

WEB ACCESSIBILITY

Can persons with visual impairment surf freely on your websites? Making websites accessible is important. Yet, some website designers are not aware of the importance of making web accessible to persons with a disability.

Thanks to assistive software or tools, persons with visual impairment can read the content of websites. For example, persons with low vision can use screen magnifiers to read websites. Persons with blindness can read the content of websites by using screen readers that convert textual information on a website to synthesized speech or Braille.

Inaccessibility could be an unlawful act

If a website is inaccessible to persons with a disability especially persons with visual impairment, it could be a kind of disability discrimination as it deprives their right of access to information. Under the Disability Discrimination Ordinance, this could be a kind of unlawful act.

Accessibility benefits all

Making accessible websites can benefit persons with a disability as well as the website owners. This is because for private companies, higher accessibility means more potential customers and hence, more profits. For public bodies, making accessible websites can help to build corporate image and avoid complaints. For private users, it at least could allow more people to visit their websites.

How to make websites accessible?

Making websites accessible is not difficult. It does not require additional software or equipment. Here are seven tips for making websites accessible:

1. Add alt-text to graphics

Persons with blindness cannot read graphics even with the aid of screen readers. To solve the problem, it is unnecessary to remove all graphics from the website. Adding alt-text to graphics is a simple and effective solution.

2. Avoid using Flash animation as front page

Screen readers cannot read Flash animation. In fact, avoid using Flash animation as the front page is a good practice in web design. Readers usually treasure efficiency more than beauty. For repeated visitors, it would be annoying if they have to go through a 15-second Flash animation front page every time they visit the website.

3. Avoid using different languages on the same page

Some screen readers may not be able to read Chinese/English at the same time. Avoid using different languages in the same webpage and allow readers to switch between languages.

4. Use sharp colour contrast

Persons with colour-blindness may not be able to distinguish weak colour contrast. Use sharp colour contrast for content and background.

5. Use simple tables

Screen readers may not be able to read complicated tables. Try to use several simple tables to substitute for a complicated table. Alternatively, use text to present the content of the table.

6. Consistent page layout

The layout of each web page should be consistent so that the users can locate the navigation links on each page at similar positions. Having consistent page layout not only benefits persons with disability, it also helps all other users to access the site more efficiently.

7. Avoid using pop-up windows

Pop-up windows cause persons with visual impairment to lose direction and navigated position. Where a pop-up window must be used, provide text description of "Top of the page" and "Close" to tell persons with visual impairment that it is a new window and there is an exit.

Test for accessibility

You may test your website's accessibility by using the five testing techniques available at http://www.ogcio.gov.hk/en/community/web_accessibility/handbook/five_test_techniques/

Enquiries

Enquiries can be directed to the Equal Opportunity Unit,
Tel: 3917 5115
Email address: eounit@hku.hk
Address: Room 107, Main Building, The University of Hong Kong
Website: www.eounit.hku.hk
Enquiries relating to other equal opportunity issues are welcome as well.

Web Accessibility

無障礙網頁



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無障礙網頁

視障人士可隨意瀏覽你的網頁嗎？設計無障礙網頁十分重要。雖然如此，一些網頁設計者並不知道網頁可供殘疾人士閱讀的重要性。

視障人士可透過輔助軟件或工具閱讀網頁內容。例如：弱視人士可用屏幕放大器來閱讀網頁。失明人士可用閱讀屏幕的軟件來閱讀網頁的內容，軟件的作用是把網頁內的文本資訊轉換成語音或點字。

有閱讀障礙的網頁可構成違法行為

若視障人士，尤其是失明人士，因網頁內的閱讀障礙而無法閱讀該網頁，他們獲得資訊的權利便受到了剝奪。根據《殘疾歧視條例》，這可能會構成違法的行為。

無障礙網頁令人人受惠

提供無障礙網頁可令殘疾人士及網頁擁有者獲益。提供無障礙網頁能為私人公司帶來更多客戶，繼而獲得更多利潤。公營機構的網頁如沒有閱讀障礙，既有助於建立企業的形象，亦可避免投訴。對於私人用戶來說，這至少可讓更多的人瀏覽他們的網頁。



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<img alt="text">
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如何製作無障礙網頁

令網頁可供閱讀並不困難，亦毋須借助額外的軟件或設備。以下是七項製作無障礙網頁的貼士：

一. 在圖像上加上「alt」的文字標籤

即使有閱讀屏幕軟件的協助，失明人士仍不能閱讀圖像。要解決這個問題，毋須從網頁上刪除所有圖像。一個簡單而有效的方法是在圖像上加上「alt」的文字標籤。

二. 避免以Flash動畫作為首頁

閱讀屏幕軟件無法閱讀Flash動畫。事實上，避免以Flash動畫製作首頁的網頁設計是很好的做法。讀者通常著重效率多於美觀。對於經常瀏覽同一網頁的客戶來說，每次要花上十數秒才能越過首頁的Flash動畫來瀏覽該網頁，會令他們感到厭煩。

三. 避免在同一頁內使用不同的語文

某些閱讀屏幕的軟件或工具不一定能同時讀出中文和英文。故此，應避免在同一網頁內使用不同語文，亦應容讓讀者轉換語文。

四. 使用強烈的顏色對比

患色盲的人士未必能分辨不明顯的顏色對比。因此，內容和背景應採用強烈的顏色對比。

五. 用簡單的圖表

閱讀屏幕的軟件未必能閱讀複雜的圖表。可嘗試用幾個簡單的圖表來代替一個複雜的圖表。另一個做法是以文字來表達有關圖表的內容。

六. 統一的網頁格式

每個網頁的格式應該相同，使用戶能在每頁類同的位置找到漫遊連結。統一的網頁格式不單令殘疾人士受惠，還可幫助其他用戶更有效地接連網站。

七. 避免使用彈出式視窗

彈出式視窗會令視障人士迷失漫遊的方向和位置。

在必須使用彈出式視窗的情況下，應提供「頁首」及「關閉」的文字敘述，以告知視障人士這是一個新視窗，並同時給予出口位置的指示。

閱讀障礙的測試

請使用以下的網頁所列的五種檢測網頁無障礙程度的方法來試驗網頁的閱讀障礙問題：
http://www.ogcio.gov.hk/tc/community/web_accessibility/handbook/five_test_techniques

查詢

請聯絡平等機會事務處，電話：3917 5115
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網址：www.eounit.hku.hk
亦歡迎任何有關平等機會問題的查詢