

Procurement & Accessibility

Joy Kniskern, M.Ed., CRC

Special Projects Initiatives

AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center

Procurement | Accessible ICTs



Procurement Topics:

- The roles and challenges of procurement staff
- Solutions - A system-wide approach
- Enforcing Procurement | Accessible ICTs
- Federal Government's approach to ICT accessibility
- Enforcement of ICT accessibility
- USG and ICT Accessibility
- Web Resources

Roles | Procurement Staff

- Develop requests and select vendors
- Define accessibility specifications
- Evaluate accessibility statements
- Select a vendor based upon many specifications, including accessibility



Challenges | Procurement Staff



- Do they understand the need to include specifications regarding accessibility?
- Do they have staff or resources to develop the accessibility specifications?
- Can they evaluate a bid for conformance with the requested accessibility specifications?
- Do they understand the importance of including maintenance provisions in bids?

Challenges | Third Party Vendors



- USG institutions use many third party vendors for web services, software applications, etc.
- Vendors may have superficial understanding of 508 and WCAG 2.0 standards
- Inclusion of a Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) in bids do not mean that the vendor truly understands how to apply accessibility standards

Challenge | All P-Card Users



- Staff and Faculty using P-Cards can procure ICT products without any regard to accessibility
- There is currently no systematic process to verify that ICT products procured using P-Cards are accessible

Solutions | A System-Wide Approach



We Need:

- Procurement policies and procedures reflecting ICT accessibility standards
- Training on accessibility specifications and resources, including product maintenance
- Technical assistance to evaluate vendor capabilities to deliver & maintain accessible ICTs
- Discussions to address P-Card issue



Enforcing Procurement of Accessible ICTs



- Code/laws requiring ICT accessibility
- High level policies requiring ICT accessibility, just like ethics, privacy and security requirements
- Procurement policies, standards and procedures
- Centralized review process to assure conformance with ICT accessibility

Federal Government Example



- The Government Services Administration is responsible for oversight and enforcement of Section 508 for federal government agencies
- Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR) require procurement conformance with Section 508
- Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates (VPATS) and buyaccessible.gov were developed as tools to help procurement officials.

Enforcement of ICT Accessibility



- Georgia has no state law that requires ICT accessibility for state government
- In the US, approximately 15 states have state or state level policies requiring compliance with Section 508
- Example: [Missouri state law](#) holds all state agencies to Section 508 standards, with 'state agencies' defined as “[each department, office, board, bureau, commission or other unit of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government, including public four-year and two-year colleges and universities.](#)”

Promotion of ICT Accessibility



- Georgia State ADA Coordinator's Office
- AccessGA, Georgia's Accessible ICT Initiative of the State of Georgia ADA Coordinator's Office, the Georgia Institute of Technology's AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center, and The Georgia Technology Authority.
- Support Georgia Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility, promoting equal and timely access for state employees and customers with a wide range of disabilities.
- [GTA's Web Accessibility Initiative Receives National IT Award.](#)



USG ICT Accessibility Statement



- [USG Board of Regents](#) states “Accessibility is a high priority issue for the Board of Regents (USG). By endorsing Web accessibility guidelines established by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the USG enables full access to institutional information, programs and policies offered through the web.”

WAG - Upcoming Meetings



First Wednesday

11:00am – 12:00pm (noon) EDT U.S.A.

Next Meeting

December 7, 2016

Accessible Procurement

Suggest a topic for future meeting:

wag@amac.gatech.edu

Web Resources | Procurement



- [Georgia Board of Regents Accessibility URL](#)
- [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template \(VPAT\)](#)
- [Buy Accessible Wizard](#)
- George Mason University has excellent resources to guide accessibility in the procurement process at [GMU Accessibility Procurement](#)
- Quick TIP: Check websites for accessibility of product vendors using [Web Aim's WAVE](#) tool.