In the research phase, the working group reviewed various accessibility maturity models. These models differ in scope, structure, and intended audience. . Some are available at no cost, while others are priority and offered at a fee or part of a paid engagement. In addition to general-purpose frameworks, some are tailored to specific industries. Examples include the California Community Colleges Accessibility Capability Maturity Model (CCC ACMM) and frameworks developed by major tech companies like Microsoft. Three of the most widely referenced general models are the Digital Accessibility Maturity Model (DAMM), the NASCIO PDAA framework, and ISO 30071-1.

Organizations embrace diverse accessibility maturity models to benchmark and advance their practices.

* The Digital Accessibility Maturity Model (DAMM), developed by Level Access, measures maturity across multiple interconnected areas.. DAMM encourages collaboration among teams and user-focused testing.
* The NASCIO (National Association of State Chief Information Officers) Policy Driven Adoption for Accessibility (PDAA) Maturity Model can be used as a high level strategic assessment within an organization, and also optimized for focuson digital procurements. PDAA helps agencies incorporate accessibility into policies, staff training, and vendor oversight, with tools designed for federal Section 508 compliance that can be used more widely.
* ISO 30071‑1 evolved from the UK BS 8878 framework. It extends its influence globally by guiding organizations in weaving accessibility into ICT policy, development lifecycle, risk control, quality assurance, and procurement standards.
* The CCC ACMM addresses California’s community colleges' unique needs by detailing five progressive stages across governance, content creation, procurement, and staff development, acknowledging the decentralized nature of higher education.

Many proprietary accessibility maturity models exist, but they often lack transparency about their methodology or scoring. In many cases, these models serve more as marketing tools to attract consulting clients rather than as open, replicable resources that support independent program development. This makes it more difficult and expensive for smaller organizations and public institutions to engage meaningfully with these frameworks. Publicly available models like the W3C Accessibility Maturity Model provide a free framework that can be used without external consulting services.

**References**

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