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AN OVERVIEW OF WEB ACCESSIBILITY

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Overview

- Timelines
- What are the standards?
- What makes a Web page accessible?
- Institutional Web accessibility
- Considerations
- Resources

Timelines

**OCR Letter of
Resolution
(Docket # 9-95-2206)**



Docket No. 09-95-2206

"The regulation [Title II at 28 C.F.R. SS 35.106 (a)] requires a public entity, such as a state university, to take appropriate steps to ensure that communications with persons with disabilities are as effective as communications with others. Thus, the issue is not whether the student with the disability is merely provided access, but the issue is rather the extent to which the communication is actually as effective as that provided to others."

[from http://icdri.org/legal/sjsu.htm](http://icdri.org/legal/sjsu.htm)

Timelines

**OCR Letter of
Resolution
(Docket # 9-95-2206)**



**OCR Letter of
Resolution
(Docket # 9-97-2002)**

Docket No. 09-97-2002

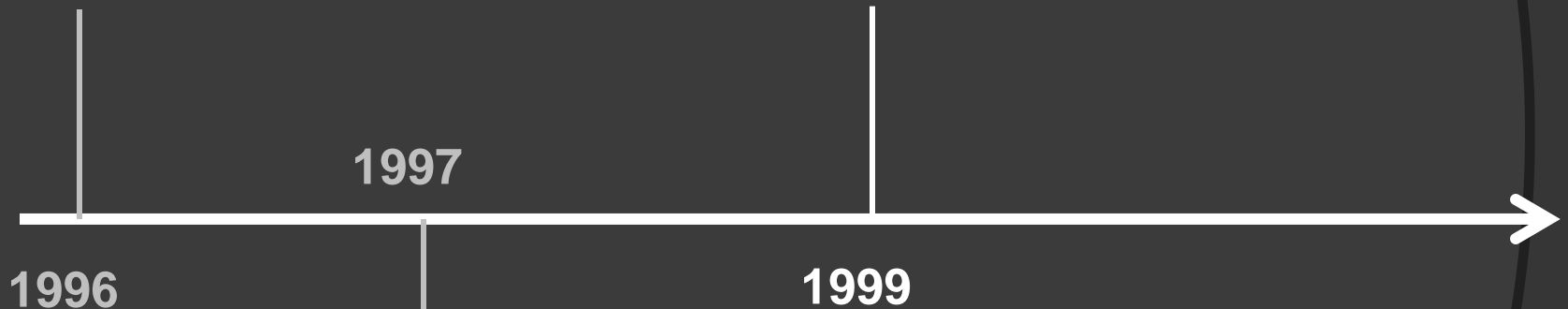
"In construing the conditions under which communication is "as effective as" that provided to non disabled persons, on several occasions OCR has held that the three basic components of effectiveness are timeliness of delivery, accuracy of the translation, and provision in a manner and medium appropriate to the significance of the message and the abilities of the individual with the disability."

[from http://icdri.org/legal/csula.htm](http://icdri.org/legal/csula.htm)

Timelines

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Web Content
Accessibility Guidelines
1.0 (WCAG) released



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What are the Standards?

- ◉ Web content is covered under Subpart B, (1194.22) Web-based intranet and Internet Information and Applications
<http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/1194.22.htm>
- ◉ 16 criteria define what is meant by "access" regarding Web-based content
- ◉ Criteria are intended to be "AT-agnostic" and not focused on a specific brand of assistive technology or device

Example 1

- ⦿ (a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt", "longdesc", or in element content).



Example 2

There is a text equivalent...but is it effective?



Course Discussions: Assignment Two



Thread



Remove



Collect



Flag



Clear Flag



Mark Read



Mark Unread

What the Standards Deliver

- The Section 508 Standards (1194.22) provide a technical framework for creating accessible Web-based content
- Serve as guidance and direction to institutions in meeting the obligations set forth in Section 504 and Title II of the ADA

Institutional Policies

- ◎ Some institutions have adopted the Section 508 Standards based on state laws
 - May be limited to Web standards or inclusive of all electronic and information technology
- ◎ Other institutions have developed Web accessibility policies based on the WCAG, Section 508, and other criteria

Sample Policies

- The Ohio State University

<http://ada.osu.edu/resources/WebPolicies.htm>

- University of Wisconsin-Madison

<http://www.wisc.edu/policy/wwwap.php>

- The University of Texas at Austin

<http://www.utexas.edu/web/guidelines/accessibility.html>

So you have a policy....now what?

Campus-wide Issue

**Public
Website
for
College**

**Libraries
Museums**

**Campus
Intranet /
Admin.
Functions**

**Distance
Learning**

**LMS &
CMS
platform**

**Instructional
Materials**

Books

Web pages

**PowerPoint,
PDF, Word**

**Audio &
Video**

**Student
Portals**

**Online
reg.
systems**

**E-mail
platforms**

Distributed Training Model

- Train content creators in the basic principles of authoring accessible content
- Specialists will still be needed to convert content into alternate formats
- San Jose State University's Model
<http://www.sjsu.edu/accessibility/>

Immediate Planning

- ⦿ Do you have a plan in place for a student who:
 - Wants to know if disability services are available?
 - Requests materials in alternate formats?
 - Is eligible to receive extended testing time for assignments?
 - Is required to access 3rd-party content that may not be accessible? (e.g., YouTube videos, [interactive exercises](#), etc.)

Book Resources

- Web Accessibility: Web Standards and Regulatory Compliance
(ISBN 1-59059-638-2)
- Maximum Accessibility
(ISBN 0-201-77422-4)
- Accessibility for Everybody: Understanding the Section 508 Accessibility Requirements
(ISBN 1-590-59086-4)
- Building Accessible Websites
(<http://joelclark.org/book/>)

Web Resources

- ◉ High Tech Center Training Unit
<http://www.htctu.net>
- ◉ WebAIM Articles
<http://webaim.org/articles/>
- ◉ Jim Thatcher
<http://jimthatcher.com>
- ◉ iCITA Web Best Practices
<http://cita.rehab.uiuc.edu/>

Web Resources

- WCAG 2.0 Candidate Recommendation
<http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>
- Section 508 Standards Proposed Refresh
<http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/refresh/report/>

THANK YOU

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