Web Accessibility at Indiana University

Digital Library Brown Bag

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY

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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