

Tools for Digital Accessibility



by Lilian Aluri for Art Access, Salt Lake City, Utah

Digital accessibility is about making our online presence and material accessible to millions of people with a range of disabilities impacting communications accessibility. Digital accessibility requires a commitment to equity, growth, and flexibility as you incorporate new tools and processes into your operations. In order to get you started on your journey towards digital accessibility, we have put together an explanation of some of the most important tools for digital accessibility. While the list of tools, technologies, and aspects of digital accessibility go far beyond the tools we have included below, the tools below provide a great place to start! For each tool below, you will also find additional resources to help you dive deeper into the topic.

ALT TEXT

What is alt text?

Alternative text describes an image and can be read aloud by screen readers.

Where can I learn more?

[How to Write an Image Description](#)

[How to Write Alt Text and Image Descriptions for Photojournalism Images](#)

AUDIO DESCRIPTION

What is audio description?

Audio description or “visual description” communicates what is happening on screen, in a video, or live. They are like alt text for videos, live conversations, and presentations.

Where can I learn more?

[What is Audio Description?](#)

[Why Audio Descriptions Need to Be a Priority for Your Content](#)

[Audiomance: Imagining the Future of Audio Description](#)

HIGH CONTRAST COLORS

What are high contrast colors?

High contrast colors are colors that are very different in lightness and darkness. Using high contrasting colors between text and backgrounds and within images make them easier to perceive.

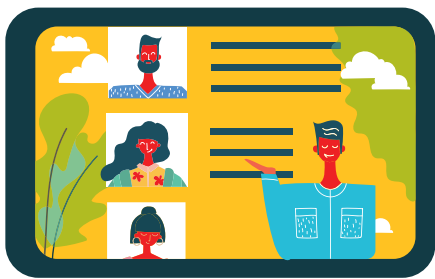
Where can I learn more?

[Choosing High Contrast Colors Schemes for Low Vision](#)

TEXT SIZE

What is Text Size?

Text size is about using larger text that is easier to read for people with low vision. Using larger text is really important to make sure that your material is readable for everyone in your audience.



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DESCRIPTIVE LINKS

What are descriptive links?

Descriptive links replace the long URL with a short description of what the link leads to.

Where can I learn more?

[Descriptive Hyperlinks](#)

[Global Accessibility Awareness Day Post Three: Describe It Well to Help Your Users Get the Picture](#)

CONTENT STRUCTURE

What is content structure?

The structure of text content allows a screen reader to understand the different parts of writing, such as the title and headings. In a document, content structure is edited with the “Styles” menu.

Where can I learn more?

[Providing Structure in Web Pages and Documents](#)

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) INTERPRETING

What is ASL Interpretation?

American Sign Language is a signing language used by about a million people, used not only by people with deafness, hearing loss, but also other communication disorders. ASL interpreting involves having a qualified interpreter alongside the speaker simultaneously interpreting the words said.

Where can I learn more?

[Working with Sign Language Interpreters for Events](#)

[ADA Quick Tips - Sign Language Interpreters](#)

[Utah Interpreter Directory](#)

CAPTIONS

What is captioning?

Captions turn audio content into streams of text or static transcripts capturing each word.

Where can I learn more?

[Communication Access Realtime Translation Captioning and CART](#)

[CART: A System That Works for Nearly Everyone With Hearing Loss](#)

[List of Known CART Services for Utah](#)

PLAIN LANGUAGE

What is plain language?

Plain language is a way of communicating clearly and in a way that everyone can understand. It includes writing in short sentences with vocabulary that people without a high school-level vocabulary can understand, using visualizations, and writing as clearly as possible.

Where can I learn more?

[Writing in Plain Language](#)

[Plain Language Advisory Group](#)

[Plain Language Checklist](#)