

Brenda Harlow

Accessibility & Usability in e-Learning

What is Accessibility?

- Web accessibility is a digital curb cut.
- Provides guidelines on how to make applications easier to use for individuals with disabilities.
- Disabilities can range from:
 - Visual
 - Hearing
 - Cognitive
 - Physical

What is Usability?

- Usability is the ease in which a person can utilize a tool or product.
- For e-Learning, usability is about how quickly and easily a learner can access information.

Accessibility & Usability

- A thought to consider:
 - e-Learning can be Accessible but not Usable
 - e-Learning can be Usable but not Accessible
- The key is to know how to apply both.

Principles of e-Learning

- Contiguity Principle
 - Keep visuals and text near each other.
- Redundancy Principle
 - Do not use visuals, text, and audio.
- Coherence Principle
 - Do not use “extra” information.

Instructional Design Process

- Start thinking about Accessibility and Usability at the beginning
- Consider the learners
- Consider the technology
- Consider the e-Learning environment

Student Motivation

- Usability improves the ease of access to learning material.
- Accessibility improves access to learning material.
- Improving access and making it easier to learn can motivate student learning.

Conclusion

- Questions?
- Comments?
- Thoughts?