

WEB ACCESSIBILITY SURVEY

With the help of Bob Campbell and Pam Wilson out of the Disability Support Service's Office at CWU, our research team was able to send out the survey below to the Washington Association on Post secondary Education and Disability (WAPED) members located at several different colleges in Washington State.

This survey was used in an attempt to find out information relating to specific schools. While not all schools replied to this survey, the responses that were acquired were helpful in making our final analysis. All schools that responded had at least one identified student with visual disabilities and stated that while they had some form of adaptive technology to suit visual disability needs, there currently were no official policies in place.

Examination of these responses along with the software results have yielded suggestions on how to improve higher education web sites to make them more accessible to students with visual disabilities. Most of the failures that resulted can be fixed quite easily. Accessibility research such as this paired with technological advances will aid in setting a new standard for effective accessible web design.

FROM:

Pamela S. Wilson
Disability Accommodation Specialist
Disability Support Services
Central Washington University
Ellensburg, WA 98926-7431
wilsonp@cwu.edu
(509) 963-2171 (V)
(509) 963-2143 (TDD)
(509) 963-3235 (FAX)

RE: Her revision of our five survey questions

Note: These questions were okayed by myself and then sent out March 6, 2002

1. How many visually impaired/blind students are currently attending your college/university?
2. Are the computer labs at your college/university accessible to students who are visually impaired/blind?

If no, how do these students access computing services?
3. At your institution, what types of adaptive computer equipment/software programs are available to students who are visually impaired/blind?
4. Is your institution's web site accessible to students who are visually impaired/blind?

Does your institution have an accessibility policy with regard to it's website?
5. Are the staff at your institution familiar with the adaptive technology available for visually impaired/blind students?

Carla Boyd
 Washington Community and Technical College
CBoyd@wvcmail.ctc.edu

RESPONSE: Received on March 6, 2002

RESPONSE:

Q	Answers
1	4
2	No, I am in the process of getting a station set up at this time.
3	Dragon Naturally speaking
4	I think so.
5	I don't think so.

Peggy Buchmiller
 Director, Diversity Services
 Columbia Basin College
 2600 N 20th Ave
 Pasco, Washington 99301
pbuchmiller@cbc2.org

RESPONSE: Received on March 6, 2002. Hello, here is our response from Columbia Basin College, Pasco, Washington to your survey.

RESPONSE:

Q	Answers
1	We serve 22 visually impaired/blind students at our college.
2	ALL labs on campus have adaptive equipment and are accessible.
3	Adaptive Equipment available here includes : screen enlarging software. Zoomtext Jaws, a screen reader Naturally Speaking Write OutLoud, a software program that reads text. brailled keyboard enlarged letter keyboard
4	.Our website is being worked on now to make it more accessible. It did have some problems initially. Our webmaster has been involved in training on accessibility and it's improving. We do not have an accessibility policy yet, but we have a committee working on it.
5	Some of them are aware, but many are not because they choose not to attend any training. Our computer tech staff is well trained and knowledgeable, but many instructors are not. Our college does not mandate training so it's problematic to get everyone on board. I send out a lot of e-mails to everyone on campus to keep them aware.

Linda Pickering
The Evergreen State College
PickeriL@evergreen.edu

RESPONSE: Received on March 6, 2002. Let us know if we can help further. Linda

RESPONSE: Received on March 8, 2002. That would be great, Kelly. I like to keep up with what everyone else is doing, researching, etc. Good luck with your project! Linda

Q	Answers
1	5 that we provide direct services to.
2	Our computer labs are not set up to be accommodating to students who are blind and/or visually impaired, however we work with students one-on-one to make sure their questions are answered and their needs are met as best we can. We have several staff, especially in our Trio program who work with students one-on-one. We have tutors for Dragon, etc.
3	We have ZoomText screen magnifier, Magic voice output screen reader, and Openbook voice output scan and read software. We also have Dragon.
4	We're checking this out, as we have just undergone a huge transformation with our WEB Pages, it was suppose to be totally accessible, however, a blind student I am working with says it is not :(
5	We have general knowledge/awareness of what is available, but are currently struggling with identifying responsibility and gaining expertise in training and supporting students in the use of adaptive technology.

Debbie Barton
Special Needs/Disability Office Program Specialist
Bates Technical College
1101 S. Yakima Ave.
Tacoma, WA 98405
253-680-7013
Fax: 253-680-7022
TTY: 253-680-7045
E-mail: dbarton@bates.ctc.edu

RESPONSE: Received on March 6, 2002

RESPONSE: Yes, our office would be interested in the results of the survey. Thanks. **Received on March 7, 2002**

Q	Answers
1	1
2	yes, also the library has software loaded to accommodate visually impaired.
3	Kurzweil 3000, JAWS
4	We are in the middle of redesigning our website and are addressing accessibility issues for all peoples with disabilities.
5	Mainly in the Disabilities office.

Sheryl Burgstahler
Washington University
sherylb@cac.washington.edu

RESPONSE: Yes, I would like to hear of your results. Sheryl **Received on March 7, 2002**

RESPONSE:

Q	Answers
1	This is unknown because students with disabilities need to self-identify in order for us to know they have disabilities. Unless they require special services they may not identify themselves. To know how many students have identified themselves with visual impairments, you would need to contact each college; your disabled student services office may know if the state has collected this information state-wide.
2	Students with visual impairments who identify >
3	2. What computing services are provided to visually impaired students?
4	3. What types of computer adaptive equipment are available?
4	4. What are the current web accessibility policies at postsecondary Washington State schools? The only ones we have collected are at http://www.washington.edu/computing/accessible/resources.html
5	some are and some are not; we do not know this. We do, however, send information to all students with disabilities periodically to tell them about the adaptive technology lab.

Richard Okamoto
Seattle University
okamotr@seattleu.edu

RESPONSE: **Received on March 7, 2002**

RESPONSE:

Q	Answers
1	3
2	No, They would access our main computers through their own or in our Learning Center
3	We have an arkestone reader in our library and in our learning center we use Zoomtext.
4	No, but the DSS site is.
5	In our DSS office they are.

DENNY REID
 Skagit Valley College
REIDJD@skagit.ctc.edu

RESPONSE: Received on March 7, 2002

RESPONSE:

Q	Answers
1	Currently, there are 8 students at the Mount Vernon Campus with visual disability.
2	There are computers in the general lab that are accessible to visually impaired students. Most of them have their own computers at home, as well.
3	Visually impaired students have access to computers with ZoomText, for blind students we have a machine equipped with Jaws for Windows v4.2, and they may also use WYNN scanning capabilities for text-to-speech. There is also an old Kurzweil reader, which is connected to a computer, but it's old technology and doesn't get much use.
4	The college website is currently being totally revamped by an outside company who have been made aware of Section 508 requirements. Our current website does not meet these requirements and is Bobby disapproved.
5	Generally, they are not. But the Accommodations Specialist (me) stays current with the technology, and works with faculty and staff as needed to make sure that visually impaired students have access to course materials etc.

"Marjorie Seipt"
 Washington State University
mseipt@tricity.wsu.edu

RESPONSE: March 11, 2002 (note: Possible conflict with previous email sent by wsu?)

RESPONSE:

Q	Answers
1	two
2	we have set aside a special workstation in the library and also in Disability Services for these students.
3	JAWS, Kruzweil Reader, Clarity
4	The main campus does. Our site refers students to Disability Services for alternate forms of information.
5	The staff in Disability Services is familiar with a variety of adaptive technology. I have no information on the knowledge of instructors at our campus.

Alfred M. Souma M.A.
 Counselor/Disability Support Services
 Seattle Central Community College
 1701 Broadway
 Seattle, Wa. 98122
 Tel 206-587-4169
asouma@sccd.ctc.edu

RESPONSE: Received on March 13, 2002

RESPONSE:

Q	Answers
1	Fifteen
2	Specific computers are set up for access.
3	CCTV Open Book JAws Large Print
4	No policy. I don;t know if the web site is accessible. I will check
5	NO

Susan V. Schaeffer Ph.D., Director
 Washington State University
 Disability Resource Center
 Administration Annex, Room 205
 PO Box 644122
 Pullman, WA 99164-4122
 Phone: 509 335-1566
 FAX: 509 335-8511
 e-mail: schaeff@wsu.edu

RESPONSE: March 13, 2002

RESPONSE:

Q	Answers
1	8
2	Yes.
3	Every lab is different.
4	The DRC is accessible. We are working on the entire university.
5	There are some departments which are up on new technologies and some that are not. That is a very broad question. Generally I would say probably not.

Sarah Parnell
 Disability Support Services Coordinator
 Spokane Community College
sparnell@scc.spokane.cc.wa.us
 509-533-7044 V

RESPONSE: March 20, 2002

RESPONSE: March 26, 2002. That would be great! I'd be interested to see how we compare with other schools.

Q	Answers
1	12
2	Yes.
3	JAWS, Zoomtext, in addition to screen readers that enlarge text. We are also set up in our DSS office to provide scanning services, where text is scanned onto the computer to be used in conjunction with Zoomtext. We also have "mini-viewers", hand-held equipment that will enlarge text (or whatever). We are also considering purchase of a Braille machine.
4	Yes, check us out at www.scc.spokane.cc.wa.us < http://www.scc.spokane.cc.wa.us/ > In my looking around (and being new to the college and my position), I don't believe we do have an official policy regarding accessibility for our website.
5	Many staff are aware, although there is always ongoing training needed for staff to be familiar with the issues.

Sara Wetzel
 Program Coordinator for Learning Services and Disabled Student Services
 Center for Learning
 Seattle Pacific University
sjrobbie@spu.edu
 206-281-2272

RESPONSE: Late Spring Quarter – no date recorded

RESPONSE:

Q	Answers
1	3
2	We have one computer in our office and one computer in the library that is accessible.
3	JAWS, Zoomtext, Arkenstone Openbook
4	Partially, there has been very little work done on this so far, but my students have told me they are able to navigate it for most pages. There is not a accessibility policy at this time.
5	I am and a few people at the library have been trained on the workings of the software.