

ICIS Web Accessibility Policy – a summary

ICIS aims to ensure that all ICIS web content is accessible to, and usable by, the broadest possible range of users. This policy has been drawn up with reference to current W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines¹ and the DRC² investigation.

It is recognised that accessible websites benefit all people, not just people with difficulties. Accessibility to websites can be affected by user difficulties such as visual, physical and literacy difficulties, and technical and environmental circumstances such as browsers, small screens, slow dial ups and noise. Technological means to assist users to access websites are continually developing. Common current options include magnification software, alternative input devices, browser controlled formatting, synthetic speech and specialist browsers.

Policy principles

Websites must be **accessible** (*technological*)

The interface must be **usable** to enable users to reach the required content (*structure/design*)

Content must be **understandable** (*content*)

Good practice guidelines

Technology:

- Ensure that pages are readable when scripts, applets or other programmatic objects are disabled
- Ensure, where achievable, pages are readable regardless of browser used to view website
- Ensure, where achievable, pages are readable regardless of assistive technology used to access website

Structure and design:

- Ensure consistent and clear navigation throughout
- Ensure sufficient colour contrast between text and background
- Provide a text equivalent for every non-text element
- Avoid use of frames

Content:

- Use clear and simple language for text, labels and headings
- Use scaleable fonts
- Break up large areas of text into manageable chunks
- Avoid moving content
- Avoid pop-up windows
- Make it clear if a link will open a new window
- Clearly identify the target of each link
- Include a 'help with using this site' page

User involvement and testing

- Ensure, where achievable, users are involved throughout the design process
- Ensure, where achievable, user feedback is sought regularly throughout the life of the site
- Ensure the website content is checked against policy guidelines before publishing

W3C validation

We aim to ensure that every web page is validated to W3C standards. However pages containing the results of database searches may not be validated if the database records include characters such as ampersands (&) or forward slashes (/) that are not accepted by the validation tools.

¹ W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, Working Draft 19 November 2004 and Working Draft 27 April 2006

² The Web: Access and Inclusion for Disabled People: a formal investigation conducted by the Disability Rights Commission, 2004