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AN OVERVIEW OF WEB ACCESSIBILITY

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Overview

- Timelines
- What are the standards?
- What makes a Web page accessible?
- Institutional Web accessibility
- Considerations
- Resources
Timelines

OCR Letter of Resolution (Docket # 9-95-2206)

1996
"The regulation [Title II at 28 C.F.R. SS 35.106 (a)] requires a public entity, such as a state university, to take appropriate steps to ensure that communications with persons with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. Thus, the issue is not whether the student with the disability is merely provided access, but the issue is rather the extent to which the communication is actually as effective as that provided to others."

from http://icdri.org/legal/sjsu.htm
Timelines

OCR Letter of Resolution (Docket # 9-95-2206) 1996

1997

OCR Letter of Resolution (Docket # 9-97-2002)
"In construing the conditions under which communication is "as effective as" that provided to non disabled persons, on several occasions OCR has held that the three basic components of effectiveness are timeliness of delivery, accuracy of the translation, and provision in a manner and medium appropriate to the significance of the message and the abilities of the individual with the disability."

from http://icdri.org/legal/csula.htm
Timelines

OCR Letter of Resolution (Docket # 9-95-2206) 1996

1997

OCR Letter of Resolution (Docket # 9-97-2002)

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (WCAG) released 1999
Timelines

1996
OCR Letter of Resolution (Docket # 9-95-2206)

1997
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (WCAG) released

1999
OCR Letter of Resolution (Docket # 9-97-2002)

2001
US Section 508 Standards become effective
What are the Standards?

- Web content is covered under Subpart B, (1194.22) Web-based intranet and Internet Information and Applications
  [http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/1194.22.htm](http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/1194.22.htm)

- 16 criteria define what is meant by "access" regarding Web-based content

- Criteria are intended to be "AT-agnostic" and not focused on a specific brand of assistive technology or device
Example 1

(a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt", "longdesc", or in element content).
Example 2

There is a text equivalent…but is it effective?
What the Standards Deliver

- The Section 508 Standards (1194.22) provide a technical framework for creating accessible Web-based content.
- Serve as guidance and direction to institutions in meeting the obligations set forth in Section 504 and Title II of the ADA.
Institutional Policies

- Some institutions have adopted the Section 508 Standards based on state laws
  - May be limited to Web standards or inclusive of all electronic and information technology

- Other institutions have developed Web accessibility policies based on the WCAG, Section 508, and other criteria
Sample Policies

- The Ohio State University
  http://ada.osu.edu/resources/WebPolicies.htm

- University of Wisconsin-Madison
  http://www.wisc.edu/policy/wwwwap.php

- The University of Texas at Austin
  http://www.utexas.edu/web/guidelines/accessibility.html
So you have a policy....now what?
Distributed Training Model

- Train content creators in the basic principles of authoring accessible content
- Specialists will still be needed to convert content into alternate formats
- San Jose State University's Model
  http://www.sjsu.edu/accessibility/
Immediate Planning

Do you have a plan in place for a student who:

- Wants to know if disability services are available?
- Requests materials in alternate formats?
- Is eligible to receive extended testing time for assignments?
- Is required to access 3rd-party content that may not be accessible? (e.g., YouTube videos, interactive exercises, etc.)
Book Resources

- Web Accessibility: Web Standards and Regulatory Compliance
  (ISBN 1-59059-638-2)

- Maximum Accessibility
  (ISBN 0-201-77422-4)

- Accessibility for Everybody: Understanding the Section 508 Accessibility Requirements
  (ISBN 1-590-59086-4)

- Building Accessible Websites
  (http://joeclark.org/book/)
Web Resources

- High Tech Center Training Unit
  http://www.htctu.net

- WebAIM Articles
  http://webaim.org/articles/

- Jim Thatcher
  http://jimthatcher.com

- iCITA Web Best Practices
  http://cita.rehab.uiuc.edu/
Web Resources

- WCAG 2.0 Candidate Recommendation
  http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/

- Section 508 Standards Proposed Refresh
  http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/refresh/report/
THANK YOU

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