

Accessibility by the Numbers

Did you know

- The United States' population is 313.9 million.
- 19% have a disability. That's 60 million Americans!
- 6.7 million people are blind, 5 million are deaf, and 14.3 million are cognitive-limited.

And, 77 million baby boomers are getting old. Over four million turn 65 each year, and disabilities will increase four to five times. By 2030, 20 million people will be deaf, 20 to 25 million blind, and 60 million cognitive-limited. Baby boomers control three-fourths of America's wealth – that's 28 trillion dollars! Also, baby boomers outspend younger adults online two-to-one.

What is Accessibility?

People with disabilities and an aging population increase the need for accessible electronic information and resources. Accessibility means that electronic information is easy to use by people with

- Limited mobility, including Quadriplegia and spinal cord injuries
- Hearing impairments, such as hard of hearing and deafness
- Visual impairments, like low vision, blindness, and color blindness
- Cognitive disabilities, including dyslexia and Attention Deficit Disorder
- Other disabilities, too

Accessibility also means that electronic information is easy to use on any electronic device, such as smart phones, tablets, laptops, and desk top computers. Finally, accessibility means that electronic information is compatible with assistive technologies.

Assistive Technology

Assistive technology help people with disabilities understand electronic information. For example, people with visual impairments may use screen readers, screen magnifiers, or braille printers. People with limited mobility may use alternative keyboards. People with hearing impairments may use text telephones and video captioning.

Accessibility Tips

Whether you're making a webpage or Word document, you must make it accessible to everyone regardless of ability, disability, or assistive technology used. Here's how:

- Make it easy to read

- Is there sufficient color contrast?
 - Did you use plain language?
 - Think about font size and line spacing
- Make it easy to navigate by structuring your content
 - Did you use heading styles?
 - Are the heading styles in the correct order?
- Include alternate options
 - Did you describe all images with alternative text?
 - Are there captions or transcriptions for videos?

If you use Microsoft Word, you should use the Accessibility Ribbon to format columns, tables, hyperlinks, and images. And be sure to use the Accessibility Checker to find and correct any issues.

Remember, accessibility is

- About your audience and meeting their needs
- Making something that can be used by as many people as possible
- The law
- Everyone's responsibility

To Learn More

For more information, contact your Accessibility Coordinator.

Make Texas number one in accessibility!