

Assignment A1: Social acceptability of accessibility (4 points total)

Due: April 4, 2024 before class (turn in via Canvas)

First read “In the Shadow of Misperception: Assistive Technology Use and Social Interactions” <https://faculty.washington.edu/wobbrock/pubs/chi-11.03.pdf>. Make sure you understand the concept of “social acceptability” developed in the paper.

Part A: Documenting the use of an accessibility aid

Document an example of a person with a disability using an accessibility aid (technology, device, etc.) out in public. We want to exercise your observation skills by having you detect how accessibility aids are used in the real world, understand what works about it, and reason about what could be improved. While you may choose to observe a digital accessibility aid, make sure you observe it in the context of the aid being used with/around other people. **Pick one** of the following two options for doing this:

- Find a high traffic public place to observe accessibility aids in use. You could try visiting one of the following locations and document the usage by **taking a picture** (respectfully, either asking permission or doing so in a public place without drawing attention):
 - Public transit center during the morning or evening “rush hour”
 - Lobby of hospital, health clinic, rehabilitation center, or agency that serves a disabled community
 - Senior center (especially around meal times, if visitors are allowed)
 - High volume public places (shopping center, public squares, etc.)
 - If you personally know someone with a disability, you could accompany them when they go out in public
- Search for an *unscripted* example on YouTube, which can be a little tricky. The main goal is to find a video where the person with a disability is using the accessibility aid “in the wild” (rather than a totally planned, scripted demo). Some suggestions to help you find something that intersects your interests:
 - Try searching for “accessible <activity>”, like travel, shopping, hiking, maybe public transit.
 - If you’re interested in a particular kind of disability, you can add that to the search term (e.g., blind, deaf, dyslexia, autism)
 - You could try including an activity (e.g., music, sports, hobby) or a location (e.g., city, landmark) that you’re familiar with
 - Provide the YouTube URL. Identify a particular activity or task in the video and **take a screenshot** from the video that illustrates the accessibility aid usage.
- As mentioned in class, you can try other social media platforms (e.g., facebook, TikTok, Reddit), but be careful that you’re getting authentic stories, not sensationalized for clicks.

In addition to the screenshot/picture, use a few sentences of text to describe their use of the accessibility aid:

1. What was the accessibility aid and how was the person with a disability using it to support their activity?
2. What was the context (environment) of using the accessibility aid?
3. Were there other people interacting with the person using the accessibility aid? Did they notice or interact with the aid device?
4. What could be improved about the accessibility aid?
5. In your own words, describe the concept of *social acceptability* developed in the paper. Add a couple of sentences discussing whether the design of the accessibility aid you observed affords good social acceptability, explaining why or why not.

Part B: GenAI

If you used ChatGPT (or any other genAI system) for any part of this assignment, we want to learn with you! Describe how you used it, what prompt you used, and how you had to edit/revise it before submitting the assignment.

Part C: A Photo

Include a recent picture of you, so that we can get to know you.

Submit (by April 4, 2024 before class; turn in PDF via Canvas):

One PDF for Part A, B, and C together. In the PDF, make sure to include:

- Your name:
- Your SUNet ID (before the @stanford.edu part of your email address):
- Please let us know what pronouns you would like to be addressed by.

Grading Rubric

We will consider the completion of the assignment, the photos you collected or videos you found, their relevance to the assignment questions, and the level of nuance of your analyses.