Creating Accessible YouTube Video

Janet Sylvia OCTS-CAES, Web Accessibility Group Leader, University of Georgia, jsylvia@uga.edu

Join the Web Accessibility Group Listserv at http://wag.uga.edu

Why Accessibility?

- Web-based content accessible to people with disabilities: visual, hearing, cognitive or motor
- Also benefits:
 - Age-related vision or hearing loss
 - o Temporary disabilities
 - Learning disabilities
 - English as second language
 - Technology barriers
- Overall:
 - o Expands your audience
 - Increases Search engine optimization
 - Ensures compliance with US Federal Law

Section 508

- Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998 states in part:
 - electronic and information technology must be equally accessible to people with and without disabilities
- State of Georgia receives funding through the Assistive Technology Act
- New to Section 508 and Web Accessibility? <u>Accessibility Tutorial</u>

Additional Benefits of 508 Compliant Video

- CC are searchable
- CC can be translated into other languages
- Text transcript available when video is not
- Text is cross-platform and mobile friendly
- Some people read text faster than watch video
- Search engines find and index content based on CC text

Captions (preferred format) vs. Subtitles

Captions:

- · Intended for hearing impaired
- Include references to ambient sounds
- Closed captions can be turned on/off
- Do not block important visual cues
- Display controlled by end user; also can Zoom without loss of quality
- Separate text stream
- Searchable, can be indexed

Subtitles:

- Translate spoken word only, assumes audience can hear the sounds
- Always on, difficult for cognitive disabilities
- Often block important visual cues
- End user cannot control display preferences based on disability; Zoom results in pixelated text
- Part of the video stream
- Not searchable or indexed

508 Requirements for Video

- In addition to Video file:
 - o Caption File
 - Text Transcript
 - Video Description
 - o Accessible Media Player

Caption Process

- Two Steps:
 - Obtain text transcript of audio narration, including sounds
 - o Synchronize text transcript with timestamps to create caption file

Creating Transcripts and Captions

- Manual
 - o Time consuming, very detailed work
- Manual + Automated
 - Manual Transcripts
 - Automated Captions (edits will be required)
 - Automatic Sync, 3PlayMedia, YouTube, etc.
- Fully Automated
 - Outsource both
 - Cost effective given time to create/edit
 - Write costs into grant-funded projects
 - Vendors: Automatic Sync, Casting Words, 3PlayMedia, etc.
 - YouTube Machine-Generated Transcripts and Captions
 - Lower rate of accuracy, sometimes significantly lower

YouTube Machine-Generated Captions

- Amused? Embarrassed?
- · Marginal, makes no logical sense?
- Better now, but still....bad translations!
- *MUST*:
 - Edit machine-generated captions
 - o Replace erroneous text (very unsettling to audience and individuals in the video)

From YouTube Help

- Not guaranteed to caption your content
- Request captioning when available
- Best results when:
 - o video is in English
 - one person speaking at a time
 - $\circ \quad \text{ everything spoken very clearly and in a standard accent} \\$
 - o no background noise, music or sound effects

How does it work?

- If upload own Caption file
- YouTube requirements:
 - o SBV, SRT caption file format
 - Allows you to upload other formats, but CC won't play, FYI
 - Outsource companies can provide YouTube caption file
 - Converters to/from SVB and SRT
 - Ohio State free online converter
 - Subtitle Edit
- Workflow
 - Upload Video to YouTube

- Mark as Private
- Upload Caption File
- o Review for Accuracy, Edit as needed
- Mark as Public

Text Transcript

- Create:
 - Manual, follow Best Practices Transcripts on the Web
 - HTML preferred file format; for other document types, follow accessibility requirements of Creating Accessible Documents (under Resources, Training)
 - o Example What is Horticulture?
 - Outsource to Transcription service
- Deliver:
 - o Host on your own web server and provide hyperlink in YouTube Video Description
 - Combined Text and Video Description

Another cool YouTube feature

• Interactive Transcript "only if upload own caption file"

Video Description

- Create:
 - Text description of key visual components
 - Describe by scene, be concise
 - o HTML preferred, or follow Creating Accessible Documents
 - NEW: Can be combined with Text-only Transcript
 - o GPII Animated Transcript
 - Combined Text and Video Description
- Deliver:
 - o Host on your own web server and provide hyperlink in YouTube Video Description
 - Add the Text to the YouTube Description

Accessible Media Player

- YouTube Player
 - End user can choose the ("more accessible") HTML5 (trial) player vs. the Flash player <u>YouTube</u> HTML5 Video Player
 - o JAWS+IE better with Flash player; does not work well with Firefox v.15
 - o Firefox has a screen reader plug-in
- o To embed accessible player on your website:
 - Accessible YouTube Player Controls

508 Requirements for Video

Imperfect, but with some tweaks you can provide 508 compliant videos via YouTube including: Synchronized Captions, Text Transcript, Video Description.

"More people ought to post their video this way." Keith H.

End of Presentation

Need Help with Web Accessibility? Please join the WAG listserv and post your questions so others throughout USG can benefit from the learning experience.