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## Web accessibility design recommendations for people with cognitive disabilities

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**Authors:** [Friedman, Mark G.](#) | [Bryen, Diane Nelson](#)

**Affiliations:** Institute on Disabilities, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, USA

**Note:** [] Address for correspondence: M.G. Friedman, PhD, Institute on Disabilities, Temple University, Ritter Hall Annex, 4th floor, Broad St & Cecil B. Moore Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19122, USA. Tel.: +1 615 904 0308; E-mail: [friedman@voicenet.com](mailto:friedman@voicenet.com)

**Abstract:** Web accessibility for people with Cognitive Disabilities has generated increasing interest in the professional web development, scholarly and advocacy communities in recent years, although there is little acknowledged agreement on how to proceed. This article conducts a review of the current understanding of experts in the field as exemplified by Web design guidelines. It provides current Web design recommendations that have achieved a high degree of agreement as well as four recommendations for implementation. Twenty existing Web design guidelines from Web accessibility experts, government and advocacy organizations were identified in an extensive literature review. Those disabilities specifically addressed by these guidelines included: cognitive disabilities (9), cognitive impairments (2), learning disabilities (4), dyslexia (3), aphasia (1), and mental retardation or intellectual disabilities (1). The authors of the Guidelines came from Australia (1), the United Kingdom (7), and the United States (12). The 20 guidelines

contained 187 separate design recommendations which were combined due to duplications and organized for analysis. The top recommendations included: 1) Use pictures, graphics, icons and symbols along with text (75% agreement), 2) Use clear and simple text (70% agreement), 3) Use consistent navigation and design on every page (60% agreement), and 4) Use headings, titles, and prompts (50% agreement).

**Keywords:** Web accessibility, cognitive disabilities, assistive technology

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