

## Contents

### 03 What's all the fuss about?

Alison Peck

Helping ourselves by routinely checking for accessibility

### 05 WordPress and accessible websites

Graham Armfield

Showing how easy it is to create an accessible website

### 08 BS 8878 and technical communication

Prof. Jonathan Hassell and Karen Mardahl

Embedding accessibility in practice

### 14 Are my documents accessible?

Grant Broome

Providing you with a guide to creating accessible PDFs

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Gentleman using some low-tech assistive technology  
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## From the editor

We've put together this special supplement for our readers as a follow up to the speciality track at Technical Communication UK (TCUK) 2012.

I was looking for a definitive explanation of what accessibility actually is. The best definition I could find was:

*Accessibility is the degree to which a product, device, service, or environment is available to as many people as possible.*

*Source: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accessibility>*

This definition covers my perception of accessibility and its relationship to technical communication. We need to keep in our minds that our documentation is read by a wide-range of people. We already have to think about making our documents clear to understand to technical and non-technical readers, native and non-native English speakers, as well as keeping our documents usable and more. Accessibility goes beyond this opening up our work to new users. The task shouldn't be an onerous one, once you start embedding accessibility in your work, it'll become second nature.

### In this special supplement

Alison Peck starts the special supplement by giving her own perspective and experience as to what accessibility is all about. It makes you think and realise that there are many different requirements that need to be met for accessibility.

Graham Armfield looks at improving accessibility in blogs and websites built with WordPress.

Karen Mardahl and Jonathan Hassell discuss an important British Standard that's all about embedding accessibility and it's definitely worth reading their conversational dialogue.

Grant Broome concludes the special supplement with an article about creating accessible PDFs. If you're creating PDFs for users, it's worthwhile following his tips.

### ...And finally

What does accessibility mean to you? I'd be happy to hear your own perspectives on it: perhaps you could submit an article of your own to *Communicator*. I hope you learn something new in this supplement and are able to implement ideas mentioned in the following pages. Enjoy reading these articles. **C**

*Katherine*

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