

Accessibility for the Visually Impaired at Your Library

A Quick Reference Guide

Vision impairment includes low vision and color blindness

3.3%

of the world's population is visually impaired

36 million

are blind

217 million

experience moderate to severe visual impairment

TERMS TO KNOW:

WCAG: Web Content Accessibility Guidelines

Guidelines published through the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) that are the basis for Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act

www.w3c.org/WAI/intro/wcag

VPAT: Voluntary Product Accessibility Template

A template that documents a product's compliance with Section 508 or WCAG



JAWS: Job Access with Speech

A screen reader program for Microsoft® Windows that converts text to speech

RESOURCES TO ACCESS:

WebAIM: Web Accessibility in Mind

A resource for tools, training and general knowledge

www.webaim.org

Section 508

Comprehensive collection of resources to assist in understanding the 508 guidelines, creating accessible resources and testing resources for accessibility

<https://www.section508.gov>

Web Accessibility Videos

A collection of videos demonstrating the impact of creating accessible websites for people of different abilities

<https://www.w3.org/WAI/perspectives>

TOOLS TO TRY:



WAVE: Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool

An evaluation tool available as an extension in Chrome/Firefox that enables librarians to do a preliminary assessment of their website for accessibility

www.wave.webaim.org/extension

Web Developer Extension

A toolbar that allows you to view alt-text, the header and Accessible Rich Internet Applications (ARIA) roles on any web page

www.accessfirefox.org

Free Screen Readers:

NVDA: NonVisual Desktop Access

Works best with Windows® on Firefox® and is most like JAWS

www.nvaccess.org

ChromeVox

Brings speed and security of Chromebooks® to visually impaired users

www.chromevox.com

VoiceOver

Delivers a built-in screen reader that supports braille displays on Apple® devices

www.apple.com/accessibility

Screen Magnifiers:

- Windows magnifier. Use Windows logo key + Plus (+) key to turn on. Mac/Apple has a built-in magnifier under Settings: Accessibility
- For magnifying within a browser window, user Control + Plus (+)
- Use Invert Colors extension on Firefox to invert the colors on a webpage

¹ World population prospects: The 2017 revision. United Nations. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/world-population-prospects-the-2017-revision.html>

² Bourne, R. A., Flaxman, S. R., Braithwaite, T., Cicinelli, M. V., Das, A., Jonas, J. B., ... Taylor, H. R. Magnitude, temporal trends, and projections of the global prevalence of blindness and distance and near vision impairment: a systematic review and meta-analysis. (2017, September). *The Lancet* 5(9), 888-897. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(17\)30293-0](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(17)30293-0)