Web Accessibility at Indiana University

Digital Library Brown Bag

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Committee History

- Web Standards Committee – 2006
  To develop and maintain a set of standards, guidelines, and resources to facilitate the quality and consistency of Web publishing at Indiana University. To foster a community of people who will share their knowledge and experiences, communicate, collaborate, and leverage existing and emerging technologies and resources effectively and efficiently.
Web Standards Subcommittees

- Web Accessibility
- Emerging Technologies
- Integrating Institutional Data
- Calendaring
- Multimedia
- Privacy Notice
- RSS Feeds
About Web Accessibility Committee

- Core group and mission took a while to form
- First goal - develop a “web accessibility policy” for IU
- Methodology
  - Reviewed Big 10, other academic institutions
  - Reviewed legal issues (Section 508, ADA, Telecommunications Act, etc)
  - Wrote 1st draft policy Fall 2007
About Web Accessibility Committee

- Policy review followed

Points of debate:
- Terminology
- Exact Purpose
- Scope
- Legal Issues
- Length (verbose or succinct)
- How much to include (guidelines, tools, examples, legal references)
- Structure of policy document
Web Accessibility Policy, Or Not

• Have policy, will travel
  1st stop – UITS IT Policy Office
    • Reviewed and redirected
  2nd stop - IU Office of Affirmative Action
    • Bus is currently located here
  3rd stop - ??
Policy Support Documents

• Guidelines
  Based on Section 508, WCAG 1 & 2, and Best Practices

• Resources
  Tools – i.e., Firefox plug-ins to aid web development
  Validators – i.e., W3C or F/B Color Contrast Analyzer to aid evaluation of web sites

• Classes
  STEPS class through UITS that ends in certification

• ATC Testing
  ATC evaluations of web sites (functional and coding evaluations) using screen reading technologies, FAE
Web Accessibility in Practice

- **Indiana Magazine of History**
  - W3C HTML and CSS validators
  - Firefox plug-ins (Fangs, DOM Inspector)
  - ATC evaluation
    - Search forms missing labels or labeled poorly
    - Search results – more headings, more descriptive links needed
What’s Next?

- Continue shepherding policy
- Guidelines publication
- Resources development and publication
- Class development
- Rollout strategy
Comments! Questions? Suggestions.

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