



Understanding How Inclusion Relates to Your Department: Information Technology

Website and other electronic media serve as convenient platforms to share information about an institution. However, many people with disabilities face barriers to this information. Good design, relevant content, and alignment with access standards can help. Consider the following:

- When designing and developing a new website, ensure that your contractor has a strong command of accessibility standards established by the U.S. Access Board and can deliver a website that is 508 compliant.
- Enhance accessibility on your existing website by:
 - Adding alternative text or “alt text” to webpages and documents that describe images and can be read by a screen reader.
 - Adding captioning to videos and accompanying them with a text script so that information is accessible to visitors who are deaf.
 - Adding verbal description to videos so that images and action are accessible to visitors who are blind or have low vision.
 - Adding an option to adjust font size on your homepage to support people with cognitive disabilities and low vision.
- Include content of interest to people with disabilities on your website (e.g., accessible programs; policies that support people with disabilities; and accommodations such as accessible parking and dog relief areas).
- When considering App developers, only consider those that can deliver a product that is fully accessible with screen-reading software.
- Ensure that electronic devices used to enhance the exhibit experience have built-in accessibility features.
- Collaborate with your human resources department to identify accessible technology solutions for staff requesting reasonable accommodations.