Global Research, Education and Innovation in Assistive Technology (GREAT) Summit
Enhancing Digital Accessibility Skills through Open Educational Platforms
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E.A. Draffan (University of Southampton) and David Banes, UK
GS 16

Assistive technology users rely on digital accessibility. But, there is a skills gap between AT professionals and those developing applications and content. Slidewiki and ATbar offer an open education platform allowing content to be repurposed, personalised and delivered worldwide with multilingual capability.   http://slidewiki.org & www.atbar.org
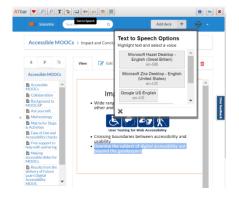
Slidewiki and ATbar with Massive Open Online Courses

Open digital accessibility courseware is being provided through SlideWiki supported by ATbar. The participatory innovation involves co-design with assistive technology users to embed digital accessibility knowledge and testing within organisations in an accessible environment.

What is the impact for AT users and other stakeholders?

All those using AT and other stakeholders gain from inclusive and accessible practices through collaboration whilst opening the subject of digital accessibility out beyond the gatekeepers.

Implications for Products, Provision, Personnel or Policy?

Products

SlideWiki and ATbar are multilingual, open source solutions. Digital accessibility courseware from the MOOCAP Erasmus+ project[1] is provided using Creative Commons licences through SlideWiki to enable reuse and repurposing. ATbar provides free A.T. and accessibility testing tools.

Provision

SlideWiki enables adapting and translating of course materials, whilst ATbar is used to support learners and provide testing tools for accessibility compliance.

Personnel

Knowledge sharing increases potential for improved AT and enhances employment opportunities

Policy

Universal design and accessibility principles to aid AT users.

Implications for other aspects of the Global Research Agenda

SlideWiki and ATbar combined with open educational resources offer the potential to embed accessibility as part of a skill set recognised across digital, social care, health care, education and information professional roles. Guidance to enhance these skills enables the production of inclusive policies and procedures.

Strategies to share and build global capacity based on this work

The Digital Accessibility MOOC (2016) reached >7,000 learners across 136 countries. SlideWiki makes the content available as 'free to adapt' slides for online and face to face training.

Contact details for global liaison

David Banes
david@davebanesaccess.org

EA Draffan
ead@ecs.soton.ac.uk