Shape the Future: Research and Development Questions in Digital Accessibility

<https://www.w3.org/WAI/about/projects/wai-coop/symposium1/>

# Call for Submissions

The Web Accessibility Initiative - Communities of Practice ([WAI-CooP](https://www.w3.org/WAI/about/projects/wai-coop/)) Project and the W3C Accessible Platform Architectures ([APA](https://www.w3.org/WAI/APA/)) Working Group invite researchers, practitioners, and people with disabilities to participate in an international online symposium exploring research challenges and opportunities in digital accessibility.

Symposium date: **10 November 2021**

Paper submission date: **6 October 2021**

Accepted contributions will be made available on the symposium page and will be open to discussion prior to the symposium through the WAI-CooP open forum. Authors of accepted contributions will be invited to participate as panelists in the symposium. Attendance to the symposium is open to anyone interested.

# Introduction

This online symposium brings together researchers, academics, industry, government, and people with disabilities, to explore the current state-of-the-art in accessibility research, development, and practice to uncover pressing topics for future research and development.

Another goal of this symposium is to explore potential gaps between the topics discussed by researchers and practitioners. By increasing awareness to the challenges faced by all communities, collaborations could emerge and improve the current state of accessibility research and practice.

We welcome submissions that address, but are not limited to, the following topics:

* Application Programming Interfaces (APIs)
* Artificial Intelligence (AI)
* Assistive Technology
* Data Visualization
* Education and training
* Emerging technologies
* Evaluation, metrics and scoring
* Immersive Environments (XR)
* Machine Learning (ML)
* Multimodal Interfaces
* Natural Language Interfaces
* Personalization (supporting information: [Personalization Accessibility Task Force](https://www.w3.org/WAI/APA/task-forces/personalization/) and [Making Content Usable for People with Cognitive and Learning Disabilities](https://www.w3.org/TR/coga-usable/))
* Pronunciation (supporting information: [Pronunciation Task Force](https://www.w3.org/WAI/APA/task-forces/pronunciation/) and [Issues on Pronunciation](https://github.com/w3c/pronunciation/issues))
* Remote Participation
* User requirements

We invite position papers discussing these topics using real-life settings and raising current issues and needs for discussion. After the symposium, the WAI-CooP project will publish a report, consolidating the discussions and findings.

# Important Dates

* **6 October 2021:** Deadline for submissions
* **27 October 2021:** Author notifications
* **7 November 2021:** Deadline for registration
* **10 November 2021:** Online symposium event

# Paper Submissions

We invite the submission of position papers of no more than 1500 words. We encourage concise contributions clearly explaining the:

* Problem addressed
* Relevant background
* Challenges
* Outcomes
* Future perspectives

Position papers must be submitted in the [template](https://www.w3.org/WAI/about/projects/wai-coop/Title_of_the_Contribution_-_Submission_for_WAI-CooP_and_W3C_APA_Symposium/) provided, be valid HTML, and meet WCAG 2.1 Level AA.

# Review Process

Contributions will be reviewed by the Review Committee. Each paper will get at least two independent reviews for criteria including clarity, soundness, and relevance to the symposium. Papers will be accepted based on these criteria and space availability.

# Logistics

This meeting will take place on the Zoom teleconference system with real-time captioning. Connection details will be sent by email to registered participants.

# Registration

Participation is free, but registration is required by 7 November 2021.

# Organizing Committee

Symposium Chairs

* Carlos Duarte (LASIGE, Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon)
* Letícia Seixas Pereira (LASIGE, Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon)

Scientific Committee

* Becky Gibson (Ultimate Kronos Group)
* Carlos Duarte (LASIGE, Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon)
* Janina Sajka (Sajka Associates)
* Jason White (Educational Testing Service)
* Joshue O’Connor (W3C/WAI)
* Letícia Seixas Pereira (LASIGE, Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon)
* Scott Hollier (University of South Australia)

Review Committee

(Will be announced soon)

# Organization

The “Shape the Future: Research and Development Questions in Digital Accessibility” research symposium is organized by the [WAI-CooP](https://www.w3.org/WAI/about/projects/wai-coop/) Project, an European Commission co-funded project, under the Horizon 2020 Program (101004794) and the W3C Accessible Platform Architectures ([APA](https://www.w3.org/WAI/APA/)) Working Group.