Web Accessibility
CAHNRS Office Hours | September 20th, 2017
Web Accessibility

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Presenters

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Washington State University (WSU) is actively developing accessibility standards and requirements for all WSU websites. These requirements are currently expected to be finalized and enacted in late 2017.
Why Accessibility?

The purpose of accessibility is to remove barriers from users with disabilities (vision, hearing, cognitive, mobility, and similar) attempting to access information on websites and other electronic information mediums.
Section 504 and Title II of the American Disabilities Act (ADA) require that websites are barrier free, giving all people regardless of ability, access to electronic and information technology.
Four Guiding Principles of Accessibility

**Perceivable:** Users can see or hear the content

**Operable:** Users can access the information despite the device (screen, screen reader, keyboard)

**Understandable:** Content is readable and understandable

**Robust:** The design and code are compatible with future user tools.
Headings offer structure to your content and guidance for the user to navigate and scan for the information they seek.

Source: https://www.nomensa.com/blog/2017/how-structure-headings-web-accessibility
Headings are structured hierarchically

- Heading 1 is the page title
- Heading 2s are the main sections of the content on the page
- Heading 3s are the subtopic of the previous Heading 2.
- Headings 4-6 follow in the same manner, they are sub topics of the previous higher level heading.
Screen Readers

Heading 1
Well, the Force is what gives a Jedi his power.

Heading 2 (Sub heading of Heading 1)
It’s an energy field created by all living things.

Heading 3 (Sub heading of Heading 2)
It surrounds us and penetrates us. It binds the galaxy together.

Heading 2 (Sub heading of Heading 1)
Let me see your identification. You don’t need to see his identification. We don’t need to see his identification.

Heading 3 (Sub heading of Heading 2)
These are not the droids you’re looking for. These are not the droids we’re looking for.

Heading 4 (Sub heading of Heading 3)
He can go about his business. You can go about your business. Move along. Move along. Move...
Common Errors

- Bold text is used to represent headings
- Heading levels are skipped
- Missing Heading 1 (Page Title)
- Empty Headings
Heading 1
Heading 2
Heading 3
Heading 4

If you need guidance or help
• fixing the hierarchical structure
  or
• styling the headings
please contact
cahnrs.web.support@wsu.edu
Links are descriptive enough to determine its purpose.

Taken out of context the user will know where the link will lead them.
Can you determine where the link will take you?

Do you know if you are downloading a document?
Common Errors
- “Click Here” or “Read more”
- URLs as links
- excluding document types
- Duplicate links
Helpful Hints
Do not open link in a new tab.
Reasons not to open a link into a new window:

- **Accessibility**: Assistive devices do not necessarily tell users that a new tab has been opened when a user follows a link.

- **Usability**: Default behavior of a browser is to remain in the same tab and the back button works. Opening in a new tab breaks the back button’s functionality.

- **Security**: Unscrupulous people can inject a snippet of code on a link that opens in a new tab and cause havoc for users.
Images and Alt Text

Images have alternative text (alt text) that describes the image.
Images and Alt Text

Insert Media in the content (Text/HTML item)
Images and Alt Text

Media Library

ALT TEXT
ALL THE THINGS

Alternative Text
alt="The “all the things” meme with the text: Alt text all the things."
Images and Alt Text

Caption & Alt text **should not** be the same text.
Images and Alt Text

Common Errors
● “IMG_123”
● “Image of”, “Photo of”, etc
● Empty Alt Text
● Caption & Alt text is the same
● Info. presented in the alt tag but not on the screen
Color & Accessibility

Some people cannot read text if there is not sufficient contrast between the text and background. For others, bright colors (high luminance) are not readable; they need low luminance.
Color & Accessibility

To ensure accessibility of your site make sure
- Color isn’t the only means to convey meaning
- The color contrast between the text color and background color is sufficient
Caution: Don’t use the color text option within the text/html editor.

Instead, colors should be set globally using web code (CSS).

Please contact cahnrs.web.support@wsu.edu if you have questions or needs for globally setting colors using CSS code.
Common errors

- Insufficient contrast
- Color already conveys meaning
- Overrides site styling

Please contact [cahnrs.web.support@wsu.edu](mailto:cahnrs.web.support@wsu.edu) if you have questions or needs for globally setting colors using CSS code.
Checking your page for accessibility
wave.webaim.org

Browser add-ons
● Chrome
● Firefox

All links will be available on the Virtual Office Hours webpage and the CAHNRS Accessibility website
What you can do now

- Add the Wave Accessibility Add-on or bookmark wave.webaim.org
- Read WSU Accessibility Guides
- Test new and existing pages in Wave, specifically checking:
  - Headings
  - Alt text
  - Link text
- Contact cahnrs.web.support@wsu.edu if you need help with accessibility or global styling
Questions?

You can also submit questions by:

- Submitting a ticket to our web team
- Emailing: cahnrs.web.support@wsu.edu
- Calling: (509) 335-8292