




Accessibility in the archives:
Are your online materials compliant?

Tammy Stitz, MLIS, University of Akron
Shelley Blundell, Ph.D., MLIS, Youngstown State University



Why accessibility in archives matters [1 of 2]

The Society of American Archivists has a joint working group on accessibility in archives and records management.

Their mission:

“To contact and network with persons with **physical impairments** in the archives and records management profession .., identify and study the challenges for them in same, and develop tools to assist them in overcoming these challenges.”

Why accessibility in archives matters [2 of 2]

However, the accessibility needs of archival users go beyond 'physical impairments,' particularly as younger people are encouraged to use archival materials to meet Common Core guidelines.

Archival users (particularly university archives) may also be non-English as a first language speakers, very young/very old, digitally 'illiterate,' etc.

Therefore accessibility standards and universal design principles are critical in digital archival collections/records management.

Pulling the pieces together

Stitz and Blundell assembled the rubric so that all necessary 'compliance' items would be centralized, aid web development, updates, etc.

Rubric includes criteria from WCAG 2.0, but also Section 508 (ADA online update) recommendations and universal design best practice elements.

ADA has added requirements over the years as web tech develops and has been 'punishing' public access institutions (like colleges) for non-compliance - but complying is challenging when all the elements required for compliance are scattered to the four corners!

The accessibility rubric

Available at our wiki-in-progress,

<https://adarubric.pbworks.com>

Applying the rubric - online materials

Blundell and Stitz explain their experiences with institution used in research study regarding ADA and web information resources.

Blundell: Experiences at YSU (targeted previously for lack of ADA compliance in online materials, now mandates compliance in all web materials) - impact on teaching/course materials by using rubric, etc.

Stitz: Update on using rubric within her own work, utility, etc.

Similarities? Differences? What works best / what doesn't with rubric.

Applying the rubric - PDFs

The Text Alternatives, Adaptable, Distinguishable, Keyboard Accessible, Navigable, and Readable criteria are used to evaluate PDFs.

Tools Needed: PAC 2.0, Adobe Acrobat Pro (if possible), and Screen Reader (if possible) JAWS allows free 40 min per reboot. NVDA is free.

Web sites for more information about accessible PDFs

PDF Technology Notes: https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20-TECHS/pdf_notes.html

Matterhorn Protocol: <https://www.pdfa.org/publication/the-matterhorn-protocol-1-02/>

Achieving WCAG 2.0 with PDF/UA:

http://www.aaim.org/Global/AIIM_Widgets/Community_Widgets/Achieving_WCAG

Our best practice tips for accessibility design [1 of 2]

Front-end input is easier than back-end correction - whenever possible, embed accessibility and universal design in the creation process.

Simple is best - From descriptions and content, to font size, type, and color choice, background color and images, etc. - the simpler, the better.

Whenever possible, create metadata for all digital objects - don't rely on OCR or other software to meet ADA requirements completely.

Create an 'error check' glossary that is built on over time and which becomes a part of the routine when adding digital objects online.

Our best practice tips for accessibility design [2 of 2]

Harness the power of the ‘archival village’ - create a user “ADA check-up” group who can help you check through items in the collections they use.

When using PDFs, create a ‘best practices’ script for your organization providing guidance on how to use PDF tags for logical document structure and provide the most accurate text for the document using OCR or a transcript for clarity, consistency, and accessibility compliance.

Whenever possible, think of the ‘multi-faceted needs’ of the end user of your online presence - the accessibility rubric can help you with this.

Workshopping your online materials

It's workshop time!

Now we open it up to the floor.

Hyperlinks to workshop demonstration materials

YouTube Videos from PDF demonstration:

Screen reader OCR and no tags: <https://youtu.be/HxgD4aoOVIs>

Screen reader with tags: <https://youtu.be/8FPdITa7az8>

Screen reader OCR, Scanned 200dpi: <https://youtu.be/0IqKCYqKhos>

Screen reader OCR, Scanned 600dpi: https://youtu.be/_tjT_HcXQ0s

Screen Reader 600dpi with Tags: <https://youtu.be/BWaQz5ip8AQ>

Excellent Book for Web standards: Anderson, E., DeBold, V., Featherstone, D., Gunther, L., Jacobs, D., Jensen-Inman, L., ... Walter, A. (2010). *Interact with Web standards: A holistic approach to Web design*. Berkeley, CA: New Riders.

Thanks for attending our workshop!

Questions?

Tammy Stitz: tstitz@uakron.edu

Shelley Blundell: sblundell@ysu.edu