



Community & Collaboration

Accessibility Issues @ Wikipedia

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Content

- TAO - Project Overview (<http://www.thirdageonline.eu/>)
- Context: Accessibility Study of Wikipedia within the TAO Project
- Goals of the Study
- Research Design
- Results of the Study
- Conclusion and Outlook

Overview: Project TAO (Third Age Online)

Two Central Questions:

How can we stimulate older persons (60+) to participate in online communities? (to integrate them & enhance their social relationships in later life)?

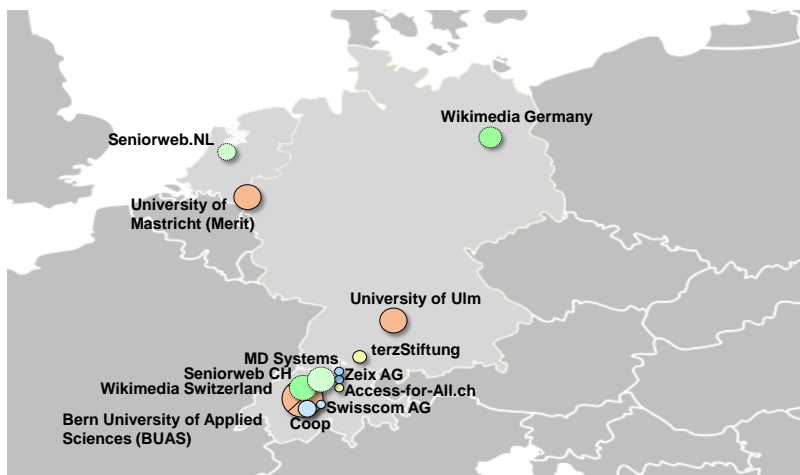
How can we use the growing number of older persons to boost collaboration in online communities?

Three Main Goals:

1. Develop **methods to encourage older persons** to join online communities
2. Develop **new service** offerings in the context of online communities
3. Improve **the user experience** of community platforms (accessibility, usability)

For the Benefit of Seniors, Online Communities, and Society (Triple Win)

Consortium Partners / Co-operating Partners*



* The size of the dots is proportional to the amount of project work / volume of in kind contributions of the partners (as of Oct. 2010)

Goals of the Accessibility-Study of Wikipedia

- Complete test according to WCAG 2.0 criteria
 - because WCAG is a W3C recommendation (in contrast to research results on the needs of elderly users)
- Recommendations for improvement based on experience of test experts
- Encouraging implementation of improvements in MediaWiki

Research Design

- Identification of test method, test experts, tools etc.
- Testing and Recording
- Publishing test results
- Contacting Wikimedia Foundation & WP Community
 - Stimulation for feature/bug request, discussion on some topics and for implementation
 - Take over of results by WMF and/or community
 - „Accessibility task force“ would help a lot

Results

- WP accessibility is quite good (due to „conservative“ design)
- List of „Accessibility Issues“
- recommendations for improvement
 - MediaWiki improvements (generated code)
 - E.g. missing label for registration CAPTCHA
 - Community Issues
 - E.g. „add alternative representations“, e.g. for images
- Suggestions wrt. Semantic structuring and WAI-ARIA
 - e.g. HTML landmarks

Results (2)

- List of issues (see: TOP 10 in test report); examples:
 - Incorrect usage of (HTML) lists
 - Not all skip links supported by access keys
 - HTML5 and WAI-ARIA: semantic structuring not yet supported
- MediaWiki issues could be solved (depending on prioritization of developer community)
- Ongoing discussion for „Community issues“ such as author hint „use alternative representations“.

Results (3)

- Evaluation of the test report by WM/Germany
- Positive feedback from WMF
- WM/Ger posted some patches into the code review for improved screen reader behavior (status: accepted)
 - Collapsible navigation toggle in the sidebar navigation is now a link
 - Add label to CAPTCHA input field (Register form)
 - Keyboard accessible buttons in the VisualEditor

Conclusion and Outlook

- Accessibility Test was a good starting point for propelling the accessibility issue in the WP community
- Further work on posting feature/bug requests and gathering forces for discussing topics and improving MediaWiki (resp. its generated code)
- Some recommendations led to an experimental senior skin for Wikipedia.
- Upcoming (student thesis): authoring tool for encouraging alternative representations

Questions?

Suggestions?

Discussion!

Ideas?

**More TAO: Sat, 12.10h / Workshop III: How to motivate older people
to become active Wikipedians?**

References

- Accessibility Study: <http://www.thirdageonline.eu/project-tao-2/software-development/mediawiki-accessibility-enhancements/>
- [Sri Kurniawan, Panayiotis Zaphiris 2005]: Research-Derived Web Design Guidelines for Older People;
<http://www soi.city.ac.uk/~zaphiri/Papers/assets2005.pdf>

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