Building “College’s Digital Accessibility Framework”

Accessibility Forum Update – 30 March 2020

Okan Kibaroglu, Head of Governance, ICT
Digital Accessibility Legislation…

- **New digital accessibility regulations** – 23 September 2018
- You **must make** your website or mobile app more accessible by making it 'perceivable, operable, understandable and robust' ([WCAG 2.1 AA](https://www.w3.org/TR/wcag21/))
- College's **Legal Office** confirmed that these regulations apply to the College.
- **Applicable from 23 September 2019** for websites published after 23 September 2018 (referred to as "new websites")
- **Applicable from 23 September 2020** for **"pre-existing websites"**
- **Mobile Apps** will have to comply from **23 June 2021**.
What has been completed…

• A **College project** has been started with the initiative of ICT to build “College’s Digital Accessibility Framework”
  – Prof Stephen Curry is the sponsor; budget provided from ICT central funds
  – Kani Kamara – Disability Advisory Service
  – Vickie Sheriff and Daniel Sprawson – Communications
  – Okan Kibaroglu and Andy Lax as ICT coordinators

• **Website classification completed and approach agreed:**
  – College web site
  – Sites hosted on College web farms
  – Sites affiliated with the College elsewhere

• **plus College Digital Services** (mostly running as websites)
Objectives / Deliverables…

- **Completed**
  - Accessibility Statement – template in place
  - Accessibility checks service
  - Technical advice service (toolkit / guidance pack)

- **Priority / under way:**
  - Carry out accessibility checks for new websites and place statements
  - Accessibility checks for pre-existing websites (by Sep 2020)

- **Further down the line:**
  - Contractual requirements clause
  - Promote / communicate activities / progress / plan

- **Other under way**
  - Accessibility Roadmap / Digital accessibility responsibilities BAU
  - Agree how to deal with Apps (due Jun 2021)
Good News…

- Accessibility of the **College’s website** is good; accessibility statement (and accessibility guidance) are already there:
  - In spite of not being required before Sep 2020
  - Comms Plan is ready and under way (this meeting is part of that plan)
- **Business School** website was our first new significant website:
  - Accessibility is good and accessibility statement is in place
- Accessibility has always been a criterion for ICT service acceptance
Challenges…

• Difficulty of identifying all websites affiliated with the College
• Suppliers providing College digital services pushing back
• Identifying resources for improving accessibility (where required)
  – The project covers the cost of identifying websites and detecting issues
  – However, it doesn’t cover money required for improvements
  – A straightforward solution will be to migrate to College Website, but this may not be appropriate for every site
  – The owner should raise funds for improvement
How can you help?

• Keep **digital accessibility** in mind at all times
• Check websites you are responsible for and **start improving**
• Make sure you follow the **accessibility guidelines**
• At the least, add an **accessibility statement** to your website
• Remember, every **change** requires your **attention**
• Contact **accessibility@imperial.ac.uk** for any questions
• Use **Accessibility Insights** plugin as an indicative check