TOP TEN ACCESSIBLE Web Design

ACCESSIBLE WEB DESIGN

1. Use onboard formatting tools to create and provide appropriate labels. Verify structure by using onboard accessibility features.

2. Include alternate text for all images, complex image groups, graphs, and tables.

3. Provide alternative access to information provided visually or through audio. Alternate access for pre-recorded audio or video media could include audio tracks for information presented visually, synchronized captions for audio, or an alternative for time-based media.

   · Alternative for time-based media: document including correctly sequenced text descriptions of time-based visual and auditory information and providing a means for achieving the outcomes of any time-based interaction.

   > **Common Onboard Accessibility Features**
   > Structure tags like titles, headings, and lists; formatting options like columns; tables; slide layouts; page numbering; charts; reading order editors; accessibility checker

4. Provide methods to stop visual and audio effects from playing automatically. Repeating sounds, flashing lights, or automatically moving sliders can cause problems related to user experience.

5. All functionality is available through keyboard commands. If any function cannot be achieved through arrow keys or tab function, then the user must be prompted.

6. Provide a mechanism to bypass content repeated on each page of webpages or documents.

7. Provide context for all user input by providing prompts and instructions.

8. Turn off auto features that cause problems for users with disabilities. (e.g. text wrapping)

9. Use hyperlink text to provide context and inform users of destination.

10. When converting documents to PDF save them with structure tags enabled before posting online.

Website Self-Assessment Checklist
http://webaim.org/standards/508/checklist

Electronic Documents Self-Assessment Checklists
http://www.hhs.gov/web/section-508/making-files-accessible/checklist/index.html#

Tutorials and Guides
http://icsps.illinoisstate.edu/2016/08/electronic-and-web-accessibility-webinar-series/

List of website Self-Check Resources:
http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=36441

COMPLIANCE STANDARDS

Web accessibility is guided by the following laws and standards. Each standard has guidance on how to acheive complaince:

Section 508 Standards for Electronic and Information Technology:
https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/communications-and-it/about-the-section-508-standards/section-508-standards

Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Act:
http://www.dhs.state.il.us/IITAA/IITAAStandards.html

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)

W3C has also produced compliance sandards that are referenced in both Section 508 and the Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Act (IITAA). These standards are designed to provide the highest degree of accessibility possible. Their guidance also includes "how to" recommendations on the best way to acheive compliance. W3C standards can be found by visiting: https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/

SOURCES

US Access Board. "Home." Section 508 Standards. N.p., n.d. Web. 06 Feb. 2017.