

Basics of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Accessibility

Janet Sylvia
WAG Coordinator, AMAC

Definition of Accessible



- **“ Accessible means a person with a disability is afforded the opportunity**
 - to acquire the same information,
 - engage in the same interactions, and
 - enjoy the same services as a person without a disability
 - in an equally effective and equally integrated manner,
 - with substantially equivalent ease of use.
- **The person with a disability must be able to obtain the information as fully, equally and independently as a person without a disability.”**



ICT Accessibility

- **Target Audience**
 - Employees and Prospective Employees
 - Students and Prospective Students
 - Members of the public who...



Disability Types

- Visual
- Hearing
- Motor
- Cognitive
- Different types of Assistive Technology (AT)



Accessibility Laws & Guidelines



- **Section 508, Rehabilitation Act Amendments**
 - Standards for Compliance
 - Section 508 *Refresh*



- **Worldwide Web Consortium (W3C)**
 - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0
 - Accessible Rich Internet Applications (WAI-ARIA)
 - Authoring Tool Accessibility Guidelines (ATAG)
 - User Agent Accessibility Guidelines (UAAG)



Accessibility *Best Practices*



- **BBC Mobile Accessibility Best Practices**
- **Leading Experts in ICT Accessibility and Higher Education**
- **Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Settlement Agreements**
 - U.S. Department of Education
 - U.S. Department of Justice



ICT in Higher Education

- **Includes:**
 - Academic and Online Courses
 - Databases
 - Dynamic Rich Internet Applications
 - E-commerce, Online Payment Systems
 - Electronic Documents
 - Interactive Tutorials
 - Library Services
 - Registration Systems
 - Software Programs
 - Text Messaging Apps
 - Video Conferencing Systems
 - Web Conferencing Systems
 - Websites: Desktop and Mobile
 - Web-based Applications
 - etc.



Who is Responsible?



- ***Everyone*** involved in the design, development and delivery of electronic or web-based content

- Administrators
- Content Experts
- Database Developers
- Digital Media Developers
- Faculty or Designates
- Instructional Designers
- Procurement Personnel
- Program Developers (including Grants)
- Third Party Contractors
- Website and Application Developers
- Website Designers
- *etc.*

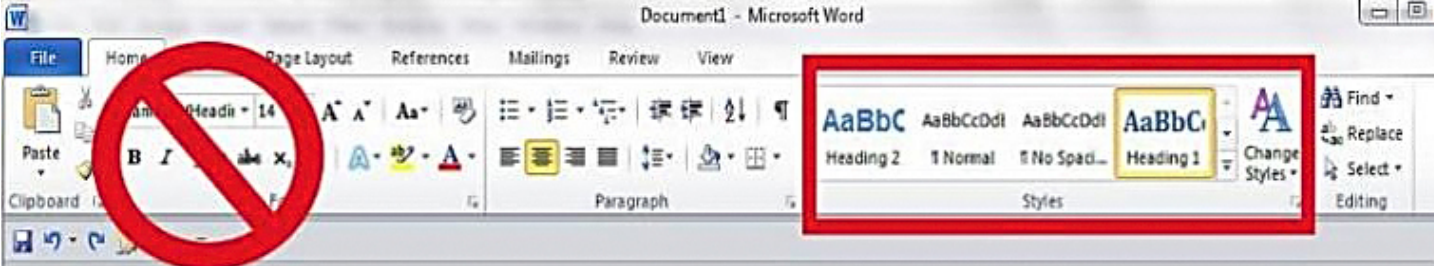


Accessibility Baked-in vs. Retrofitting



- **Baked-in:** added *during* design, development as *best practice*
 - 1) **Accessibility**
- **Retrofitting:** added *after-the-fact*, tear apart and rebuild
 - 1) **Remediation**
 - 2) **Accessibility**

Example: Use Word Styles



Document1 - Microsoft Word

File Home Page Layout References Mailings Review View

Clipboard Font Paragraph Styles Editing

Find Replace Select Editing

AaBbCc Heading 2 1 Normal 1 No Spaci... AaBbCc Heading 1 Change Styles

Styles

| Title of Document – Heading 1

Section Title – Heading 2

The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. This is Normal text.

The quick brown fox. This is Emphasis text.

The quick brown fox. This is Strong text.

Sub-section Title – Heading 3

The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. This is Normal text.

The quick brown fox. This is Emphasis text.

The quick brown fox. This is Strong text.

Sub-sub-section Title - Heading 4

The quick brown fox jumped over the lazy dog. This is Normal text.

The quick brown fox. This is Emphasis text.

The quick brown fox. This is Strong text.

Semantic Structure vs. Visual Indicators

Heading 1

Text <Normal>

- Image ALT Text
- Descriptive Hyperlink

Heading 2

Text <Normal>

1. Image ALT Text
2. Descriptive Hyperlink

Heading 3

Text <Normal>

- Image ALT Text
- Descriptive Hyperlink

Heading 2

Text <Normal>

- Image ALT Text
- Descriptive Hyperlink

text, text, text, link, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
link, text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, link, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
text, link, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, text, link, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, link, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text, text,
text, text, text, text

Result of File>Print to PDF

Semantic Structure vs. Empty Document

Heading 1

Text <Normal>

- Image ALT Text
- Descriptive Hyperlink

Heading 2

Text <Normal>

1. Image ALT Text
2. Descriptive Hyperlink

Heading 3

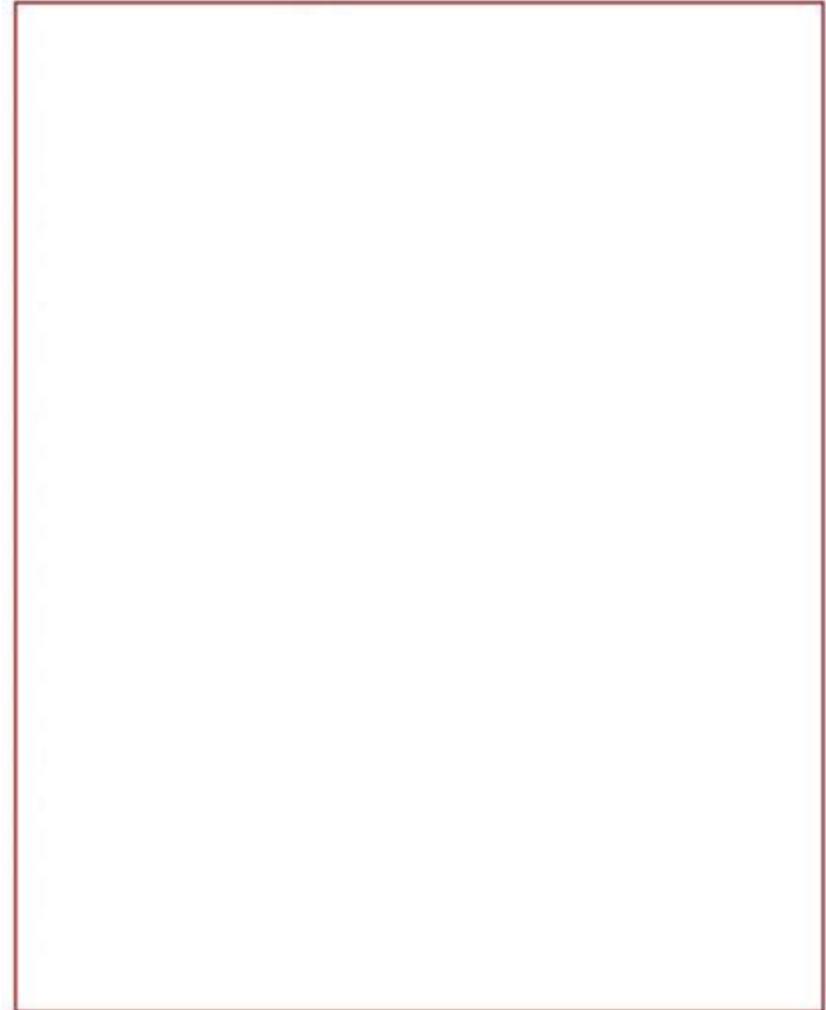
Text <Normal>

- Image ALT Text
- Descriptive Hyperlink

Heading 2

Text <Normal>

- Image ALT Text
- Descriptive Hyperlink



ICT Accessibility - Implementation

5 Common Challenges

- 1. Accessibility vs. Disability**
- 2. Administrative Buy-in**
- 3. Iterative Process**
- 4. Training**
- 5. Procurement**

