Accessibility Check List

The purpose of this checklist is to give you basic steps for a quick determination of the accessibility compliance of web pages and applications. This initial “sniff-test” shouldn’t take any more than 5 minutes. After following the items listed below, you will be able to decide:

- Is the page easy to navigate for keyboard users? Can they activate or gain access to the important areas and functions of the page?
- How well does the web site stand up to a FAE evaluation?
- Is the page easy to understand and navigate?

Follow the checklist in the order shown and complete the entire page before deciding how to proceed (with the exception of item #1-Keyboard Navigation below). Rank each item as indicated and then add up the page’s score on the bottom right. The higher the score, the more accessible the page.

Site being reviewed:

1. Keyboard Navigation Section

By just using the tab key on the keyboard:

- Can you tab through the Main menu items?
- Can you see where the tab key takes you (focus)?
- Once you’ve tabbed to something like a drop down menu or button, can you interact with it using only the keyboard (tab key, return key, spacebar or arrow keys)?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can’t navigate</th>
<th>Navigation difficult</th>
<th>Easy navigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 2</td>
<td>☐ 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Keyboard navigation is critical. If the ranking is a 1 or 2 in this area, the product is inaccessible and must be corrected before further testing.

2. FAE Section (fae20-dev.cita.illinois.edu/)

Run the page through FAE to see what is flagged.

Are there any failures?

- A lot
  - ☐ 1  ☐ 2  ☐ 3  ☐ 4  ☐ 5

Are there any warnings?

- A lot
  - ☐ 1  ☐ 2  ☐ 3  ☐ 4  ☐ 5

Page Total: 1
3. Cognitive Usability

Study the page and its layout for a minute:

- Are there any contrast level issues? Are there distracting items on the page? Is the text easy to read? Is the navigation easy to understand? Is the purpose of the page clear?
  
  Confusing issues  Clear and easy to understand
  □ 1  □ 2  □ 3  □ 4  □ 5

- Can you select the individual letters in the headlines?

  No, headlines are images  Some are images  Yes, headlines are text
  □ 1  □ 3  □ 5

- Are there tons of links (>50)? Deep drop-down menus? Are they organized well?

  Lots  A bunch but good organization  Reasonable
  □ 1  □ 2  □ 3  □ 4  □ 5

- Are there any “click here” or “read more” links? Do links make sense if they are seen outside of their context?

  Lots of bad links  Good links
  □ 1  □ 2  □ 3  □ 4  □ 5

- Is it necessary to scroll horizontally to see content on the page?

  Required  Some but content is visible  Not required
  □ 1  □ 3  □ 5

- Is there a “skip-navigation” link at the top of the page?

  No skip navigation  Skip navigation link
  □ 3  □ 5

Conclusion

Once you’ve had a chance to score everything, add it up for both pages and show it here. If the score is 30 or above, then the page is in reasonably good shape. It may have some minor issues that could be improved but for the most part it should be okay.

If you have questions or comments, ask Tim Offenstein (timo@illinois.edu).

Usability for the disabled audience is vital because typical tasks take much longer and can be exceedingly difficult.