

# Dyslexia and Disability Friendly Websites

Workshop

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Ian Litterick

Founder & Executive Chairman

iansyst Ltd, [www.dyslexic.com](http://www.dyslexic.com), [www.iansyst.co.uk](http://www.iansyst.co.uk),  
[www.itspc.co.uk](http://www.itspc.co.uk), [www.readable.com](http://www.readable.com), [www.capturataalk.com](http://www.capturataalk.com),  
[www.re-adjust.com](http://www.re-adjust.com), [www.dyslexia.org.uk](http://www.dyslexia.org.uk)

Originally for ADO Dyslexia Friendly in  
Different Contexts conference

London 26 May 2006

# The issues

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- DDA
- Accessibility (not just dyslexia)
  - Format change
  - VI
  - PDFs
- Writing Style
- Layout & navigation
- Maintenance & Management
- Website Tools
- Authoring Tools

# Accessibility (not just dyslexia)

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- Format change
  - Colour (text & background)
  - Font
  - Font size
  - Audio (screen reader readable)

# Accessibility (VI)

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- Visual Impairment
  - Images with alt text
  - Tables with defined headers (or avoid)
  - Headings as style (<h1> etc)
- [www.rnib.org/seeitright](http://www.rnib.org/seeitright)
- [www.w3c.org/WAI](http://www.w3c.org/WAI)

# Accessible PDFs

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- Can vary from images (inaccessible) to fully accessible
- For screen readers
- Use Indesign not Quark
- Styles & Tags
- Accessibility options
- Threading (for reading order)
- [www.adobe.com/accessibility](http://www.adobe.com/accessibility)

# Accessibility: Technical

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- CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) & html
- Separate style from content (“semantic markup”)
- Use Styles -- not specify font, size etc.
  - Can be changed by user.
  - More efficient web design/loading/structure

# Writing Style

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- BDA Style Guide  
([www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/extra352.html](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/extra352.html))
- Plain English  
([www.plainenglish.co.uk](http://www.plainenglish.co.uk))

# BDA Style Guide: Fonts

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- Arial, Comic Sans, Verdana, Tahoma, Trebuchet
- Minimum of 12pt.
- Resizable
- Lower case letters rather than all capitals

# BDA Style Guide: Paragraphs

- Limit lines to 60 to 70 characters.
- Line spacing between paragraphs to break up text.
- Wide margins and headings.
- Boxes for emphasis or to highlight important text
- Short paragraphs.
- Use bold (<strong>) for emphasis. Italics and underlining are less legible. Underline means a link.
- Ragged right edge.
- Bullets or numbered lists rather than continuous prose.

# BDA Style Guide: Plain English

- Short simple sentences - average 15-20 words.
- Direct speech: you and I/we
- Give instructions clearly. Avoid long sentences of explanation.
- Stop and think before you start writing. Be clear what it is you want to say.
- Short words (use not utilise)
- Use active verbs. "We will answer" rather than "you will be responded to".

# Plain English Tools

- Plain English Campaign & its guides ([www.plainenglish.co.uk/guides.html](http://www.plainenglish.co.uk/guides.html))
- Readability programs
  - Fogg index
  - Flesch-Kincaid
  - In MS Word
- Needs practice and hard work

# Navigation

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- Consistent and logical navigation.
- Site map.
- Flow charts to explain procedures.
- Icons, graphics and colour to locate information.
- Explain abbreviations and jargon.
- Design web pages to read off-line and print.

# Layout

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- Images to break up text, not too big (for download speed).
- No graphics behind text
- Avoid moving or flashing text
- Links should show when they have been used.
- Dark print on a pale background.
- Choice of background colours.
- Avoid green on red/pink (for colour-blind).  
Check colour contrast.

# Maintenance & Management

- Government Guidelines

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/e-government/resources/handbook/introduction.asp](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/e-government/resources/handbook/introduction.asp)

- DRC & BSI British Standard PAS78

([www.drc.org.uk/pas](http://www.drc.org.uk/pas))

- How to commission an accessible web site

- Page rot, link rot, accessibility rot.

# Website Tools

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- Format changing
  - Bigger/smaller text
  - Colours
  - Style sheet switching
  - Toolbars (Textic, Techdis)
- Speech
  - Browsealoud (Texthelp)
  - Readspeaker

# Authoring Tools

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- XStandard (<http://xstandard.com>) WYSIWYG html editor
  - Component in Content Management Systems
  - Helps write accessibly

# User tools

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- Screen readers
- Texthelp Read & Write Gold
  - Screenreader
  - PDF Aloud
  - FactFinder
- Readable
  - Font, size, colour

# Other Resources

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- Development tools
  - AIS web accessibility toolbar  
[www.visionaustralia.org.au/ais](http://www.visionaustralia.org.au/ais)
  - Test accessibility, xhtml/css valid
  - Test with javascript off
  - Colour checker (partial sight, colour blind)

# PS Don't kill your content!

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- Importance of User Generated Content
- Too much bureaucracy & control = no content!
- Good content better than perfect standards?
- BUT make it easy to do it right
- Need for Incidental Obligatory Accessibility (IOA). Microsoft where are you?

# Contact:

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- More info (with links) at:
- [www.dyslexic.com/accessibility](http://www.dyslexic.com/accessibility)
- iANSYST Ltd  
Fen House, Fen Road  
CAMBRIDGE, CB4 1UN
- 01223 42 01 01
- [sales@dyslexic.com](mailto:sales@dyslexic.com)
- [ianl@dyslexic.com](mailto:ianl@dyslexic.com)