

## CONCEPTS IN WEB ACCESSIBILITY

### FACTS

1. **~50 million** noninstitutionalized people in the U.S. – **20 percent** – with a disability; another 4-5 million in institutions. It's about inclusion, and it's good business.
2. Disabilities may be **sensory** (seeing, hearing); **physical** (paraplegia, quadriplegia, spasticity/ coordinative/other motor); **cognitive** (persons with TBI [traumatic brain injury], post-stroke); or **intellectual** (developmental delay, Down syndrome, etc.).
3. Accessibility is good manners and good business.

### MISCONCEPTIONS

1. Accessible sites are boring and bland.
2. It takes too much time and effort (expensive, if jobbing out).

### REALITY

1. Accessible sites use CSS – separating content from appearance – so are device-independent. The logical flow of information makes them highly usable to ALL site visitors. Taut design also tends to lead to faster download times.
2. Examples of accessible commercial sites
  - a. University of Texas: [www.utexas.edu](http://www.utexas.edu)
  - b. Mitsubishi Electric America Foundation: [www.meaf.org](http://www.meaf.org)
  - c. FISA Foundation: [www.fisafoundation.org](http://www.fisafoundation.org)
  - d. Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank: [www.pntb.org](http://www.pntb.org)
3. A (really) brief guide to creating accessible Web pages (with links, resources, site testers): <http://www.jeanesweb.com/guide.html>