



ACCESSIBILITY PREPARATION

What is web accessibility?

Web accessibility fulfills the basic promise of the web - making information and communication readily available to all people regardless of barriers in geography, language, or disability.

Integrating accessibility into websites brings broader benefits to organizations and other website visitors.



Why does accessibility matter?

- ❑ Nearly 1 in 4 Americans have a disability.
- ❑ Enhanced accessibility features can improve site experience for all users.
- ❑ Section 508 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act mandates that federal agencies ensure their technology products and services, like software, websites, intranet sites, and mobile applications, are accessible to people with disabilities.
- ❑ All US local and state governments must comply with WCAG 2.1 AA by April 2026 if the population is larger than 50,000 and 2027 if the population is less than 50,000 according to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Common Tools for Accessibility


Some common approaches for interacting with the Web include:


- ❑ **Assistive Technologies** – software and hardware that people with disabilities use to improve interaction with the web. These include screen readers that read aloud web pages for people who cannot read the text, screen magnifiers for people with some types of low vision, and speech recognition software and selection switches for people who cannot use a keyboard or mouse.
- ❑ **Adaptive Strategies** – techniques that people with disabilities use to improve interaction with the Web, such as increasing text size, reducing mouse speed, and turning on captions.





Existing Resources


How Can I Get Started?


 Discover quick ways to become more accessible today!
View the NSGIC Accessibility Moments document

 Don't rely on color alone in your map
Learn more about color from UMass

 Provide data in an alternative and accessible format
Create an EDAP (equally effective alternative access plan)

 Make sure your map is keyboard accessible
Try the eHoMouse challenge

 Provide a text alternative for the map
Add alt text to images


 Allow users to change the map's visual presentation to meet their preferences
Explore enhanced contrast basemaps

Geospatial technologies have taken a large role in the constituent facing websites and applications that State and Local governments provide. Now more than ever before, geospatial solutions help constituents find data, apply for voter ballots, file tax documents, register for programs, find vaccines, and communicate service needs. With this growing reliance on a technology that has previously been designed for individuals without disabilities in mind (particularly those who are visual consumers), combined with new requirements for compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), State governments need to evaluate the compliance of their interfaces and find ways to build more inclusive designs that meet the growing needs of individuals with disabilities.

Make Sure Your Content POURS

Perceivable	Users can recognize the presented information via sight, hearing, and/or touch
Operable	Users can navigate and operate the user interface via alternative input methods
Understandable	The navigation of content and the content itself is able to be understood by visitors
Robust	A wide variety of web browsers and assistive technologies can interpret the information

Interested in learning more? Let Working Group know by scanning the QR code



Resources for Digital Accessibility in ArcGIS

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by Jessica McCall Esri Contributor

Post Options

Digital accessibility in GIS is important to ensure that the data presented in maps and apps is accessible to everyone. By implementing digital accessibility across GIS content, technology barriers are reduced or eliminated for people with disabilities and information can be shared more effectively.

To support better digital accessibility in GIS, Esri provides several resources and recommends a selection of tools that can help to understand how to implement accessible content across ArcGIS.

Esri Accessibility resources

The Esri Accessibility team has worked hard to provide information and resources for our users. On these pages you will find articles, blogs, videos and links to helpful information about implementing accessibility in your work.

- [Esri Accessibility Resources](#)
- [Esri Legal Accessibility Conformance Reports](#)
- [Esri Community - Accessibility](#)

Latest Blogs

These are some of the most recent blogs on accessibility f

- [Enhancing the Human Geography Basemap](#)



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Map Accessibility

Maps should be usable and understandable for everyone. When creating a map, you should consider different situations, such as color vision deficiency, visual impairment, cultural understanding, and more.

Maps tell a story. They tell us where we are, where we've been, and where we are going. Proper design can make your story accessible to a wider audience.

Learn About Accessible Maps

Map Design

Good design makes maps easier to understand with proper use of fonts, colors, symbols, and more. Find information on how to design maps that are accessible for everyone.

Static Digital Maps

Static digital maps are usually standalone graphics, such as JPGs or PDF files that are not interactive. Find information on how to create accessible static maps that everyone can read.

Interactive Web Maps

Interactive web maps allow you to interact with maps using a mouse, keyboard, voice, and more. Find information on how to make your maps accessible so everyone can interact with them.

Background

Color

Typography

Colorado GIS Accessibility Guidelines

Cartography

Navigate

Checklist

Alt Text

Zoom Tools

Static Maps

Tools

2025
NC GIS
NORTH CAROLINA
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS CONFERENCE



Where do you go from here?

1. Learn the basics from the many existing resources
2. Raise awareness in your organization
3. Create a plan, checklists, or policy
4. Review your websites and assess
5. Prioritize updates
6. Track and communicate progress
7. Stay updated on changes

