



CultureWork

A Periodic Broadside* for Arts
and Culture Workers

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Institute for Community Arts Studies
Arts & Administration Program, University of Oregon

In this issue:

A Tool for Analysis of Web Sites' Accessibility to Users with Disabilities

Also: a version for printing out that includes space for your notes and comments when rating a site.

CultureWork will be archived on this server and links to archived issues will appear in each issue, beginning with volume one, number two.

A Tool for Analysis of Web Sites' Accessibility to Users with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act promotes a view in which disability is, in part, associated with ill-considered design and design processes. As a result, discovering and implementing alternative design strategies should be a priority.

Below is a checklist to assist you in creating web pages accessible to the widest possible readership. This checklist has been adapted by Doug Blandy from Vanderheiden, G. C., Chishom, W. A., & Ewers, N. (1996), *Design of HTML Pages to Increase their Accessibility to Users with Disabilities*

<<http://www.trace.wisc.edu/text/guidelns/htmlgide/htmlfull.html>> and assignments submitted by Richard Bear and Ann-Marie Bilderback, AAD 451/551 Art and Community Services, Program in Arts and Administration, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, Winter, 1997.

Text Anchors

- Make text anchors descriptive enough that they make sense when read out of context.
- Be sure to place a dividing character between links which occur consecutively. Vertical bars may be used to prevent a list of links from being read as one link by speech software.

GIF and other inline graphics

- Provide an alternative text description (ALT = "[description of graphic]"). This includes all graphics - even decorative ones. Otherwise, the user with a text-based browser (LYNX, usually) sees a note saying there is a graphic but doesn't know what it is.
- Include a text anchor to a page describing the graphic (we recommend a capital "D" or a short phrase located next to the picture) which takes you to a separate page with a full description of significant graphic elements, pictures, etc.
- Provide an alternate text-only page which translates all of the graphic and text information into text only. This can provide a fast access method for all users. You may have text-only pages for just troublesome pages or all pages at your site. Users should be able to switch back and forth between text-only and graphic versions of the page.

Audio clips, movies, and image maps

- Audio clips should include a link to a page with a transcript or description of the sound file .
- Movies should include captions or text tracks with a description of the sounds and words in the movie.
- Image maps should be complemented by a set of text anchors for all links accessible through the image map.

Forms, tables and non-standard page and document formats

- Provide forms in a format that can be downloaded, then mailed or emailed back. Phone numbers should be included for additional information.
- Tables with multiple cells cannot be read be presently read by speech software and should be avoided entirely (no good solution presently exists).
- Make text-only versions available for all pages.
- Non-standard data structures and viewers should be avoided.

Color

- Background patterns and color should contrast well with the lettering to maintain readability (background refers to both backgrounds of pages and backgrounds of images).
- Select colors that will make your pages easy to read by people with color blindness. One good test is to see if your pages are readable in black and white.

Testing

- Always test your pages using a variety of browsers and platforms (PC, MAC, UNIX). Be sure to include text-based browsers (LYNX) and use graphic browsers with images turned off.

CultureWork seeks submissions (500-1500 words), topic ideas, and constructive criticism. Graphics that express the spirit of Community Arts are especially welcome, to be published with attribution. Send to Maria Finison at mfinison@darkwing.uoregon.edu or via snailmail: care of Arts & Administration Program, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon, Eugene Oregon 97403.

[Arts and Administration](#) | [The Institute for Community Arts Studies \(I.C.A.S.\)](#)



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This online publication is edited by Richard Bear and is
advised by Dr. Douglas Blandy.

Comments to: mfinison@darkwing.uoregon.edu

A Tool for Analysis of Web Sites' Accessibility to Users with Disabilities

This is a downloadable checklist to assist you in creating web pages accessible to the widest possible readership. This checklist has been adapted by Doug Blandy from Vanderheiden, G. C., Chishom, W. A., & Ewers, N. (1996), Design of HTML Pages to Increase their Accessibility to Users with Disabilities <<http://www.trace.wisc.edu/text/guidelns/htmlguide/htmlfull.html>> and assignments submitted by Richard Bear and Ann-Marie Bilderback, AAD 451/551 Art and Community Services, Program in Arts and Administration, School of Architecture and Allied Arts, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, Winter, 1997.

NAME of SITE _____
<**http://** _____ **>**

• Text Anchors

- Have you made text anchors descriptive enough that they make sense when read out of context?

Comments:

- Have you placed a dividing character between links which occur consecutively? Vertical bars may be used to prevent a list of links from being read as one link by speech software.

Comments:

• GIF and other inline graphics

- Is there an alternative text description (ALT = "[description of graphic]")? This includes all graphics - even decorative ones. Otherwise, the user with a text-based browser (LYNX, usually) sees a note saying there is a graphic but doesn't know what it is.

Comments:

- Is there a text anchor to a page describing the graphic? We recommend a capital "D" or a short phrase located next to the picture which takes you to a separate page with a full description of significant graphic elements, pictures, etc.

Comments:

- Have you provided an alternate text-only page which translates all of the graphic and text information into text only? This can provide a fast access method for all users. You may have text-only pages for just troublesome pages or all pages at your site. Users should be able to switch back and forth between text-only and graphic versions of the page.

Comments:

- **Audio clips, movies, and image maps**

- Do audio clips include a link to a page with a transcript or description of the sound file?

Comments:

- Do movies include captions or text tracks with a description of the sounds and words in the movie?

Comments:

- Are Image maps complemented by a set of text anchors for all links accessible through the image map?

Comments:

- **Forms, tables and non-standard page and document formats**

-
- Are forms provided in a format that can be downloaded, then mailed or emailed? Phone numbers should also be included for additional information.

Comments:

- Have you avoided complex tables? Tables with multiple cells cannot be read be presently read by speech software and should be avoided entirely (no good solution presently exists).

Comments:

- Are there alternative pages for non-graphic browsers? Text-only versions should be available for all pages.

Comments:

- Have non-standard data structures and viewers been avoided?

Comments:

- **Color**

- Light background, dark text? Background patterns and color should contrast well with the lettering to maintain readability (background refers to both backgrounds of pages and backgrounds of images).

Comments:

- Have you selected colors that will make your pages easy to read by people with color blindness? One good test is to see if your pages are readable in black and white.

Comments:

- **Testing**

- Have you examined your pages with a variety of browsers and platforms (PC, MAC, UNIX)? Be sure to include text-based browsers (LYNX) and use graphic browsers with images turned off.

Comments:

Return to [CultureWork](#).