To kick off tomorrow's discussion I thought I would throw out some ideas to replace the phrase cognitive and learning disabilities and mental health impairments.

Quick reminder: The challenge is to:

1. Include all our groups of users including: cognitive disabilities, learning disabilities (LD), neurodiversity, intellectual disabilities, mental health related disabilities, age related cognitive disabilities. TMI and specific learning disabilities (I am sure there are more, but you get the idea...)
2. mean the same thing in different locations, including the EU, UK, and USA, and
3. use the terms needed to promote due accommodation under the law. So disability is a good word to include.

suggestions

1. Making content usable for cognitive accessibility
2. Making content usable for people with cognitive and (specific) learning challenges and disabilities

I think this may include mental health, intellectual disabilities, specific learning disabilities, TMI etc.

Here are a few with hopes others can add additional standards worldwide:

* 508 – "Limited Language, Cognitive, and Learning Abilities" from the functional performance criteria<https://www.section508.gov/content/mapping-wcag-to-fpc/>
* ADA<https://www.ada.gov/law-and-regs/ada/> - physical and mental disabilities
* Accessible Canada Act<https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/programs/accessible-canada/act-summary.html#h2.02> – "intellectual, cognitive, learning, communication" pulled from definition of disability
* EN 301 549<https://www.etsi.org/deliver/etsi_en/301500_301599/301549/03.02.01_60/en_301549v030201p.pdf> – "cognitive accessibility" and "people with limited cognitive, language and learning abilities"

Comments

Interestingly, a recent working group call at Internet Safety Labs was grappling with the same question. I told them to look at what COGA is doing….
Noreen

Maybe the word "perception" should come in somewhere. I.e. "cognition" is
"the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding
through thought, experience, and the senses," but in many usability issues,
the focus of the problem is not that the user is unable to acquire
knowledge and understanding, the problem is more that the user cannot
correctly perceive the UI layout pattern or text that is required to gain a
robust understanding of what they can do within the website.

So in a way these users have a **perception disability**, more than a cognitive
disability.

Thanks,

Edward

I have to agree whole heartedly with the subject line. topic My preference would be something
like **Universal Design for all.**

In addition,

Can I suggest this type of conversation (to include words like perception) is very ablest –
labelling something an issue when it is the designer's problem in not planning for the needs of
people with low literacy (49% of people across all OECD countries – not just people with
intellectual or other disabilities) In the way a website is being designed makes it a barrier to
people.

Rather than saying a person has a perception problem, lets demand that websites be designed
to meet more people's needs. Surely that is the purpose of these guidelines.

When a website is designed for users who have low literacy, many of the so-called 'perception
issues' do not exist. Having created such a website, people with low literacy can navigate it,
locate the content they want, and use it intentionally.

Cathy Basterfield

Another approach would be simply to say, **"Reduce unnecessary cognitive barriers/complexity."**

Bob
Bob Dolan, Ph.D.