General Content Accessibility Guidelines for cP Websites

1. Headings

It is important that the content of your website is 'semantic' meaning that it has a logical flow and makes sense. The content you add should be easy to understand and should be broken into different sections using headings. Please read below on the use cases for these.

H1 (Title)

The first level heading, also known as a h1 ('Title' in element options) is used to describe briefly what the meaning of a web page is. An example would be on a contact page, you would likely have 'Contact Us' as the first level heading. This describes the purpose of the page and what the content below is likely to include. It is important that this is only used once per page. If a title is generated automatically by the template you are using, then you shouldn't have any need to use this. You would only be required to use this if the template you are using doesn't provide a title for you.

H2 (Heading)

A h2 ('Heading' in element options) is used to define sections of content into groups. A top level heading must be followed by the smaller h2. There can be other elements between the top level heading and a h2, for example some text, however there mustn't be another type of heading such as a h3 between them.

H3 (Subheading)

A h3 ('Subheading' in element options) is used to break up the sections defined by a h2 before the content flows into smaller sections of information. A h2 can follow a h3 when the context of the content changes.

Please Note:

The rules above also apply to any element that generates a heading (e.g. a listing, input form, etc).

Put simply, a h1 is to introduce a topic, a h2 is to break down the topic into smaller sections and a h3 is to create a subsection of this.

2. Images

Title Attribute

This attribute can cause issues with accessibility if it matches text close to it or the alt text of the current image or another one in close proximity. It's best to just leave this blank.

Alt Text Attribute

All images must have an alt text attribute. This is important as it is something that a screen reader will read out for someone with a visual impairment or reduced reading capabilities. It is important that this is unique and describes what is present in the image. It's also important that this description doesn't match any of the content around it otherwise cause screen readers will read out duplicate content which may be confusing for some users.

3. Weblinks

Weblinks will cause an issue with the accessibility of a page, generally for one of two reasons.

Adjacent Links

If there are two adjacent links that lead to the same url, screen readers will read out both of the links in succession which could be confusing for a user. This also includes 'mailto' and 'tel' links. Be aware that even if there is content in between the two links (for example a heading that is linked to the same page as a read more button underneath) this will still cause a problem. Either one of the links needs to be removed or a selectable element would need to be added in between them e.g another weblink going to a different page or file.

Weblink Content

The content of a weblink needs to be informative and make sense out of context. There aren't any rules to how short or long the content should be however there are some general guidelines that are outlined by WebAIM here - https://webaim.org/techniques/hypertext/link_text#text.

4. Forms

Headings

Although you can select 'Heading' and 'Title', for accessibility it is best to select the 'Legend' option. This is important as it gives context to the form.

Fields

It's important that the 'Field Name' field in the options has a value. All form fields need a label to add context to them. If you would like forms to be displayed without the labels being visible then this would be something that would have to be built into your website.