Accessibility Guidelines for Website Developers

Introduction

The University of Guelph is committed to making its learning, living and work environments accessible and welcoming. In 2005, the province introduced the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), which seeks to ensure a fully accessible Ontario by 2025. This law moves from the concept of accommodation, where we make alterations on a per-person basis depending on that person's disability, to one of accessibility where process, procedures, and policies are designed to improve access to the University's people, goods and services. The AODA has specific requirements in the area of Website Information and Communications. This accessibility document outlines procedures and practices that will ensure our website developers meet our AODA obligations.

Guidelines

1. Perceivable

a. Provide text alternatives for non-text content.

- Include alt attribute for all images
  - ```
    <img src="universityofguelph.png" width="100" height="150" alt="University of Guelph" />
    ```
- Form Buttons contain text
  - ```
    <input type="submit" name="submit" id="submit" value="Submit" />
    ```
- Form Inputs have <label> tags with text
  - ```
    <label for="FirstName">First Name</label>
    <input type="text" name="FirstName" id="FirstName" />
    ```
- Embedded audio/video identified with text
  - ```
    <h2>Podcast</h2>
    <iframe width="201" height="113" src="http://www.youtube.com/embed/poeInnyGZO4"
    frameborder="0" allowfullscreen></iframe>
    ```

b. Provide captions and alternatives for audio and video content.

- Descriptive Text for recorded Audio + Video
- Synchronized Captions for recorded Audio + Descriptive Transcript for Video
  - See documentation for media player (eg. YouTube) for more info

c. Make content adaptable; and make it **available** to assistive technologies.

- Proper use of HTML tags for headings, lists, tables, etc
  - headings (<h1> to <h6>), lists (<ul>, <ol>, and <dl>), emphasized or special text (<strong>, <code>, <abbr>, <blockquote>), etc.
  - See HTML reference (eg. W3Schools.com) for more information
- Form elements grouped with a Fieldset and Legend tags
  - ```
    <fieldset><legend>Contact Us</legend>
     … form elements …
    </fieldset>
    ```

d. Use sufficient contrast to make things easy to see and hear.

- Contrast between text and links in the text must be at least 3:1 luminance
  - Use tools to test (eg. http://snook.ca/technical/colour_contrast/colour.html)
- Links must include some sort of change on rollover
  - ```
    <style type="text/css">
    a { text-decoration: underline; }
    a:hover { text-decoration: none; }
    </style>
    ```

2. Operable

a. Make all functionality [keyboard accessible](#).

- Do not add custom accesskeys
  - ~~`<a href="/" accesskey="H">Home</a>`~~
- Do not use scripts that rely on use of a mouse (eg. clicking)
  - ~~`<a href="#" onclick="exampleFunction()">`~~

b. Give users [enough time](#) to read and use content.

- Pages can not refresh, update or redirect unless the user can prevent this
- Automatic processes must have a method for the user to pause or stop them
  - ~~`<meta http-equiv="refresh" content="0;URL=newpage.html" />`~~

c. Do not use content that causes [seizures](#).

- No blinking content or flashes of more than 3 times per second
  - ~~`<blink>Example1</blink>`~~
  - ~~`var str = "Example2";`~~
    ~~`document.write(str.blink());`~~

d. Help users [navigate and find](#) content.

- Use <header> tag or include a "skip navigation" link
  - `<header><h1>Page Title</h1></header>`
  - `<a href="#maincontent">Skip navigation</a>`
- Descriptive and informative <title> tag
  - ~~`<title>untitled document</title>`~~
  - `<title>AODA Examples | University of Guelph</title>`
- The purpose of each link can be determined by the link text alone
  - ~~`For more information <a href="info.html">click here</a>`~~
  - `<a href="info.html">information on courses</a>`

3. Understandable

a. Make text [readable and understandable](#).

- Use HTML lang attribute on every page
  - `<html lang="en">`

b. Make content appear and operate in [predictable](#) ways.

- Scripts can not change the page, prevent the use of the back button, or open tabs/windows when an element receives focus, inputs data, or interacts with a form element
  - ~~`<input type="button" value="Open New Window" onclick="open_win()">`~~
  - ~~`<a href="newpage.html" target="new">Open New Window</a>`~~

c. Help users [avoid and correct mistakes](#).

- Required form elements or required formats must be indicated within the <label> tag
  - `<label for="date">Date (dd-mm-yyyy)</label>`
    `<input type="text" name="date" id="date" />`
- Form validation error reports must allow the user to quickly correct and resubmit the form

4. Robust

a. Maximize [compatibility](#) with current and future technologies.

- Web pages may not contain significant validation errors at http://validator.w3.org/