Accessibility for the Visually Impaired at Your Library

A Quick Reference Guide

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.w3.org/WAI/intro/wcag

- JAWS: Job Access with Speech
  A screen reader program for Microsoft® Windows that converts text to speech

- VPAT: Voluntary Product Accessibility Template
  A template that documents a product’s compliance with Section 508 or WCAG

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

- 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

- 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

- Web Developer Extension
  A toolbar that allows you to view alt-text, the header and Accessible Rich Internet Applications (ARIA) roles on any webpage
  www.accessfirefox.org

- 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, use Control + Plus (+)
  - Use Invert Colors extension on Firefox to invert the colors on a webpage

TOOLS TO TRY:

- 36 million
  are blind

- 217 million
  experience moderate to severe visual impairment

- 3.3%
  of the world’s population is visually impaired

- Vision impairment includes low vision and color blindness

36 million

3.3% of the world’s population is visually impaired


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