, that means you should be able to:

- change colours, contrast levels and fonts.
- zoom in up to 300% without the text spilling off the screen.
- navigate most of the website using just a keyboard.
- navigate most of the website using speech recognition software.
- listen to most of the website using a screen reader (including the most recent versions of JAWS, NVDA and VoiceOver).

We have also made the text in the website as simple as possible to understand and have implemented additional accessibility features where possible.

How accessible this website is

We intend to continue our efforts to improve the accessibility and will implement updates to the website as they become possible. We are nevertheless aware that there is content on this website which is not accessible.

- The website makes available many PDF documents which are not fully accessible to screen reader software and demonstrate other accessibility issues.

Data policies

- Accessibility
- Privacy
- Metadata is content
- Notice of take down

Inspection accessibility properties

- Strathprints - home
- Latest deposits
- Abstract
- RSS feed
- About Strathprints
- Open Access
- Quick search
- Advanced search

Explore Strathprints - home

- Contact us
- About us
- Visit us
- Explore Strathprints

Save page as...

- Save page to Pocket
- Send page to device
- Select all
- Take screenshot
- View page source
- Report accessibility
- Inspect accessibility properties
- Inspect (Q)
- WAVE this page
- Zotero Connector
Thanks

- Quick questions before Łukasz…?