WordPress: ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility means that people with some sort of disabilities can also use your website with ease. There are four principles of Accessibility:

- **Perceivable**

Content can be perceived equally using more than one sense. Images can be display with "alt" and videos can be shown with descriptive texts.

- **Operable**

Websites can be used regardless of device.

- **Understandable**

All content of website should understandable.

- **Robust**

Websites work with all assistive technologies.

It's not only ethical to make your website accessible, its legal too.

Creating Accessible Content:

WordPress is not automatically accessible. Theme decides color and contrast, Plugins add functionality to it. When you make changes through CSS and JavaScript, website accessibility through WordPress can go wrong.

No WordPress theme can guarantee an accessible website. Your choice of selecting a theme for your website is crucial for accessibility in your website. Some themes come with accessibility-ready Tag. Plugins can have their own CSS. This CSS can overwrite the focus accessibility from your theme. Plugins don't come with Accessibility-Ready Tag.

Examining Design and Color Contrast:

Design is not an art, what you create should communicate with users. It's a process to create user experience.

- Labels
- Headings
- States(hover)
- Color Contrast

All above are crucial part to create a user experience.

For navigation/ submenu/dropdown list, rules should be defined for both hover and focus state. If you only define rules for hover then the person using keyboard navigation would be left out.

Images/buttons, especially functional images should be with alternative texts. You can use sr-only classes with them to add accessibility.

HTML should always be semantic to show clear structure.

Page Builder Plugins can interfere accessibility and can change them drastically.

Plugin Accessibility:

The main thing to see in your webpage is, what you see and what assistive technology sees.

ARIA, Ajax and your website:

aria-expanded=" true"

The **aria-expanded** attribute is simply a flag for the user agent. It. Indicates whether the element, or another grouping element it controls, is currently **expanded** or collapsed. ... where that indication is for the element's contents, or if **aria**-controls is also specified, for the target element.

aria-label= "A11y" or aria-labeledby="id"

The **aria-label** attribute is used to define a string that **labels** the current element. Use it in cases where a text **label** is not visible on the screen. ... This attribute can be used with any typical HTML element; it is not limited to elements that have an **ARIA** role assigned.

aria-hidden=" true"

Adding **aria-hidden**="**true**" to an element removes that element and all of its children from the accessibility tree. This can improve the experience for assistive technology users by hiding: purely decorative content, such as icons or images.

aria-describedby="main_title"

The **aria-describedby** attribute is used to indicate the IDs of the elements that describe the object. ... The **aria-describedby** attribute is not used only for form elements; it is also used to associate static text with widgets, groups of elements, panes, regions that have a heading, definitions, and more.

aria-live=" polite"

Polite (screen reader notifies user once current task is complete). **Assertive** (screen reader interrupts current task to notify user).

No plugin can automatically solve all the accessibility issues.

3 most used accessibility plugins are:

- WP **Accessibility**.
- WCAG 2.0 form fields for Gravity Forms.
- Divi **Accessibility**.

Divi and wp accessibility can work together.

Accessible Content:

Choose the content/words that are unambiguous and clear.

While selecting the colors keep in mind visitors, who are color blinded.

block editor has some useful features regarding accessibility. If you choose wrong color choices with poor contrast, it will warn you instantly, all heading will come in order. You can't use h2 before h1 in block editor.

Accessibility Testing:

Usability Testing

- Design Review
- Automated Testing
- User Testing
- Assistive Technology

Webaim.org is very good automated accessibility tool.

Tenon.io is an API based accessibility test.

www.deque.com/axe is an open source java script library for web accessibility testing.

The **bookmarklets** make **accessibility** information visible by showing information on top of the page that relates to the design of **accessible** web resources. They are intended as a helpful aid for web designers and developers. They are not intended to provide specific compliance results or recommendations.