



WP3.1 Accessibility Issues in VISWER

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Introduction

- ❑ Contribution to D3.1.4 Requirements for a joint learning infrastructure
- ❑ Importance of accessibility
- ❑ Analysis of VISWER and changes made
- ❑ Future issues to be resolved

Importance of accessibility

- ❑ Crucial but often overlooked factor in web design and content provision
- ❑ Not just about people with disabilities; accessibility is about making sites
 - Usable
 - Easy to use
 - Attractive to use
- ❑ For everyone

Legal implications

- ❑ EU directive for equal treatment in employment and occupation EU0102295F
- ❑ General framework targeting discrimination
- ❑ In the UK, DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) makes it unlawful for a service provider to discriminate against disabled people
- ❑ Covers websites specifically
- ❑ SENDA (Special Educational Needs and Disability Act), is another amendment to DDA specifically about provision of educational material

Accessibility analysis of VISWER

- ❑ We analysed 1st version of VISWER for accessibility issues, by means of (experienced) user feedback
- ❑ Main issues were with fonts, colours, images, and navigation
- ❑ Some of the major issues have been tackled; others rely on more complex solutions

Fonts and Colours

- ❑ Problems with colour contrast, e.g. white on yellow for search, black on dark green for sidebar, white on grey for main page
- ❑ Good points noted were white on dark green for left sidebar, black on white for right sidebar.
- ❑ Most of these have now been fixed

Images

- ❑ Some symbols were unclear and too small (e.g. arrows for searching, which made it difficult to select using a mouse)
- ❑ VISWER logo is very “blocky” and has no alternative text other than that contained in the image
- ❑ Need to add text “VISWER” and its expansion somewhere else as well, since this information is not to be found elsewhere

Navigation

- ❑ Most of the navigation was clear and well designed
- ❑ Problem with inconsistent links and underlining (e.g. some links defined solely by colour)
- ❑ Links should be underlined, non-links should not
- ❑ Links to non-existent pages were detected – these have now been removed

Catalogue

- ❑ Some layout and navigation problems detected in the catalogue
- ❑ Mystery meat navigation (MMN) for the search boxes (not clear what they indicated until mouseover)
- ❑ Ranking system unclear and unexplained
- ❑ Arrows too small and unclear
- ❑ Unclear that search boxes on main page refer just to catalogue and not whole site

Links page

- ❑ “Collection of Links” page was very unclear
- ❑ Difficult to distinguish between headers (links) and descriptions
- ❑ Need colour contrast, better use of spacing and correct use of underlining

Ariadne System

- ❑ Navigational issues with the Ariadne system
- ❑ What's the difference between Ariadne Search and Catalogue Search?
- ❑ No way of returning from Ariadne pages to main VISWER page
- ❑ Consider Ariadne pages opening as a separate window by default