



NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center



INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COLLOQUIUM

Section 508 Accessible Web: US & International Impact

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Disability Resources on the Internet**



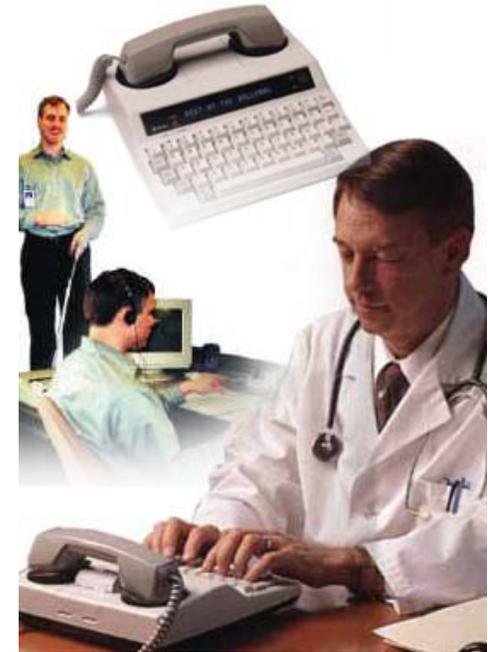
8 October 2003
Goddard Space Flight Center
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Creating Large Print Documents

1. Use an 18 point size typeface. - Large type is easier to read.
2. A "sans serif" font is preferred. - The lack of embellishment on a sans serif font makes it easier to read. - Examples of sans serif font are Univers, Helvetica. Examples of serif font are CO Times, Palatino, New Century Schoolbook, Bookman, and Courier.

... (or larger if ... is called ... leading is an old ... g extra lead, or



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Technology Overview

- **Technology Crossroad**
- **Complaints Filed Due to Inaccessible Web Design**
- **Development of Accessible Web Laws & Policies**
- **Impact in US and Abroad**

Technology Crossroad

- **Explosive Growth Contributing to User Interface Requirements**
- **Shift to Web Applications & Enterprise Portals**
- **IT Evolution to Multi-Modality Architecture**
- **Civil Rights Alignment**

White House Digital Economy Conference

**The Growing Digital Divide in Access
for People with Disabilities:
Overcoming Barriers to Participation
by Cynthia D. Waddell**

**Commissioned by US Dept of
Commerce & the National Science
Foundation**

www.icdri.org/the_digital_divide.htm

Web Complaints

- **1995 Americans with Disabilities Act Complaint against the City of San Jose, CA USA 1995**
- **Led to first Accessible Web Design Standard for Local Government and Federal recognition as a Best Practice**

Web Complaints

- **Australian Disability Discrimination Act Complaint (DDA) against Sydney Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games (SOCOG) 1999**
- **Court Found SOCOG in Breach of the DDA and Ordered that the Web Site be made Accessible**

Development of Internet Standards

- **World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Accessibility Initiative-1997**
- **US- Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards (1998 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act strengthening Section 508)**

W3C Web Accessibility Initiative

- **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (WCAG)- 1999**
- **Authoring Tool Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (ATAG)-2000**
- **User Agent Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (UAAG)-2002**

Section 508- US

- **Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998 Strengthened Section 508**
- **Electronic & Information Technology Accessibility Standards**
- **Expanded Definition of Accessibility in the Design of EIT Procured by the Federal Govt**

Section 508- Scope

- **Hardware/Software**
- **Web Pages**
- **Databases**
- **Fax Machines/Copiers**
- **ITMs, Kiosks**
- **Telephones**
- **Multimedia**
- **Any IT used in creation, conversion or duplication of data or information**

Section 508- Web

- **§1194.22 Web-based Intranet and Internet Information and Applications**
- **§1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support**

www.access-board.gov/508.htm

Section 508- Web

- **A Web Site satisfies Section 508 if it meets § 1194.22 (a) – (p) OR**
- **A Web Site satisfies Section 508 if it meets W3C WCAG 1.0, Priority One checkpoints AND §1194.22 (l), (m), (n), (o), and (p)**

Section 508- Impact

- **Accessibility in Mainstream EIT**
- **Accessibility in Both Products & Support – Help Desk, Documentation & Training**
- **Interoperability for Mainstream EIT & Assistive Computer Technology**

Section 508- Impact

- **Provides a Private Right of Action Against Federal Agencies**
- **Provides a Marketplace Incentive for Designing Accessibly**
- **Informs Entities Covered under ADA and Section 504**

Section 508-Impact

- **Requires an Accessible IT & Web Design Plan - Cannot Handle IT Accessibility Issues Exclusively on an “Ad Hoc” or “As Needed Basis”**
- **Ripple Effect is Underway – States and Local Governments are Adopting Section 508**

State Laws

- **States are Subject to Federal Laws Prohibiting Discrimination Against People with Disabilities**
- **Every State Also Has State Statutes Prohibiting Discrimination**
- **Every State is Unique in Structure and System**

State Accessibility Drivers

- **eCommerce Govt Initiatives Require Every Citizen Access**
- **Workforce Investment Act Requires Accessible Information Technology at One-Stop Centers**
- **Help America Vote Act Requires Accessible Voting Machines**

California

- **Amended CA Government Code §11135 Prohibiting Discrimination Against Disability**
- **Requires All Recipients of State Funding to Develop, Procure, Maintain or Use EIT Complying with Section 508**
- **Existing Private Right of Action; Now Also Requires Contractor Resolution of E&IT Complaints**

State Observations

- **Trend for States To Have Web Accessibility Policies based on W3C WCAG or Section 508 or a Hybrid**
- **Non-Web Section 508 Technical Standards for Accessibility Have Not Appeared to Advance as Quickly in Application Development & IT Procurement**

State Observations

- **Some States Have Administrative Complaint Procedures and Authorize Civil Action (Missouri, Kentucky, N. Carolina, Arkansas)**
- **One State Requires Vendor to Take a State Web Accessibility Course Based on State Standards for Entry into RFP Process (Connecticut)**

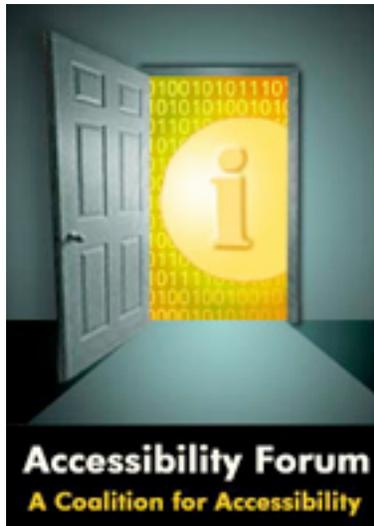
ITTATC State Initiative Reports

Information Technology Technical Assistance & Training Center

- **2002 Needs & Barriers to Achieving IT Accessibility**
- **2002 State IT Accessibility Standards, Laws/Policies & Resources**
- **2002 State Web Site IT Accessibility Standards**

www.ittatc.org/stateDocs/state.cfm

Federal Accessibility Forum



- **Industry, Consumer, Academia & Government Stakeholders in Section 508 Effort**

www.accessibilityforum.org

Global Impact

- **Growing Number of Governments Around the World are Adopting Accessible Web Design Standards**

Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxemburg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, UK, US
Constructing Accessible Web Sites



European Union e-Accessibility Priorities

- **Policies to Avoid 'Info-Exclusion'**
- **Adoption of W3C Web Accessibility Initiative Guidelines for Public Web Sites**
- **Publication of 'Design for All' Standards**
- **Review of Relevant Legislation to Conform to Accessibility Principles**



European Union e-Accessibility Priorities

- **Establish National Centers of Excellence & Create European Curriculum- April 2002**
- **European ICT Standards Groups (CEN & ETSI) Guidelines for ICT Products & Services: Design for All -2002**
- **EuroAccessibility Consortium- April 2003**



United Nations Activity

- **Proposed International Treaty or Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities**
- **Seeks Full Participation in Society Including Barrier Removal and Reasonable Accommodation**
- **Accessible ICT with Reasonable Accommodation**

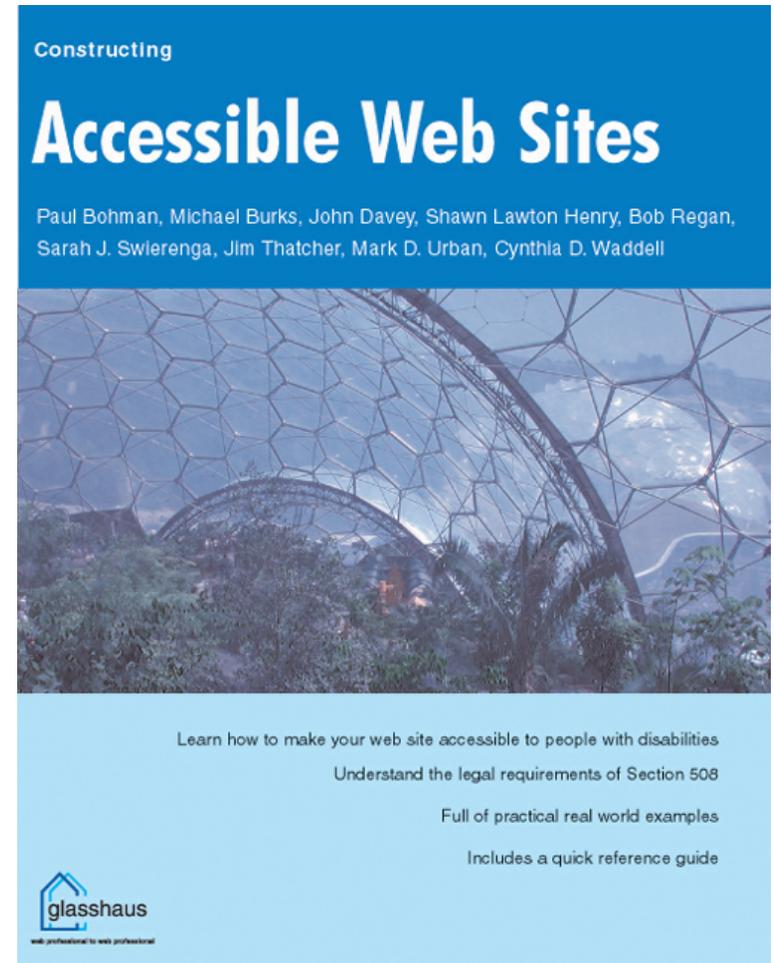


Call for Accessible ICT

- **March 2003 Manila Declaration on Accessible Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**
- **April 2003 Quito Declaration**
- **June 2003 Bangkok Declaration**
- **September 2003 UN Economic & Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific- Emerging Social Issues**

Accessible Web Resource

Includes Global Survey of Accessible Web Law and Policies as well as In Depth Look at Section 508





Accessible Web Resources

- **Cynthia Says™ Portal**
www.cynthiasays.com



- **Online Web Accessibility Validator for Section 508 and W3C WCAG**
- **Help Resources and Tutorials**
- **www.access-board.gov/508.htm**

IT Changes - Civil Rights Do Not

- **Perform Self-Evaluations of Electronic & Information Technology**
- **Adopt Accessible Web Policies & Implementation Procedures**

IT Changes - Civil Rights Do Not

- **Provide Web Developers and Managers Accessibility Training, Design Tools and Resources**
- **Build Accessibility into Web-Based Applications and System Design**

IT Changes - Civil Rights Do Not

- **Consult the Community of People with Disabilities as We Address Challenges Ahead**



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