Accessible Navigation

Navigation

- **Navigation is a critical aspect of accessibility**
- **Sighted users have tried and true visual cues to orient them on a page**
  - **Banner**
  - **Search box**
  - **Main navigation box**
  - **Content well**
- **Blind and low-vision users rely on proper coding of page for orientation**

What if you can't see?

- **Title of page lets you know what page you're on when page loads**

- **Proper heading placement and hierarchy conveys organization of page and allows SR users to skip navigation**

- **Link descriptions convey content of page and organization of site**

Proper <h1> heading

- Screen readers can find and list headings
- <h1> heading uniquely identifies the page in the website
- Should be placed directly in front of the main content of the page
- The <h1> header should also match at least a subset of the the page <title>

Proper heading hierarchy

```
<h1></h1>
    <h2></h2>
        <h3></h3>
        <h3></h3>
    <h2></h2>
    <h2></h2>
```

- **Hea**_____**ted to conv**

- **<h2:**_____**e <h3> tags**

Off-page headings

- **Useful when you want to give SR users a navigational aid without cluttering presentation**

- **Use CSS to position headings off-page**

```
.offpage
{
    position: absolute;
    left: -1000px;
}
```

- **Don't use {display: none} or {visibility: hidden}**

Meaningful link text

- Screen readers can find and list links
- Descriptions for the links must be meaningful out of context, via tabbing or presented in a list
- Don't use "here", "click here", "read this", and "more"
- Don't use URL as a link description—will sound like gibberish, unless very short and intuitive

Review

- **How easy is it to navigate your page?**

- **What would happen if the colors weren't there?**

- **What would happen if you couldn't use a mouse?**

- **Plan for everyone**

Acknowledgements/Contributions

These slides are Copyright 2015- Colleen van Lent as part of http://www.intro-webdesign.com/ and made available under a Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial 4.0 License. Please maintain this last slide in all copies of the document to comply with the attribution requirements of the license. If you make a change, feel free to add your name and organization to the list of contributors on this page as you republish the materials.

Initial Development: Colleen van Lent , University of Michigan School of Information