

Design/accessibility/indexing practical



**UNIVERSITY OF
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Accessibility

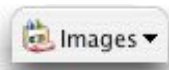
Using a web site you are responsible for, follow the steps listed below (based on <http://www.w3.org/WAI/eval/#prelim>):

1. Select a representative sampling of different kinds of pages from the Web site to be reviewed; must include all pages on which people are more likely to enter your site. ("welcome page" etc.) NOTE: on web sites with database driven dynamically generated web content, generate broadly representative samples, freeze, and test the output.

2. Use Firefox and the web developer toolbar to examine the selection of pages while adjusting the browser settings as follows:

- Enlarge/reduce the text and graphics by using CTRL key and the + and - keys on the number pad, go to **View > Zoom** in the menu system, or click on the zoom drop-down list on the bottom right-hand side of the Opera menu system.

- Does the page have a fluid layout that minimizes horizontal scrolling? You can't eliminate horizontal scrolling entirely, especially at high zoom levels, but by using percentages rather than absolute units (i.e. pixels), you can keep it to a minimum.
- Is the text easy to read (including text in graphics)? Often, text within graphics is difficult to read when enlarged. If this is the case with your graphics, either refine the graphics to make the text more legible, or use real text instead of graphics.



- Go to the images menu and look at the options for looking at images and alt text.


- Do the images have alt text? Every image should have alt text, no matter what. (Note: Images used as spacers should have "null alt text," which will need to be tested another way, such as by using WAVE. See the WebAIM tutorial on images for more information.
- Is the alt text accurate?
- Is the alt text sufficient yet succinct? You want alt text to be brief, but not so brief that it is ambiguous or meaningless.
- Is the alt text redundant? Look at the text and other images nearby. Make sure that the alt text of an image does not repeat nearby text or other alt text.




- Go to the disable menu and turn off styles, and make sure the content is still usable.

- Does the content make sense without the styles? Don't rely on color or other visual cues to convey meaning. This meaning will be lost to people who can't see it.
- Is the page organized in a logical format? Use headings and other structural markup (e.g. bulleted lists, numbered lists) to organize the content.

- Are there textual equivalents for navigational cues? For example, some sites have visual "tabs" at the top of the page. When a tab is selected, this tab appears to be highlighted. This is a visual cue that the user is inside of the category represented by the tab. You should create textual equivalents for this kind of visual cue.

- Go to the disable menu  and turn off Javascript and see if the pages still work (omit this if your pages don't use Javascript).

- Go to the disable menu  and and disable page colours. Is the page still usable? Change the display color to gray scale (or print out page in gray scale or black and white) and observe whether the color contrast is adequate.(Go to **My Computer > Control Panel > Accessibility Options >Display** to change display options) Note this will only make a difference if the colours aren't set in the stylesheet.

3. Use two general accessibility evaluation tools (see <http://www.w3.org/WAI/ER/tools/> or <http://www.webaim.org/products/> for list) and note any problems indicated by the tools. (Note that WebXact will only allow one test per minute and may interpret requests from the PWF as being from the same site.) A-Prompt is available locally on the PCs at **PWF Programs > Web Design Tools > A-Prompt**.

4. Summarize results

- summarize the types of problems encountered, as well as best practices that should be continued or expanded on the site
- indicate the method by which problems were identified, and clearly state that this was not a full conformance evaluation
- recommend follow-up steps, including full conformance evaluation which includes validation of markup and other tests, and ways to address any problems identified.

Indexing

If you do this outside the practical class and your address is not in cam.ac.uk then you will not see all the features mentioned here.

1. Looking at what is indexed

Go to <http://int.web-search.cam.ac.uk/help/> and have a close look at what is indexed on your server or a server you know closely. Use the University search engine to do a search on information you know about and look closely at the results. How could you change the information being displayed in the search results to make your search more specific - have you thought about the keywords people might want to use to find your information? Consider those from different cultures and those whose first language isn't English.

If you are able to access your server content, you could edit the information to improve searching and then reindex (use Add URL for a single page reindex) and look at how the search results change.

2. Making a search form

Look at the web server www-football.ch.cam.ac.uk, which is indexed by the site-wide search but doesn't have a search form itself (or choose another site from those listed at <http://int.web-search.cam.ac.uk/help/sitesgo.html>). Make a web page locally with a form on it that allows search of the football club pages by following the advice and models at <http://www.cam.ac.uk/cs/web-search/searchforms.html> Try making a simple search form and then one that allows a constrained search of just a small portion of a server's pages.