ACCESSIBILITY & OER

2 WHO WE ARE

Angie Brunk

- MAS in human factors
- Frequently writes and speaks on accessibility
- Born with a visual impairment
- Academic Services Librarian at K-State

Carolyn Jackson

- Scholarly Communication & OER Librarian at K-State

3 WHY ACCESSIBILITY?

Compliance

- ADA
- 508
- IDEA

Reaching a Broader Audience

Almost everyone will temporarily or permanently experience disability at some point in their life. An estimated 1.3 billion people – about 16% of the global population – currently experience significant disability.

The World Health Organization

4   WHY ACCESSIBILITY?

Accessibility means that all people can perceive, understand, navigate, and interact with electronic information and be active, contributing members of the digital world.

Disability Considerations:

- visual
- auditory
- physical

- speech
- cognitive
- intellectual

- neurological

Accessibility Toolkit for State Deaf-Blind Projects. Why Accessibility is Important

5   THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

- The big players in textbooks and software hire people to do accessibility work
- If our approach to accessibility is slipshod, instructors have an incentive to avoid OER

6 THE MOST IMPORTANT PRINCIPALS

- You cannot retain full design control

- In electronic documents the end user must have some control over the look and feel of the document

- You are conveying content not creating great design.

- Usability and accessibility are two sides of the same coin

7   IF IT BREAKS WHEN….

- You substitute comic sans or open dyslexic

- You invert the color space

- You enlarge the text

  ….it is not accessible!

8   STANDARDS

- WCAG 2.1 is the current standard

  Moving toward AG which is in the public comment phase

- Standards are a place to start not the end point

9 AUTOMATED TESTING

"508 checkers" "WAVE scanners" etc. provide basic information on accessibility

- http://webaim.org

- Results should always be analyzed by a knowledgeable human

- Do not consider usability

- Ideally test with humans who use assistive tech

10 MAJESTIC MILLION STUDY

- Uses automated 508 checkers to evaluate top 1,000,000,000 websites according to Google

- Results are not encouraging

- Most websites have errors

- Not getting better over time

11 TESTING WITH HUMANS

- Recruit user who use assistive tech in their daily lives
  - If it is designed right, a blind person can use your OER. The real question is how does it play with a screen reader?
- How do our products compare to other products the tester uses?

12 ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

- Your repository should have an accessibility statement!

- What standards do you follow?

- Are there any known issues?

- Who can users contact to report a problem?

13 INTERNAL DOCUMENTATION

This is for people down the line to know what was done to insure accessibility

- What tools did you use?

- What standards did you follow

14 FUTUREPROOFING

- Weed outdated materials from your repository!

- Understand you will need to update documents you choose to maintain to conform to new standards

15   TOOLS

- All modern production software has built in accessibility tools
  - When choosing new software ask to see the VPATs!
- Learn the tools available to you
- Some "free" software does not do accessibility well or at all. I'm looking at YOU Google docs!
- Equidox allows you to set screen reader or convert PDF (or other formats) to HTML

16 FORMATS

HTML has a lot of advantages

- Well documented and established standards
- Very universal
- Is probably the easiest to make accessible and allows for more user agency.

PDFs can be accessible but it requires extra work

17 COMMON ASSISTIVE TECH

- Screen readers

  Not just for visually impaired people!

- Magnification

  In browser vs. whole screen

- Font substitution

- Color modifications

- Masking/highlighting

- Alternative pointing devices

- Captions

18   PLEASE DON'T FORGET

- Good image descriptions (captions or <alt> text) help a wide variety of people and should give a sense of why an image matters

- Assistive tech use is very personal and user needs can vary day to day

- Disabilities and chronic diseases can emerge at any point in life.

19   THANK YOU AND QUESTIONS?

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