CM0133 Internet Computing

Legal Regulations

Objectives

- Is information available on the internet free?

- Can I publish anything?

- Which regulations are in place in the UK

- Accessibility

- Elements of a Website
  - Disclaimer
  - Terms of Use
  - Privacy Policy

- Increase Awareness of Legal Regulations around Internet Applications

Liability

- Websites can create **civil liability** and **criminal liability**.

- Civil liability may lead to injunctions and damages payments; criminal liability could mean a fine and a criminal record, and possibly worse.

- Laws that need to be considered:
  - Accessibility law
  - Data protection law
  - E-Marketing law
  - E-Commerce law

Misconception of Free Content

- "Whenever you purchase, write or download anything on the internet, you are subject to exactly the same consumer, defamation and copyright laws as in the non-virtual world."

- "One of the most common misconceptions about the internet is that all material on it is freely available to the public."

- Always reference your source in a clear and understandable manner.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/askbruce/articles/cool/law_1.shtml

Country of origin != Country of consumption

- It is easy to publish a website nowadays – anyone can do that.

- There is a lot of rubbish but also illegal contents on the web .

- E.g. it can be illegal to view or even possess certain images - even if you didn't realise you had.

- Websites may be hosted in countries were contents are legal which are illegal in countries were contents are viewed or consumed.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/askbruce/articles/cool/law_2.shtml

Consumer law

- A website user is responsible to take all actions necessary to protect him/herself against fraudulent use of their computers, personal details & credit card information.

- Credit card companies can refuse to cover a user's transaction if the can proof that insufficient means were in place to protect against fraud or Internet crime.

- An business consumer on the Internet has exactly the same rights as on the high street.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/askbruce/articles/cool/law_2.shtml

Chat Room Behaviour

- It is the responsibility of webmasters to ensure that their websites do not contain any libellous material - a statement that could be damaging to a company or individual.

- This is particularly important for those who host or use chat rooms or message boards.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/askbruce/articles/cool/law_2.shtml

File Sharing

- Copyright is a form of legal protection that grants the creator of words, pictures and music the right to control how their creation is used.

- A creator can licence or sell the right to use his/her works to another person allowing them to control how the works are used. This means that making a copy of any copyright work without the permission of the creator or whoever has the right to control that work is illegal.

- Copyright protection can cover many creations including books, music, videos, DVDs, video games and films.

- The problem with the internet is that it makes it very easy to make illegal copies of all these things.

- This issue of copyright has been in the media a lot, especially when in comes to copying music. Online music file sharing services and other such software has made it easy to copy and exchange music online.

- In the UK it is illegal to copy or distribute music without permission and even copying a track from a CD that you own to an MP3 player is an infringement of copyright.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/askbruce/articles/cool/law_3.shtml

Publishing

- Copying text in bulk and publishing it on your own site without permission is illegal - even if you do credit the author and link to the relevant site it came from.

- But linking to content on other websites is perfectly acceptable so rather than copy, try and find the text online and link to it.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/askbruce/articles/cool/law_4.shtml

# Web Accessibility - Definition

- Making web pages accessible to all potential users
  - Those with *AND* without disabilities (usability)
  - Using assistive technologies – not just standard web browsers

- Usability and accessibility are intertwined – good accessibility is part of every good design for usability

The following categories (which require attention for disabled users) have been identified:
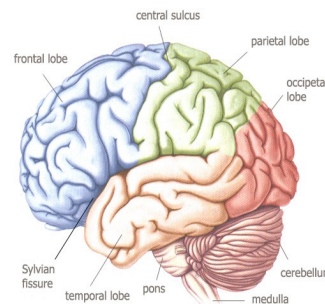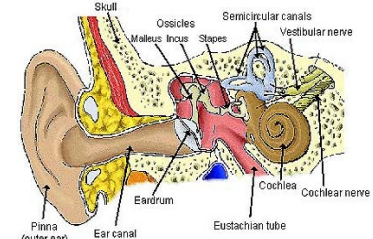
Visual
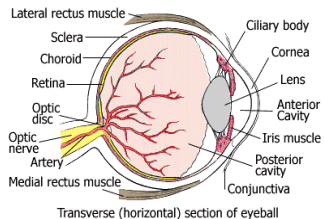
Motor/ Mobility
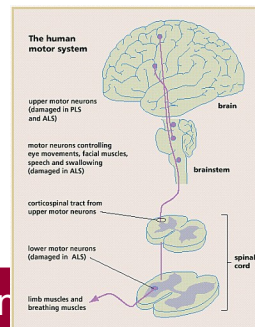
Cognitive/ Intellectual

Auditory

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)

"The Disability Discrimination Act makes it unlawful for a service provider to discriminate against a disabled person by refusing to provide any service which it provides to members of the public

"**From 1st October 1999** a service provider has to take reasonable steps to change a practice which makes it unreasonably difficult for disabled people to make use of its services."

"What services are affected by the Disability Discrimination Act? An airline company provides a flight reservation and booking service to the public on its website. This is a provision of a service and is subject to the act."

"For people with visual impairments, the range of auxiliary aids or services which it might be reasonable to provide to ensure that services are accessible might include ... **accessible websites**."

"For people with hearing disabilities, the range of auxiliary aids or services which it might be reasonable to provide to ensure that services are accessible might include ... **accessible websites**.

You can be **sued** (as a company) for not catering for disabled users.

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) is actively involved in checking web sites

- In Australia the Sydney Olympics was sued by a blind man who was unable to navigate their web site

Of 1000 websites, over 80% did not cater fully for disabled people (DRC - **The Disability Rights Commission** - formal study)

To Comply, follow the W3C's guidelines!!!

- PAS 78 is a **Publicly Available Specification** published on March 8, 2006 by the British Standards Institution (BSI) in collaboration with the Disability Rights Commission (DRC).

- It provides guidance to organisations in how to go about commissioning an accessible website from a design agency.

- It describes what is expected from websites to comply with the UK Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), making websites accessible to and usable by disabled people.

- The principal audience are businesses within the UK, but it is a relevant document for charity and volunteer organisations, as well as local and central government.

- Its also a useful document for web design agencies and web developers as a guide to what is expected of them.

Assistive Technologies

The following assistive technologies are in common use:

Speech Recognition
Audible / Visual

Screen Magnification
Visual

Screen Reader
Visual

Keyboard Overlays
motor control

Translation Software

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines v1

1. Provide equivalent **alternatives** to **auditory** and **visual** content.
2. **Don't rely** on **color** alone.
3. Use markup and **style sheets** and do so properly.
4. **Clarify natural** language usage
5. Create **tables** that **transform** gracefully.
6. Ensure that pages featuring **new technologies transform** gracefully.
7. Ensure **user control** of time-sensitive content changes.
8. Ensure **direct accessibility** of embedded user **interfaces**.
9. Design for **device-independence**.
10. Use **interim** solutions.
11. Use **W3C technologies** and **guidelines**.
12. Provide **context** and **orientation** information.
13. Provide **clear navigation** mechanisms.
14. Ensure that **documents** are **clear** and **simple**.

http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT/

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines v2

Principle 1: Content must be perceivable.

    1.1 Provide **text alternatives** for all **non-text** content

    1.2 Provide synchronized **alternatives** for **multimedia**

    1.3 Ensure that **information** and **structure** can be **separated** from **presentation**

    1.4 Make it easy to **distinguish foreground** information from its **background**

Principle 2: Interface components in the content must be operable

    2.1 Make **all functionality operable** via a **keyboard** interface

    2.2 Allow **users** to **control time limits** on their reading or interaction

    2.3 Allow users to **avoid content** that could **cause seizures** due to **photosensitivity**

    2.4 Provide **mechanisms** to help users **find content**, orient themselves within it, and navigate

    2.5 Help **users avoid mistakes** and make it **easy** to **correct mistakes** that do occur

http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/guidelines.html#perceivable

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines v2

Principle 3: Content and controls must be understandable
    3.1 Make **text** content **readable** and **understandable**.
    3.2 Make the **placement** and **functionality** of **content predictable**.

Principle 4: Content should be robust enough to work with current and future user agents (including assistive technologies)
    4.1 **Support compatibility** with **current** and **future** user agents (including assistive technologies)
    4.2 **Ensure** that **content** is **accessible** or **provide** an **accessible alternative**

- Priority 1

  - **Mandatory** requirements.

- Priority 2

  - Should satisfy – remove significant barriers to accessing web documents.

- Priority 3

  - May satisfy – improve access.

Writing a Website Disclaimer

- Elements of an Example Disclaimer
  - User Tracking cookies
  - Personal information
  - Ethical issues / Ethics comitee
  - Questionnaire
  - What happens with the data
  - Licences
  - Data protection act
  - Child protection act
  - BBC handbook

Writing Terms of Use

- Disclaimer
  - accuracy and currency of the information
  - contents are subject to change
  - accept no liability for the accuracy of all the information presented at any given time

- Use
  - Clarify copyrights regards use (copy, download, private vs. commercial)
  - Permissions required

- External Links
  - Responsibility for contents
  - Clarify liability for services provided by third parties

- Viruses
  - Make clear that efforts are undertaken to keep web site environment free of viruses.

- Trademarks
  - property and respective owners

Privacy Policy

- Consent

- Definition of parties, i.e. "You", "User", "Web Site Owner", etc.

- What happens to personal data
  - Which data is stored or collected
  - How long is it stored
  - Right to remove data

- Technical Means to collect private data

- Disclaimer

- Contact Information

Naming of pages

- Choosing a domain names has to be carried out carefully

- It is too easy to infringe trademarks or copyrights
  -

More Resources

- http://www.website-law.co.uk/

- http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/askbruce/articles/cool/law_1.shtml

- http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/it&law/internet.htm

- http://www.law.ed.ac.uk/it&law/ch4_main.htm

- http://www.rnib.org.uk/PROFESSIONALS/WEBACCESSIBILITY/LAWSANDSTANDARDS/Pages/uk_law.aspx

- google "UK laws website"

- Data Protection Act: http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1998/ukpga_19980029_en_1

- Child Protection Act:

  http://www.nspcc.org.uk/Inform/research/questions/child_protection_legislation_in_the_uk_wda48946.html

- In sensitive projects seek legal advice always use common sense before publishing. It is too easy to publish but nearly impossible to 'unpublish'.