



Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) & accessibility

The Disability Discrimination Act requires that people with disabilities are not discriminated against. This includes making websites accessible. Failure to do so could lead to prosecution for a breach of the act.

Sites should meet the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) standards on accessibility. There are many disabilities to consider including visual, auditory, physical, speech, cognitive, and neurological disabilities.

Building an accessible site benefits everyone. Some simple changes to your design can make a big difference.

Here are just a few things to consider;

- Have a menu that makes it easy to navigate through your site.
- Images should have ALT tags describing what the image is.
- Tables should be avoided unless they are used for displaying data.
- Text links should describe where they are going instead of saying 'click here'
- Your design shouldn't rely on colour. Your site may be seen as Black & White.
- Links should be underlined to show where they are in your text.
- Try to make file download sizes small.
- Use clear language for writing your copy

Useful sites

W3C Markup Validation Service - <http://validator.w3.org/>

W3C CSS Validation Service - <http://jigsaw.w3.org/css-validator/>

W3C Link Checker - <http://validator.w3.org/checklink>

Vischeck Colour Blindness Simulator - <http://www.vischeck.com/vischeck/vischeckURL.php>

Screen Size Tester - <http://www.anybrowser.com/ScreenSizeTest.html>

Online Screen Reader - <http://webanywhere.cs.washington.edu/wa.php>