Individuals with disabilities often encounter barriers in accessing electronic information and using digital technologies. The knowledge base continues to grow in the area of information and communication technology (ICT) accessibility design, however, there remains a gap from this knowledge to practice. Georgia Tech’s AMAC has developed various approaches to move ICT knowledge into practice. In this session, we will explore these approaches, our successes and lessons learned along the way.
Systems Change

- This session will explore how creating AccessGA and an Information and Communication Technology Accessibility Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) has created a domino effect for accessibility awareness and practice.

- As a result of these initiatives, there have been even more positive steps toward enhancing websites and applications to work well with text-to-speech and other accessibility-related software products.
AMAC’s ICT Accessibility MOOC Research is purpose-driven and centers around three key areas of inquiry and rely on three sources of data: the Quiz responses, Forum comments, and longitudinal interview transcripts.

- This first area of inquiry serves to inform AMAC of its constituents’ experience with ICT accessibility and their related support needs.
- The second area of inquiry is aimed at understanding any complexities posed for students with disabilities who use assistive technology.
- The third and final line of study is a longitudinal examination of course impact over the year following this MOOC.
Learning Objectives:

By the end of this session, you should be able to do the following:

1. To explain 3 ICT accessibility resources.
2. To list 2 approaches to translating ICT knowledge to practice.
3. To formulate and interpret how ICT has impacted individuals with disabilities.
Session Agenda

- Overview of AccessGA
- Rationale for Collaboration of Georgia’s State ADA Coordinator’s Office, AMAC and GTA on Accessibility
- Definition of ICT, Assistive Technologies and Examples
- AccessGA Services, Projects and Development Initiatives
- Georgia Tech’s ICT Accessibility MOOC – Summer 2015!
How do we Move from Policy to Practice - from Knowledge to Action?
Rationale for AccessGA

- Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability; Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities and Public Accommodations
- U.S. Department Justice, Civil Rights Division
- December 7, 2012
About AccessGA

AccessGA is a joint initiative of the State of Georgia ADA Coordinator’s Office, the Georgia Institute of Technology’s AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center, and The Georgia Technology Authority. AccessGA’s purpose is to support Georgia state agencies with Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility, promoting equal and timely access for employees and customers with a wide range of disabilities.

Request Information / Support

For additional information or customer support, call 855-495-0374 or complete the request form. Consult the AccessGA Wiki for online information and/or support.

Event Calendar

To view more information or to register for an upcoming event, please click on the name of the event.

- NOV 13

  Tools and Strategies for Website Accessibility
AMAC Accessibility Solutions and Research Center

- AMAC provides product engineering, manufacturing, technical assistance, evaluation, compliance, instruction, and research services for corporate, governmental and non-profit organizations.
  - Accessible Content Engineering Design
  - Electronic and Hard copy Braille
  - Assistive Technology
  - Remote Captioning | Transcription | Captioning | Audio Description
  - Software Development | Student Accommodation Manager
    - Disability Data Tracking and Reporting
    - USG Statewide Accommodation Tracking
  - Accessibility Compliance Consultation
AccessGA
Georgia Accessible ICT Initiative

- Georgia ADA office, Georgia Technology Authority and AMAC Accessibility Solutions

- FY14 Pilot
  - 7 Georgia State Agencies Challenge
  - Survey and Discovery Meetings

- Findings
  - Website Accessibility
  - Accessible Content
  - Procurement Protocol

- Lack of Accessibility Quality Assurance Protocol, Tools, Resources, Expertise, Roadmap, and Compliance Performance
The term *ICT* is often used as an extended synonym for *information technology* (IT), but is a more specific term that stresses the role of *unified communications*[^1] and the integration of *telecommunications* (telephone lines and wireless signals), computers as well as necessary *enterprise software*, *middleware*, storage, and audio-visual systems, which enable users to access, store, transmit, and manipulate information.[^2] - Wikipedia
ICT Touch Points

- Web Services
  - Mobile Platforms & Computers
- Software Applications
- Videos, YouTube
- Social Media
- Telecommunications
- Internet
Examples of Accessible ICT

- Website navigable without using mouse
- Captioned videos
- Structured documents
- Employee software applications that can be used with screen readers or voice input
ICT and Google Glass
Remote Captioning for Training
Liz Using VGo | “Walless”
Website Accessibility Barriers

- John Remple
- AccessGA
- 3.09 minute video

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dg5DPPA
Government Challenges
Accessible Electronic Information

- Need for Accessible Electronic Information
  - Websites accessible to screen readers & AT
  - Training materials
  - Print documents and brochures available electronically and in accessible formats
  - Appropriately captioned videos and video described
  - Accessibility policy on website
  - Accessibility contact email and phone number on website
Web Accessibility and Persons with Disabilities

Inherent to the purpose of the World Wide Web is equal access to its contents by all persons. From an even broader perspective, the evolution of the Internet has been built upon the ideal of leveling the information access playing field for all persons.

Since the Web’s inception, concerned designers have struggled with techniques and guidelines to make their pages accessible to a wide range of viewers. We have learned that there is a considerable gap in content accessibility between those with vision, auditory, and mobility impediments and those without such impediments. The gap between these two is closing, thanks to a new Federal law. Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998 requires that electronic and information technology be accessible to persons with disabilities. Section 508 also required the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board) to set standards for compliance with the law.

Section 508 as an Aid to Web Designers

The Access Board standards provide an excellent set of guidelines for Web developers. (These guidelines are included in a subsequent section of this page.) The specific subsection of the law which applies to the University System of Georgia institutions is Section 508(a)(1)(A)(ii), which states that electronic and information technology be available to:

- individuals with disabilities who are members of the public seeking information or services from a Federal department or agency to have access to and use of information and data that is comparable to the access to and use of the information and data by each member of the public who is not an individual with a disability.
AccessGA Accessibility Services

- AccessGA state agencies receive assistance and resources through phone, electronic ticketing, informational wiki, webinars, electronic newsletters and in-person trainings.

- Accessibility services include:
  - Document Content Remediation Training
  - Web and Application Evaluations
  - Assistive Technology Quality Assurance
  - Procurement Consultation
  - Policy Development
  - Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)
AccessGA | State Agency Accessibility Technical Assistance Projects

- Government Technical Assistance
  - Accessibility Policy Statements
  - Content Post-Production Conversions
  - Procurement Contract Language and Training

- Applications Evaluation
  - Desire 2 Learn Learning Management System

- Web Accessibility Evaluations
  - GVRA
  - Service Provider Registry for Administrative Offices of Courts
  - Third Party Vendor Web Site Developments

- State Agency Staff Training – How to Create Accessible Content
AccessGA | Development Initiatives

- Centralized Training, Technical Assistance and Research Lab
- Statewide Vetted Web Accessible Platform (i.e. GTA Drupal)
- Quality Assurance Evaluation and Testing
- ICT Accessibility Research MOOC | Summer 2015
- Procurement support on Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)
  - USG FY15 VPAT Policy
- ICT Accessibility Best Practices and Solutions:
  - Statewide Application Evaluation Tool
  - Higher Education ICT Research
  - ICT Accessibility Design Certification
Resource List

- AccessGA
- Web Accessibility Group of USG
- WebAIM a premiere web accessibility site
- Web Accessibility Toolbar
- WAVE Accessibility Evaluation Tool
- WebAIM Section 508 Checklist
- Access Board detailed explanations of 1194.22
- WebAIM WCAG 2.0 Checklist
- W3C Web Accessibility Initiative
- Colour Contrast Analyzer by the Paciello Group
Conduct 3-Step Web Accessibility Check

- Use automated checkers like the WAVE Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool (for web pages and documents)
- Manual Checks & Keyboard Accessibility
- Find Trusted Testers: AT Users
Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Accessibility

Learn to address Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility in this course covering challenges and strategies for organizations and individuals. Whether corporate, governmental, or nonprofit, this course will enable you to identify ICT accessibility issues, analyze needs, and evaluate solutions for both employees and customers with disabilities.

About the Course

In this introductory course, learn how to measure an organization’s ICT accessibility and assess the importance of maintaining an inclusive workplace for both employees and customers with disabilities. This six-week course consists of modules detailing some of the primary ICT accessibility obstacles facing organizations today. Each module is designed to provide practical guidance on how to create an accessible work environment.
taught by a subject matter expert through content-rich videos, activities, and discussion forums.

Whether you work in the corporate, governmental or nonprofit sector, this course will enable you to identify ICT accessibility issues, analyze specific needs, and evaluate possible solutions. As the world becomes more technology-driven, organizations of all sizes and sectors touch ICT accessibility, whether through website design, document creation, or multimedia utilization. Start outlining a plan to establish and maintain an accessible enterprise operation today.

Join our instructors as we explore why, what, and how to integrate accessibility design elements into your ICT organizational roadmap to support equal access for all.

Course Syllabus

This course includes six modules, each having associated activities and a quiz:

**Module 1: ICT Accessibility**
This module will provide an introduction to ICT accessibility as well as an overview of the relevance the five subsequent modules in this course.

**Module 2: ICT Accessibility Design**
This module will provide instruction on the importance of ICT accessibility in designing and procuring workplace applications.

**Module 3: Assistive Technology**
This module will provide instruction on the impact of assistive technology (AT) and mainstream technology on individuals with disabilities.

**Module 4: Accessible Documents and Multimedia**
This module will provide instruction on the elements of an accessible document, accessibility standards, tools to check accessibility, multimedia captioning and audio description standards and guidelines.

**Module 5: Web Accessibility Evaluation and Design**
This module will provide instruction on web accessibility through utilizing online evaluation and remediation tools using HTML5 and ARIA.

**Module 6: ICT Accessibility Operations**
This module will provide an overview of ICT accessibility market forces and organization challenges, and will outline how an ICT Accessibility Operation Model can help

Course at a Glance

- 3-4 hours/week
- English

Instructors

- **Christopher M. Lee, Ph.D**
  Georgia Institute of Technology

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- **Bill Curtis-Davidson**
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Categories
GT Accessibility Spring 2015 MOOC
Information and Communication Technology

- **Module 1: ICT Accessibility**
  - What is ICT, business cases, legal ramifications, and ICT accessibility challenges

- **Module 2: ITC Accessibility Design**
  - Guidelines and standards, Information architecture, and evaluations

- **Module 3: Mainstream and Assistive Technology**
  - AT history, computer access, operating systems, features, and AT content integration
Module 4: Engineering Accessible Content
- Post-production of PDF, DOC, PowerPoint, Excel, STEM/MathML, and video captioning

Module 5: Web Accessibility Evaluation and Design
- Accessible web architecture, usability, accessible web evaluation tools, and market products

Module 6: Starting and Maintaining an Enterprise Accessibility Operation
- Accessibility organizations, challenges, testing, operational model, and centralized center
ICT Services | Resources

- International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP)
- Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (G3ICT)
- Georgia ICT Accessibility Massive Open Online Course
- AccessGA Services and Resources
Our Question to You:
What have You Learned today?
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Disclaimer
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