Guide for better Wiki accessibility

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General remarks

Try to keep the Wiki as simple as possible so the reader can focus on the content rather than getting distracted by the design. This also includes the general structure so that readers can navigate through the Wiki easily and it makes the content better available to people with any limitations. If there is any kind of addition to the text (highlighted words, embedded graphics, etc.) care should be taken to do this in a dual accessible way:

- Color and contrasts
  (check colors for visual restrictions with the color blindness simulator on www.colorhexa.com)
- Symbols, numbering, bold, italics, underline

The dual accessibility is highly important, especially regarding people with any form of color blindness. Even if they cannot distinguish between the colors of a figure, symbols or numbers can make the content accessible to them. Also, the information should not be provided exclusively graphically, since people with severe visual impairments such as blindness can use programs which read aloud the text on the website. However, this should not mean that the information should be only displayed as text, since many people with dyslexia find it easier to understand information through graphics and figures.

Videos

In case of videos and simulations, provide a function to pause any animation over 3 seconds of length. Extremely bright and flashing animations must be avoided since they can distract the reader or in worst case trigger epileptic seizures.

Plain language

There is a language that 95% of people understand. It is called plain language, and it corresponds to the B1 language level. But what can it do for science and research? Plain language speeds up reading times and improves comprehension, leading to greater trust in scientific results – particularly among non-academics. Therefore, it is useful to provide a general overview on the Wiki's content in plain language.

Mobile view

Since the smartphone usage is increasing steadily, it is important to follow this development and optimize the Wiki mobile-friendly. This will provide anyone who visits the Wiki on a mobile device with a proper experience and gives them the same access to the content as desktop users have.

Further tips and tricks

Besides the already mentioned aspects, there are many more points which can be tackled to improve website accessibility. In the following we just want to mention a few more:

- Provide introductions and summaries
- Use headings to break up content
- Label graphics
- Use verbal content
- Provide subtitles for videos
- If necessary, describe colors

And most importantly, ask people with different backgrounds and possibilities to review your Wiki and provide feedback!