

# Topics in Web Accessibility

UW Web Council  
Thursday, January 9

# Agenda

- Recent legal developments
  - Terrill Thompson, [tft@uw.edu](mailto:tft@uw.edu)
- Making accessible PDF documents
  - Terrill Thompson, [tft@uw.edu](mailto:tft@uw.edu)
- Captioning video
  - Pawan Khera et al, IBM

# **WEB ACCESSIBILITY & THE LAW**

# Brief History: Web Accessibility & Law

- 1973 – Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act – programs and services or recipients of federal \$ must be accessible
- 1990 – Americans with Disabilities Act
  - Prohibits disability discrimination
  - Title I – Employment
  - Title II – Public Entities
  - Title III – Public Accommodations

## Brief History (cont.)

- 1998 – Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act – requires federal agencies to develop, procure, & use accessible IT
- 2001 – Section 508 IT accessibility standards developed (based in part on W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0, Priority 1 checkpoints)
- 2001 – 2008 Status quo...

# Updates to W3C Standards

- Dec 2008 – WCAG 2.0 became standard
  - Level A Success Criteria (26)
    - Alt text on images
    - Structural markup
    - Captions on video, transcripts on audio
  - Level AA (13)
    - Audio descriptions on video
  - Level AAA (23)

# Updates to Sec 508 Standards

- March 2010 – Updated draft standards released for public comment
- June 2010 – End of public comment period
- Draft harmonized with WCAG 2.0 Level A and AA Success Criteria

# Proposed New ADA Rules

- July 2010 - U.S. Department of Justice proposed new rules that clarify ADA requirements related to web accessibility
- Jan 2011 – Public comment period ended
- RFC included 19 questions, such as:
  - Question 1. Should the Department adopt the WCAG 2.0’s “Level AA Success Criteria” as its standard for Web site accessibility for entities covered by titles II and III of the ADA?

# Accessible Instructional Materials (AIM) Commission

- Established by 2008 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act
- Charter is “to study the current state of accessible materials for students with disabilities in postsecondary education and make recommendations to the U.S. Congress for improving access”
- June 2011 – draft report expected
- Sep 2011 – Final report to congress expected

# National Federation of the Blind (NFB)

- June 2009 – Sued Arizona State University (and filed OCR and DOJ complaints against 5 others) over use of Amazon Kindle (settled in Jan 2010)
- November 2010 – Filed OCR complaint against Penn State University
- March 2011 – Filed DOJ complaint against Northwestern and NYU over use of Google Apps

# NFB vs Penn State

- Inaccessible library website
- Inaccessible departmental websites
- Inaccessible LMS (Angel)
- Classroom technologies that are inaccessible to blind faculty members
- Inaccessible financial services via contract with PNC Bank

# U.S. Dept of Ed Office for Civil Rights “Dear Colleague” Letters

- Most recent released May 26, 2011
- Contains an FAQ that reminds education institutions of their obligations under Section 504 and the ADA

**THE GOOD NEWS:  
WE HAVE SOLUTIONS!**

# **ACCESSIBILITY & PDF**

# What makes an electronic document accessible?

- Text alternatives for non-text content
- Information, structure, & relationships
  - Headings
  - Lists
- HTML, Word, & PDF all support these features

# Adobe PDF

- Three general types:
  - Image
  - Image with embedded fonts
  - Tagged (optimized for accessibility)

# To Create an Accessible PDF

- Use an authoring tool that supports:
  - Creating documents with headings & subheadings
  - Adding alt text to images
  - Exporting to tagged PDF
- Use these accessibility features anytime you create a document

# To make an accessible PDF from an inaccessible one

- Use Adobe Acrobat Professional to:
  - View > Tools > Recognize Text (if needed)
  - View > Tools > Accessibility
    - Run an accessibility check
    - Add tags to document
    - Touch up reading order, plus:
      - Add headings
      - Add alt text
      - Identify content as “background”
  - (Prior to Adobe X, Advanced > Accessibility)

# Working with PDF Tags

- Use Adobe Acrobat Professional to:
  - View > Show/Hide > Navigation Pane > Tags
    - View and manipulate the tag tree
    - Change elements that are incorrectly tagged

# More Details

- Adobe Accessibility
  - <http://adobe.com/accessibility>
- WebAIM on PDF Accessibility
  - <http://www.webaim.org/techniques/acrobat/>
- California State University PDF Tutorials
  - <http://tinyurl.com/y2dnyl2>

# **CAPTIONING VIDEO**

Pawan Khera, IBM