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
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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)

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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 priorization 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 experiential 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


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