

Lessons Learned From Our Accessibility-First Approach to Data Visualization

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Socials:

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Important Links

- <https://material.io/blog/data-visualization-accessibility>
- <https://www.amazon.com/Drawing-Product-Ideas-Fast-Anyone/dp/1119835852>
- Tools for testing contrast ratio:
 - <https://colorshark.io/>
 - <https://colorandcontrast.com/#/>
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Notes

- A lot of googles 'outputs' are visualisations -> it is very important to make them accessible
- 41 million people in the U.S. have a disability, around 300 million people worldwide have color deficiencies -> it is important to keep that in mind when creating data experiences
- Data Accessibility is difficult.
- Great to start with webstandards -> bold colors
- Colors is just one part of the story, we also need to use other visual signals
- How can we make charts accessible while minimizing chart junk?

- Consider accessibility first to get the best possible design - much easier than retrofitting existing charts.
- Build a diverse team -> work with people who use assistive technology on a daily basis.
- How might we structure a chart so its easy to navigate with the keyboard and assistive technology?

Q&A

- What's an easy way to figure out the contrast ratio of different colors?
There are several contrast checker tools out there: colorshark, color and contrast
 - Some scientist have started to translate images (e.g., space) into sound, do you think that will happen for visualizations?
 - When you use alternative keystrokes to navigate vizualitions, how do you think about communicating that to the relevant users and about potential conflicts with the users' existing shortcuts?
Integrate into screen reader announcements
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About the Talk

During this tale of two disciplines, I will outline key lessons learned as we aimed to make data accessible through Google's charts, graphs and visualizations. Using real life examples, I will walk through our accessibility-first approach to design, why it matters, how it empowered our team, and how it led us to creating better data experiences for everyone.

About the Speakers

Kent Eisenhuth