

Ideas and techniques on accessible web design by taking the latest standards and opportunities into consideration

Some web developers are still thinking that accessible web pages are important for vision impaired people only and that the „text-only version” is only developed for them. However, accessible web design affects a wide range of users and in many cases these „text-only versions” are not specifically accessible.

The Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (WCAG 1.0) were created by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) in 1999. In these guidelines, there are certain success criteria to be found which refer to the development of accessible web pages. It is also possible to check whether a web page corresponds to the requirements of these guidelines. The next version of these recommendations was finalized in 2008 and called WCAG 2.0, which became the official standard on the 12th of October, in 2012 as ISO/IEC 40500:2012.

One of the basic requirements of an accessible web page is the semantically correct HTML code, which is essential in case of assistive technologies, such as screen readers to recognize things on the webpage. Once the assistive technology identifies the information, it will be able to provide accessibility for the user.

Apart from a brief presentation of standards and HTML, ideas and techniques of developing accessible web pages will be shown in the tutorial.

References:

World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), <http://www.w3.org/>

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, <http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>

Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI), <http://www.w3.org/WAI/>

Accessible Rich Internet Applications (WAI-ARIA) 1.0, <http://www.w3.org/TR/wai-aria/>

Techniques for WCAG 2.0, <http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20-TECHS/>

Rita Mátrai
Eötvös Loránd University
Faculty of Humanities
Institute of Library and Information Sciences
Department of Information Sciences