Broadening Communications: Redesigning Your Web Site to Reach Diverse Constituents

Council on Foundations 2003 Annual Conference Dallas, Texas

Martin Schneiderman Information Age Associates 47 Murray Place Princeton, New Jersey 08540 <u>www.iaa.com</u> 609-924-6936

Panelists

- Tessie Guillermo President and CEO Community Technology Foundation of California www.zerodivide.org
- Laura Oftedahl Development and Communications Director World Institute on Disability <u>www.wid.org</u>
- Martin Schneiderman President Information Age Associates <u>www.iaa.com</u>
 and – Technology Editor Foundation News & Commentary





Curb Cuts to the Information Superhighway



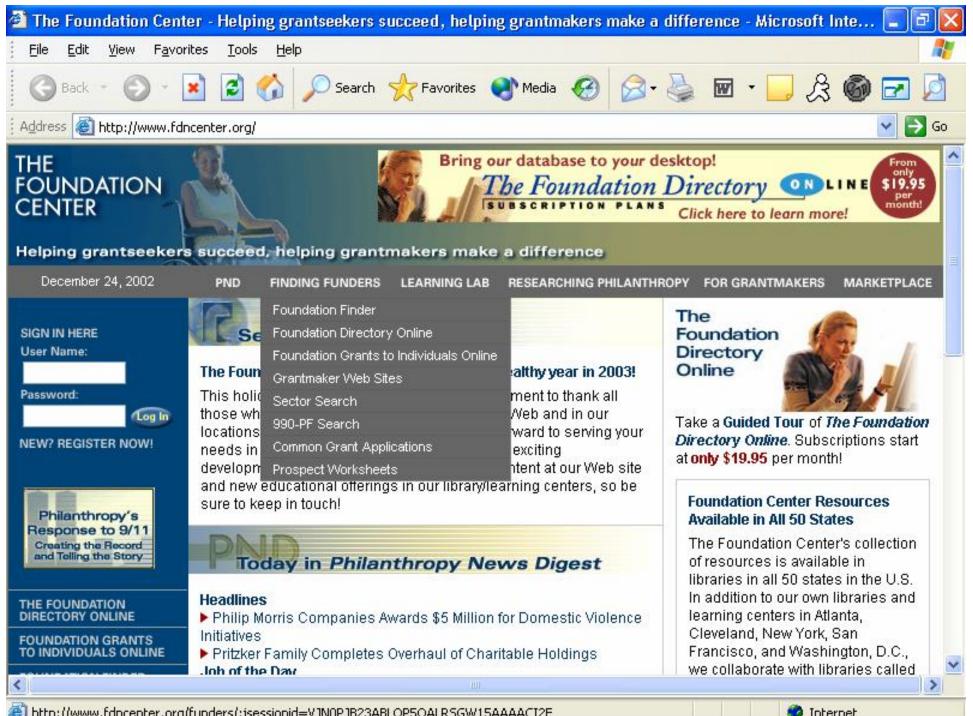
- i Accessible design broadens communications and puts Web sites within everyone's reach.
- i In the physical world, curb-cuts not only help people in wheelchairs get from the street to the sidewalk, they also help families pushing strollers and shopping carts. Bicyclists, rollerbladers, and people with wheeled luggage use them too.
- Similarly, accessible Web site design increases online communication's effectiveness, usefulness, and reach.



Key Design Considerations

- i Make it easy for audiences to find the information that they're looking for
- i Keep information up-to-date
- i Provide key content in the languages spoken by your target <u>audiences</u>
- i Consider support of <u>multi-lingual</u> character sets
- i Ensure accessibility for everyone
- i Use description and keyword metatags
- i Design and test for cross browser support Internet Explorer and Netscape
- i Design and test for cross platform support Windows and Macintosh computers

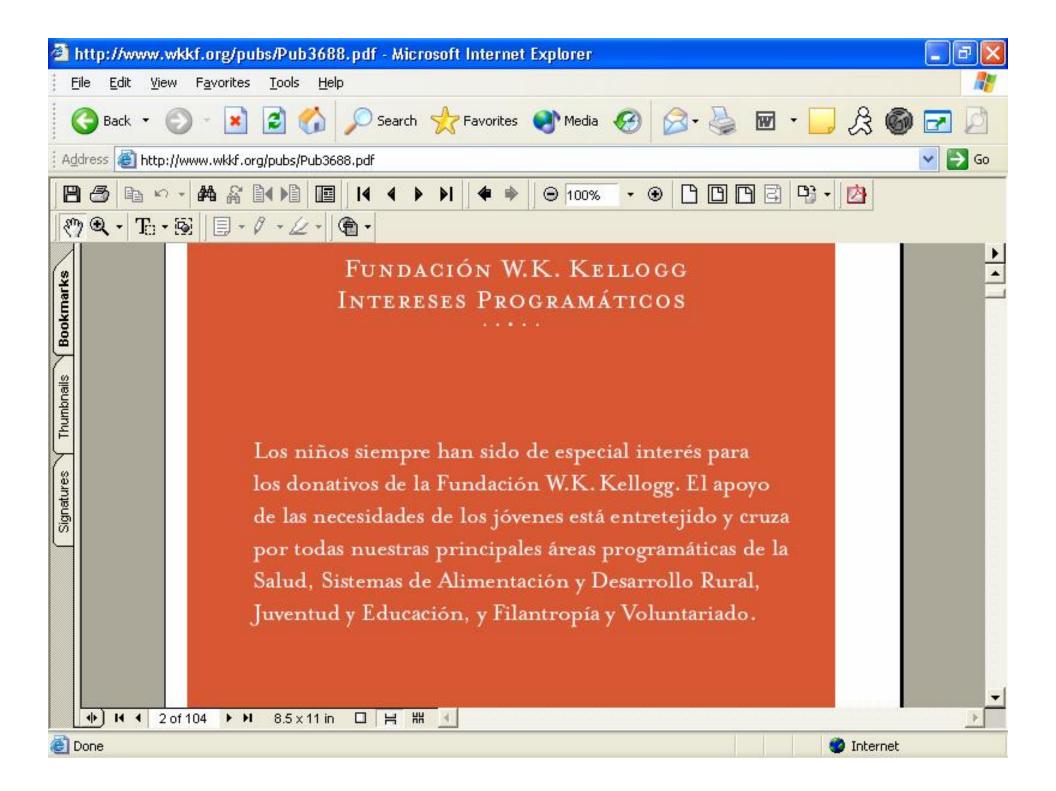




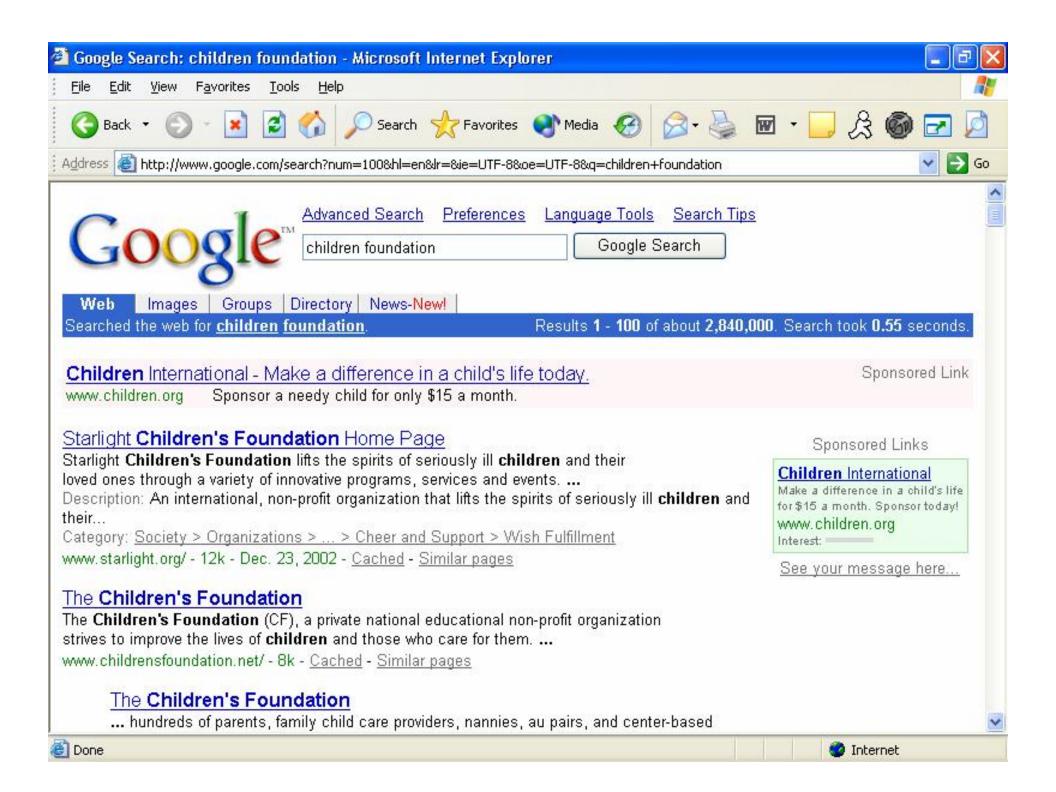
http://www.fdncenter.org/funders/;jsessionid=VJN0PJB23ABLQP5QALR5GW15AAAACI2F

💋 Internet





The Foundation for Children	- Publications - Microsoft Internet Explorer	
<u>F</u> ile <u>E</u> dit <u>V</u> iew F <u>a</u> vorites <u>T</u> oo	ls <u>H</u> elp	1
🌀 Back 🔹 🕥 🕤 📓 💈	🏠 🔎 Search 🧙 Favorites 🜒 Media 🥝 🎯 🔂 - 🎍 🗔 💭 🖧 🎯 🕻	2 🖉
Address 🙆 http://www.sitenetcm.com	n/sitedemo/resources/publications/DisplayContent.cfm?CategoryID=36&PageFormat=DisplayCat	💌 🋃 Go
Foundation for	Children SEARCH SITE MAP HELP HOME	^
ABOUT US WHA	T'S NEW GRANT INFORMATION RESOURCES CONTACT US FEEDBACK EXTRANET	
> PRESS RELEASES > PUBLICATIONS > ONLINE RESOURCES	Publications Save the Children Save the Children es una Organización No Gubernamental (ONG) para la defensa y promoción de los derechos de la infancia en el marco de la Convención sobre los Derechos del Niño de Naciones Unidas. En España inició su actividad en 1990 bajo la denominación de FUNCOE (Fundación Cooperación y Educación), antes de unirse, en mayo de 1998, a la Alianza Internacional Save the Children. Sostente Sostenze Sour Missing Children Fancais Tangais Disposibilitation es services de police à enquêter sur les cas d'enfants disparus qui est de unere en oyale du Canada d'un Services nationaux des enfants disparus qui est dificiellement entré en opération en août 1988. Destor de Crianças e Adolescentes Desaparecidos recebe famílias que tenham suas crianças/adolescentes desaparecidos por fuga, rapto ou seqüestro, e também maiores de idade, mas mentalmente incapazes. Por meio de um software, o Setor de criancas/adolescentes desaparecidos por fuga, rapto ou seqüestro, e também maiores de idade, mas mentalmente incapazes. Por meio de um software, o Setor de criancas/adolescentes desaparecidos por fuga, rapto ou seqüestro, e também maiores de idade, mas mentalmente incapazes. Por meio de um software, o Setor de criancas/adolescentes desaparecidos por fuga, rapto ou seqüestro, e também maiores de idade, mas mentalmente incapazes. Por meio de um software, o Setor de criancas/adolescentes desaparecidos por fuga, rapto ou seqüestro, e também maiores de idade, mas mentalmente incapazes. Por meio de um software, o Setor de criancas/adolescentes desaparecidos por fuga, rapto ou seqüestro, e também maiores de idade, mas mentalmente incapazes. Por meio de um software, o Setor de criancas/adolescentes desaparecidos por fuga, rapto ou seqüestro, e também maiores de idade.	
🙆 Done	🥥 Internet	



Actual Google listing of a Foundation that had No Description Metatags

ABC FOUNDATION

This site utilizes frames. If you can read this text, then your web browser does not support frames. We suggest Netscape Communicator or Internet Explorer. ... <u>www.abc.org/</u> - 2k - <u>Cached</u> - <u>Similar pages</u>

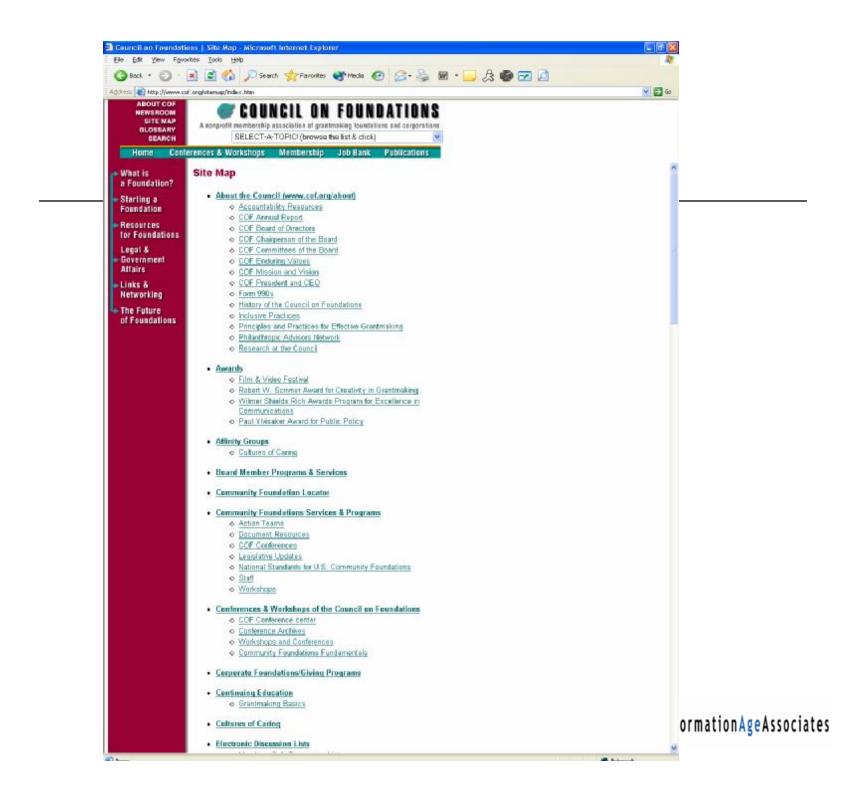
Note: The name of this foundation has been changed to protect the innocent



More Key Design Considerations

- i Ensure readability in common screen resolutions
- i Limit graphic size and image resolution to ensure good performance over dial-up connections
- i Make limited use of client-side technologies Flash, Java, and JavaScript
- i Use style sheets to ensure consistency
- i Design effective navigation
- i Provide a dynamic site map
- i Index all site content so that it's searchable
 - Full text plus the contents of attachments (PDF, Word and Excel files)



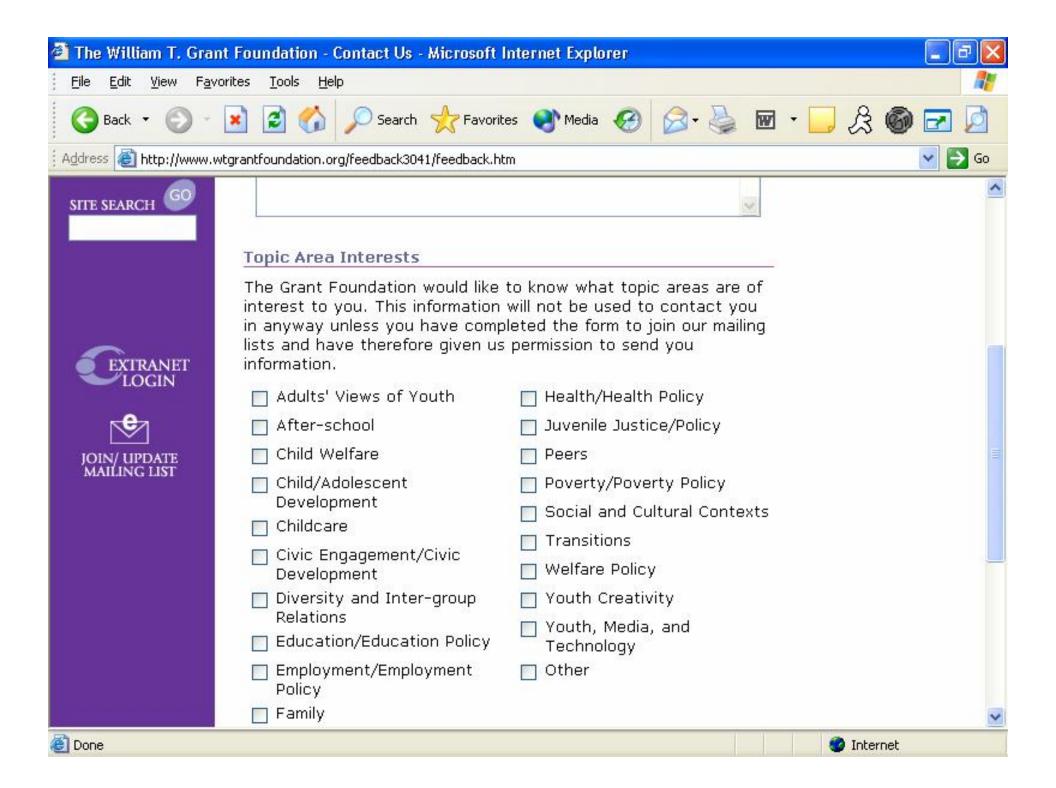


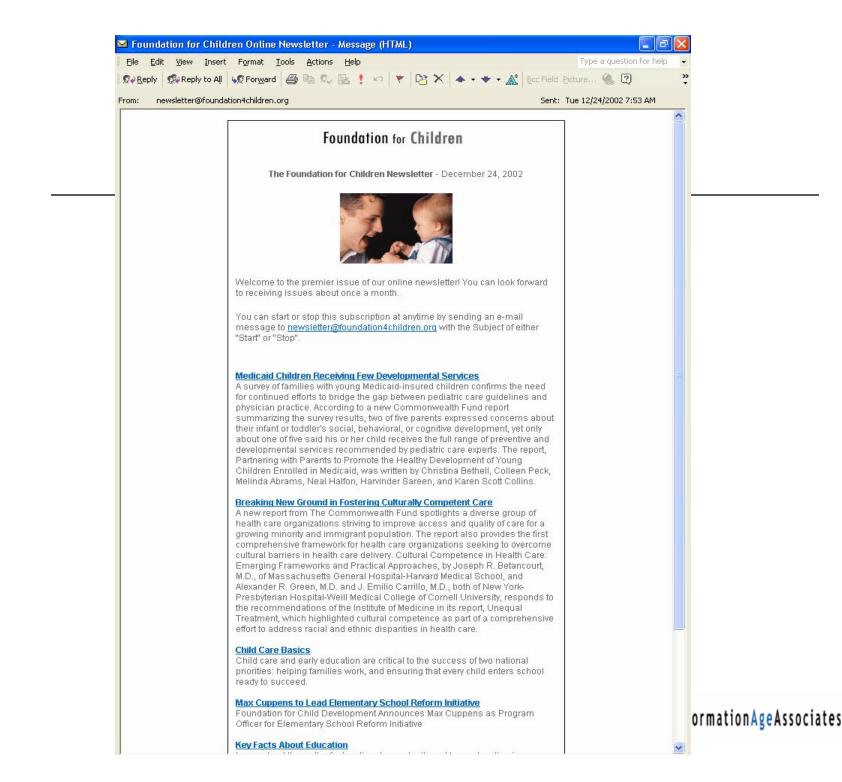
ile <u>E</u> dit ⊻iew) Back ▼ ⊘	F <u>a</u> vorites <u>T</u> o	ools <u>H</u> elp	7 Favorites 🛛 🍣	Media 🙆 🍃	- 🗞 👿 -	🗆 & 🕲 🗖	20	
dress 🙆 http://	www.cfgnh.org/s	itemap.html						✓ →
The Community Foundation	News	Grants	How to Give	Publications	Websites of Interest	Guest Book	Contact	Home
mission staff/officers financials	newsletter recent grants calendar press releases opportunities	recent grants grant guidelines apply for a grant programs seminars annual report new directions focus areas: education health youth development regionalism capacity building	giving methods ways of giving philanthropic services foundation alternatives finance & investment trustee banks & managers donor initiatives donor events	annual report grant guidelines newsletter news insert	website links	request publications	how to reach us	

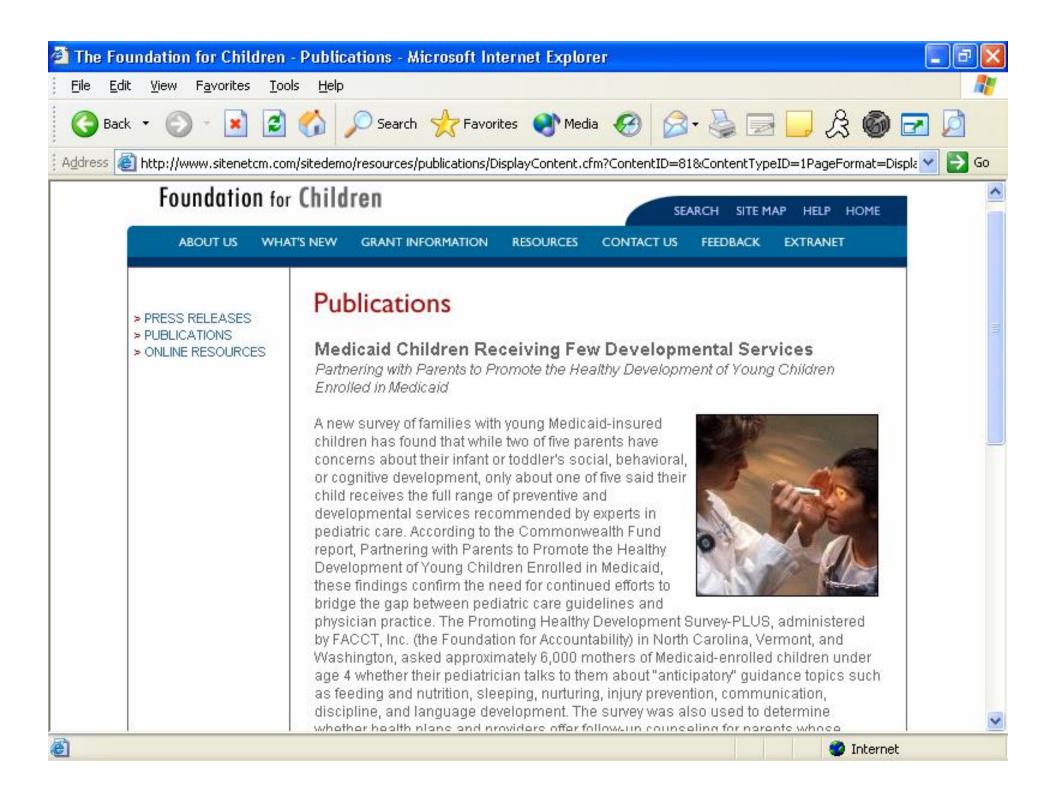
More Key Design Considerations

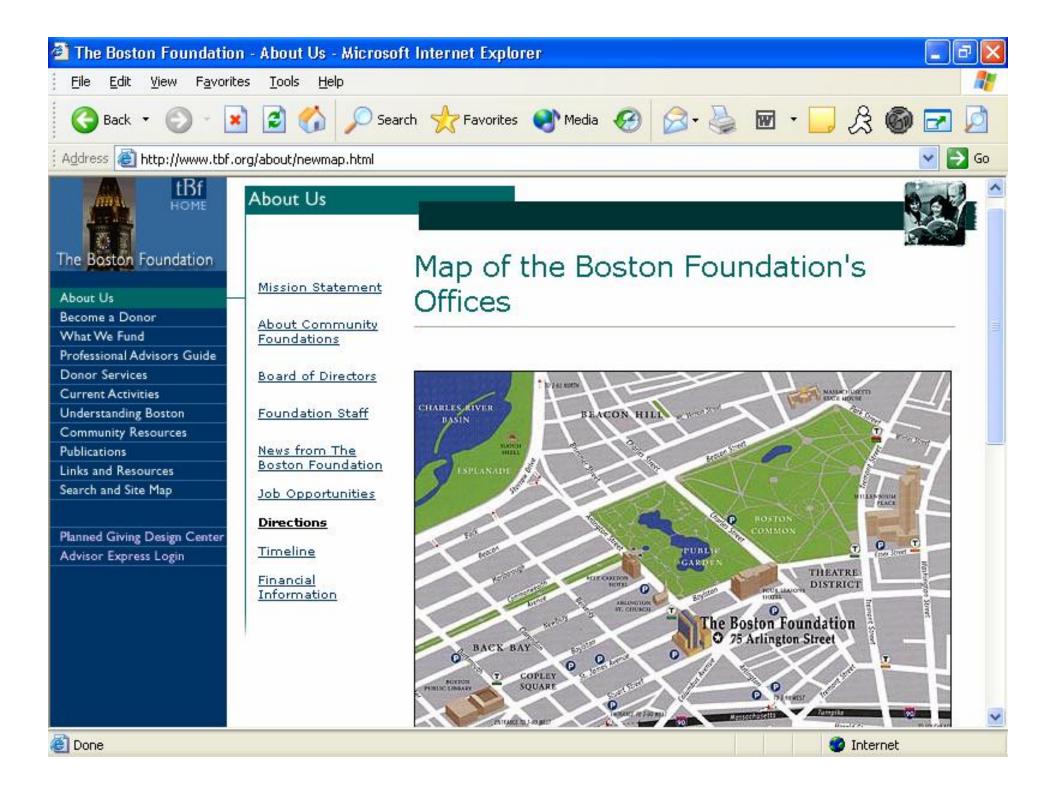
- i Give users the ability to specify <u>interests</u> and to opt in/out of mailing lists
- i Reuse content for broadcast newsletters
- i Provide seamless links to other systems
 - online grant applications
 - contact management
 - event registration
 - investment management
- i Consider public and private discussion forums
- i Post frequently asked questions (FAQs)
- i Display driving directions with maps
- i Provide online help
- i Offer feedback forms







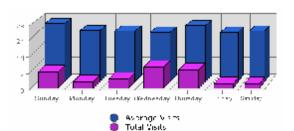


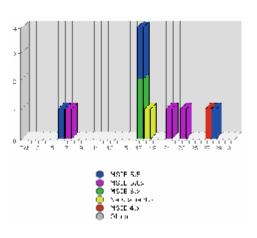




Analyze Your Site's Usage to Make Informed Decisions

- i Site activity
- i Page reports
- i Referral reports
- i Browser reports
- i Geographic reports







Tips for Avoiding Bad Web Design

i Word, word, words

On a web page, less is more. Usability studies show that, on average, a person can read about 25% as much text on a monitor as s/he can read on a printed page. Choose your words carefully.

i Huge pictures and graphics

Why avoid the large? Download time my friend. While visitors love graphics and color, they won't stick around for a slow-loading page (unless it's your Mom or your best friend). Use a graphic-optimizing program to downsize your graphics, not the width and height attributes of the HTML tag.

i Unreadable text

Reading text on a monitor is hard enough already. Don't make it harder by using a tiny font size, or by selecting a color for your text that is close to, or clashes with, the background color.

Source: Gayle Pyfrom - Tech Soup Special Report excerpt





Is your site readable by 20 million Americans who are color blind?

Can you read this?	How about this?
Ouch!	Nope.

Source: Gayle Pyfrom - Tech Soup Special Report excerpt



Tips for Avoiding Bad Web Design

i Loooong pages

Usability studies demonstrate greater comprehension and memory in readers presented with one or two screens of material in a page. Organize your longer articles into screen-sized blocks, then use next and "previous" links to guide your visitor through the pages.

i Blinking, twinkling, twirling images in garish colors

Exercise some restraint with animated images. Animations can be really fun for some people, and hideously annoying to others. Know your audience. Remember that images are information, and movement is information too. Ask yourself if the movement works with the images to convey your idea.

Source: Gayle Pyfrom - Tech Soup Special Report excerpt



Accessibility References

- i Disabilities Funders Network http://www.disabilityfunders.org
- i World Institute on Disability
- i Cynthia Says http://www.contentquality.com
- i Section 508 accessibility standards http://www.section508.gov
- i W3C Web Accessibility Initiative
- i Microsoft's Accessibility Support Page http://www.microsoft.com/enable
- i Virtual Assistive Technology Center
- i The Alliance for Technology Access







Some Good Articles about Web Site Design and Accessibility

- i Accessibility Online http://www.techsoup.org/articlepage.cfm?ArticleId=266&topicid=13
- i And Web Sites for All http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,2986,00.asp
- i A Guide to Building Accessible Web Sites http://www.techsoup.org/articlepage.cfm?articleid=252&topicid=13
- i Tips for Avoiding Bad Web Design http://www.techsoup.org/articlepage.cfm?articleid=240&topicid=13
- i Designing Your Website for the Disabled <u>http://www.techsoup.org/articlepage.cfm?articleid=265&topicid=13</u>







Some Useful Tools and Services

AlertSite – <u>www.alertsite.com</u>

An online Web site monitoring and alerting service (starting at \$15/month) that checks your Web site regularly to ensure that it's operating properly.

- i **BrowserSizer** <u>http://www.applythis.com/browsersizer/</u> A free program to see how a site will look using Internet Explorer and Netscape in different video resolutions.
- i Google back link search Link: <u>www.myfoundation.org</u> A quick and easy way to find out which other Web sites have provided links to yours.
- i pdfFactory <u>www.fineprint.com</u> A low-cost program (\$50) that creates small PDF files.
- i The Internet Archive Wayback Machine <u>www.archive.org</u> Go back in time to see how a past version of a Web site looked.
- i Xenu <u>http://home.snafu.de/tilman/xenulink.html#Download</u> A free program to check sites for broken links.





pdfFactory



Section 508 Accessibility Testing Tools

- i **Types of tools**. Section 508 compliance tools automatically detect and document accessibility failures. Many tools also will correct the problems.
- Accuracy. Automated tools can help Web site designers identify problems fairly quickly and inexpensively. They're don't work 100% of the time. Many requirements are subject to interpretations.
- i **Product selection**. Take products for a test drive before buying. Consider plug-ins so that developers can continue using their favorite products.
- i Cost. They range in cost from free to products and services that cost \$10,000+.
- Report or fix? Some tools only report, others make repairs too. Also consider going beyond the basic 508 guidelines to stricter Priority 2 or 3 Web Content Accessibility Guidelines recommendations.
- i Site testing. Invite people with disabilities to help do the testing!

http://www.gcn.com/newspics/G31buyersp38.pdf



🚰 Section 508: The Road to	o Accessibility - Microsoft Internet Explorer	
<u>File E</u> dit <u>V</u> iew F <u>a</u> vorites	Tools Help	
🔇 Back 🔹 🕥 - 💌	📓 🏠 🔎 Search 🤺 Favorites 🜒 Media 🥝 🔗 🎍	. 🖻 - 🧾 🎗 🎯 🛃 🧖
Address 🙆 http://www.section	508.gov/index.cfm?FuseAction=&StartRow=1&EndRow=10&ReportsStartRow=1&	ReportsEndRow=20 🛛 😽 🔂 Go
		Site Layout Controls
Secti	여다 508 w.section508.gov	Change Font Verdana 💉 Change Font Size 11p× 💽 Enter
Buy Accessible 508 Lay Search	w 508 & You 508 Training 508 Coordinators Accessibilit Breaking News	y Forum FAQs Events
Enter Search Words Buy Accessible Products Buy Accessible Services Section 508 Website Search Clear	The <u>Section 508 Awareness CD</u> is now available online. This CD contains general Section 508 information for all employees, as well as a self-test and copies of the statute, accessibility standards, and relevant sections of the FAR. Links to <u>Federal Agency Public URL's on Section508 Guidance</u> is available online.	Username Enter Username Password Buy Accessible 508 Universe
Additional Links	Federal webmasters need <u>compliance tools</u> to assist with website remediation. Here is an update on <u>tools used to detect and repair</u> <u>508 violations.</u>	↔ <u>Forgot Password?</u> → <u>Register For Buγ Accessible</u> → <u>Register For The 508 Universe</u>
Communications/Media	Home	
<u>Resources & Links</u> <u>AT Showcase</u> <u>Contact Us</u>	Section 508 requires that Federal agencies' electronic and information technology is accessible to people with disabilities. The Center for Information Technology Accommodation (CITA), in the	Printer Friendly
ē)		Internet

Section 508: The Road to Accessib	ility - Microsoft Internet Explorer		J 🗙
<u>File E</u> dit <u>V</u> iew F <u>a</u> vorites <u>T</u> ools <u>H</u>	elp		
🚱 Back 🔹 🐑 - 📓 🗟 🏠	🔎 Search 🤺 Favorites 🜒 Media 🥝	🔊 · 🎍 🖻 · 🗔 🎗 🎯 🛃	
Address 🙆 http://www.section508.gov/inde	x.cfm?FuseAction=&StartRow=1&EndRow=10&Report	tsStartRow=1&ReportsEndRow=20 🛛 🛛 💽	Go
		Site Layout Conti	ols 🔺
Section www.sec	508 tion 508.gov	Change Font Verdana Change Font Size 16px Enter	
Buy Accessible 508 Law 508 &	You 508 Training 508 Coordinators	n	
	Breaking News	User Login	
 Enter Search Words Buy Accessible Products Buy Accessible Services Section 508 Website 	The <u>Section 508 Awareness</u> <u>CD</u> is now available online. This CD contains general Section 508 information for all employees, as well as a self-test and copies of the statute, accessibility standards, and relevant sections of the FAR.	Username Enter Username Password O Buy Accessible O 508 Universe Login Forgot Password?	
Additional Links Advanced Search Communications/Media	Links to <u>Federal Agency Public</u> <u>URL's on Section508 Guidance</u> is available online.	 Register For Buy Accessible Register For The 508 Univers Check Vendor Status 	<u>e</u>
Resources & Links			