Preparing Accessible Documents

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Students are diverse
In order to be accessible, web content must be:

- Perceivable
- Operable
- Understandable
- Robust

What makes an electronic document accessible?

- Draft Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Standards and Guidelines (U.S. Access Board)
- An update to Section 508 Standards
- Include standards on Electronic Document Accessibility
- [http://access-board.gov/508.htm](http://access-board.gov/508.htm)
Some Highlights:

- Text alternatives for non-text content
- Information, structure, & relationships
- Descriptive headings
HTML

- Highly structured language
- Possible for authors to create highly structured documents
- Possible for authors to create documents with little or no structure
- Structure is well-supported by AT
- Structure facilitates navigation for AT users (and has many other advantages)
Microsoft Word

- Heading structure possible through styles and formatting
- Alternate text can be added to images.
- No HTML-like accessible table structure
- Structural information (e.g., headings, alternate text) is communicated to AT
- Most structure is passed on to other file formats when documents are exported
Adobe PDF

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

• Accessibility depends on how document was created

• Accessibility can be added later using Adobe Acrobat Pro
Resources

• My blog: Accessible Documents in HTML, Word, and PDF
  – http://tinyurl.com/ttdocs

• WebAIM
  – Creating accessible Microsoft Word docs
    http://www.webaim.org/techniques/word
  – PDF Accessibility
    http://www.webaim.org/techniques/acrobat/

• California State University PDF Tutorials
  – http://tinyurl.com/y2dnyl2
Resources

• Adobe Accessibility:
  – http://www.adobe.com/accessibility/

• DO-IT
  http://washington.edu/doit

• AccessComputing
  http://washington.edu/accesscomputing

• These slides
  http://staff.washington.edu/tft
Let’s talk more…

- Tuesday, September 21
- 1:00 – 3:00pm
- Haggard 122
- An informal gathering to discuss:
  - Web accessibility @ WWU
  - My longitudinal research on web accessibility at higher education institutions in the Northwest