

Tips for Making Your Documents and Websites Accessible

Alice Fugate

Pearson Higher Education, Applied Science

1. Why make them accessible?

- 2012 National Health Interview Survey: An estimated 20.6 million adult Americans (nearly 10% of all adult Americans) report they either "have trouble" seeing or are unable to see.
- 40 percent of Americans 65 and older have some sort of disability.
- “Situationally disabled”

2. Impairments occur along a continuum

- Varying degrees of difficulty with contrast, low vision, color blindness.
- The same person may use more than one solution.

3. Common sense?

- Nike “color rush” uniforms.
- Tortilla soup container.

4. Color contrast: World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) guidelines

- Level AA: Contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1.
- Level AAA: Contrast ratio of at least 7:1.
- Color contrast analyzer.

5. Text

- Font should be readable (at least 12 points).
- Design so text can be enlarged up to 200 percent.
- Provide a table of contents for long documents.
- AA standard: Web pages do not contain anything that flashes more than three times in one second, or, the flash is below the general flash and red flash thresholds.
- Run accessibility checker.

6. Navigation

- Think in terms of screen readers.
- Don't rely on color and font to convey information.
- Design so people can navigate using keyboard only.
- Include clear titles/headings so customers can decide whether to skip the content.
- Allow customers to bypass blocks of content that are repeated on multiple Web pages.
- Create informative links so customers know what they're linking to.
- Remove timing limits, or allow people to adjust them.

7. Images

- Create alternative text to describe images.
- Tactile graphics?