Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0
What's it all about?

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Handouts

- Links for electronic versions of Handouts are available on [WAG website](#)
    - **[Section 508 Checklist](#)**
    - **[WCAG 2.0 Checklist](#)**

University System of Georgia and Section 508 Compliance

- Board of Regents, University System of Georgia
    - Requires compliance with Section 508
    - Section 508 is U.S. Federal Law
    - Written by/for U.S. Federal Government
    - U.S. Department of Education has ruled
        - All states receive funding through Assistive Technology Act must comply with Section 508

Section 508 Standards

- Electronic and Information Technology (EIT)
    - *"….must be equally accessible to people with and without disabilities."*
- 1194.21 Software applications and operating systems
- 1194.22 Web-based intranet and internet information and applications
- 1194.23 Telecommunications products
- 1194.24 Video and Multimedia products
- 1194.25 Self Contained, Closed Products
- 1194.26 Desktop and Portable Computers

Section 508 Refresh - *underway*

- Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998
    - Section 508 Standards published in 2000
- Section 508 Refresh in final stages
- Evenso, *anticipated* final rule and enforcement
    - 2014 ? 2015 ?

Section 508 Refresh – *until finalized*

- Comply with existing Section 508 Standards
- Begin implementing WCAG 2.0 International Guidelines

WCAG 2.0 in the U.S.

- Section 508 Refresh (Draft, as written)

- Harmonizes with WCAG 2.0 Levels A and AA
- USG BOR already endorses compliance with WCAG 2.0
- Higher Education Lawsuits and Civil Rights Complaints regarding inaccessible websites and web-based content
  - Remediation Plans require compliance with WCAG 2.0 Levels A and AA

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0

- International Accessibility Guidelines
  - Published by World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
  - WCAG 1.0 published in 1999
  - WCAG 2.0 published in 2008
  - Worldwide, governments are harmonizing with WCAG 2.0
    - New Zealand, UK, Asia, France, Japan, etc.
    - United States is expected to harmonize

WCAG 2.0 (alone) – *not enough!*

- **WCAG 2.0 = International Guidelines**
- **Section 508 = U.S. Federal Law**
- **Section 508 and Section 508 Refresh**
  - **Include more than web-based content**
  - **Procurement Polices**
  - **Links to 3rd Party Websites**
  - **Etc.**

WCAG 2.0 – P.O.U.R. 4 Principles of Web Accessibility

- Perceivable
- Operable
- Understandable
- Robust

WCAG 2.0 for Website Accessibility

- 4 Principles
  - 12 Guidelines
    - 61 Success Criteria
      - *Level A + Level AA* and Level AAA
- Documentation
  - How to Meet WCAG 2.0
  - Techniques
  - Understanding Success Criteria

Important Concepts: Section 508 Refresh & WCAG 2.0

- Usable Accessibility
  - Functional vs. Technical Accessibility

- *Website may pass an accessibility checker, but is the content actually usable by the intended audience?*

Example: *Technical* ALT text

- <img src="234.jpg" alt="Logo">
- Technical:
  - accessibility requirement has been met through the use of ALT text
  - Functional:
  - Does the word "logo" fully convey the meaning or contents of this image?
  - What is this a logo for?

Example: *Usable* ALT text

- <img src="234.jpg" alt="University of Hawaii Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono">
- Functional goes beyond merely meeting a technical requirement; actually usable by the website visitor.

Example: *Technical* Descriptive Hyperlink

- Get the Tax Form
- Get the Tax Form
- Get the Tax Form
- Get the Tax Form

Example: *Usable* Descriptive Hyperlink

- Form 1099-K
- Form 11-C
- Form 23
- Form 56

Quote from World Wide Access

- *"If you can design a website, you can design an accessible one."*