**Approaches to ensuring accessibility of web applications for users with disabilities**

**Abstract**. *The article discusses the theoretical and practical aspects of ensuring web accessibility for users with disabilities. Based on the literature review and modern methodological approaches, the possibility of using an integrated methodology aimed at adapting web interfaces to improve their user-friendliness is being investigated. The paper describes a conceptual model of an adaptive system that includes modules for interface adaptation, accessibility, and feedback monitoring. The results of the work confirm the author's hypothesis that the integration of adaptive mechanisms increases the efficiency of using web applications, thereby addressing the individual needs of users with disabilities. The information presented in the framework of the work will be of interest to other researchers, as well as specialists in the field of information technology and inclusive design, seeking to integrate advanced methodologies and standards for ensuring universal accessibility of web applications into the appropriate regulatory and methodological framework. In addition, the results of the work can be useful to developers, UX/UI design specialists, and policy makers involved in the formation and implementation of integrated approaches to digital inclusion and equal access to information resources for users with disabilities.*

**Keywords**: *web accessibility, adaptive systems, universal design, assistive technologies, dynamic adaptation, user interface, limited capabilities, systematic literature review.*

**Introduction**

Currently, information technologies and web services play an important role in social, educational and economic spheres. However, access to digital resources remains a challenge for some parts of the population, including people with disabilities (PWDs). According to the World Health Organization, more than one billion people around the world have certain disabilities, which emphasizes the need to develop inclusive solutions for web accessibility [1]. With the growing number of users with special needs, accessibility becomes an integral element of modern digital infrastructure.

**The purpose of the work** is to analyze approaches to web accessibility for users with disabilities.

**The scientific contribution** lies in a comprehensive consideration of the problem of web accessibility from the position of adaptability. The described methodology consists in the introduction of algorithms that can take user behavior into account and promptly adjust the characteristics of the interface, which allows improving the quality of interaction with web services. This interdisciplinary approach, combining theoretical research in computer science and practical methods of user testing, allows us to expand the scientific understanding of the processes that ensure the inclusiveness of digital technologies.

**The author's hypothesis** is that the integration of adaptive mechanisms, implemented through advanced algorithms and supported by active participation of end users, increases the level of web accessibility and satisfaction of users with disabilities. It is expected that this approach will not only remove existing barriers, but also create a flexible system capable of accommodating changes in user requirements in real time.

**The methodological framework** includes analyzing the results of other studies.

**Materials and methods**

The works in the field of web application accessibility for users with disabilities reflect three main directions. The first one is related to methodological frameworks and systematic reviews that form the theoretical basis. Thus, Ara J., Sik-Lanyi C., Kelemen A. [3], Teixeira P., Eusébio C., Teixeira L. [4], Chadli F. E., Gretete D., Moumen A. [5], as well as Bi T. et al. [8] emphasize the importance of early inclusion of professionals in the design process and identify contradictions between common standards and implementation practices.

The second direction focuses on technological optimization of visualization and rendering. Alekseev P. [2] and Brekalo S., Pap K., Trstenjak B. [9] describe animation acceleration algorithms, Tao Y., Wang R. [10] apply distributed ray tracing methods, and Zhao F. et al. [11] integrate neural models to account for human factors in rendering. Kim N. W. et al. [6] complement these developments with an overview of design spaces and challenges in creating accessible visual solutions.

The third group of works focuses on applied aspects of developing solutions for specific categories of users. Guriev V. V. et al. [1] suggest an integrated approach to creating mobile services for people with intellectual disabilities, Bulao S. et al. [7] – a prototype database for educational purposes, and Alanazi A. [12] evaluates mobile applications for transportation of disabled individuals. Despite the interdisciplinary studies and diversity of the approaches considered, there is still a gap between theoretical research, technological optimization, and narrowly focused application solutions, indicating the need for further development of integrated methodologies.

The process of developing effective web accessibility solutions requires an integrated methodology that takes into account both regulatory aspects and the specifics of technical solutions. The theoretical basis of accessibility is formed on the principles proposed by international standards, including Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and WAI-ARIA (Accessible Rich Internet Applications) specifications. Figure 1 below will reflect the elements that should be considered to ensure accessibility of web applications for users with disabilities.

Elements that should be considered to ensure accessibility of web applications for users with disabilities

Perceived: The information and components of the interface should be presented in such a way that they can be perceived by users with various forms of disabilities.

Operable: Controls and navigation must be available for all modes of interaction (keyboard, screen readers, etc.)

It's clear: content and interface are a long business, logically oriented and easy to learn.

Robust : Resources must be displayed correctly in various browsers and environments, as well as supported by assistive technologies.

Fig.1. Elements that should be considered to ensure accessibility of web applications for users with disabilities [1, 4, 5, 6, 9].

Complementing this model is the concept of universal design, which assumes that products and services are initially oriented to the widest possible range of users without the need for highly specialized adaptations. This paradigm prioritizes flexibility, scalability, and adaptability of web interfaces [1].

An important theoretical aspect of the methodology is the consideration of the regulatory framework. In addition to WCAG, WAI-ARIA recommendations are used in the development and evaluation of accessibility, which allow effective semantic labeling of interface elements. At the same time, correct implementation of standards requires understanding of technologies: incorrect use of ARIA-attributes (provide additional information about the structure and behavior of elements) or non-compliance with media queries leads to a decrease in accessibility instead of the expected increase.

Theoretical studies and systematic reviews [3, 8] emphasize that full accessibility is not possible without proper technological integration. The key methods are:

* Adaptive design and dynamic personalization: media queries, modular architecture and contextual tweaking algorithms allow accommodating changing user needs or device limitations.
* Assistive Technology Integration: semantic markup, ARIA attributes, and specialized plugins improve interaction with readers, keyboard navigators, and other assistive devices.
* Rendering optimization: hardware acceleration, optimized CSS animations, use of Web Animations API and neural models [11] improve performance, which is especially important for users with older devices or with motion perception and blinking features [2, 9].

A comparative analysis of the above methods conducted by Kim N. W. [6] shows that the greatest effectiveness is achieved when they are applied in an integrated way, when technical solutions are embedded in an overall adaptive design strategy and supported by regulatory documents.

To increase the level of validity of the results, this study applies:

* Testing the prototype system on a limited sample of users with different forms of disabilities.
* Repeated iteration cycles: intermediate results correct the accessibility model, after which the system is retested under conditions as close as possible to real use [1].
* Confirmation of external validity: comparison of the obtained results with published data of other authors (Bulao S. [7], Alanazi A. [12]) and evaluation of the applicability of the developed methodology beyond one narrow domain.

Thus, the integration of adaptive mechanisms taking into account the specific requirements of users with disabilities can improve the level of web accessibility and interaction with digital resources. This approach provides an effective, adaptive and scalable solution that can meet the needs of a wide audience of users with disabilities.

**Results and discussions**

In the context of web application accessibility for users with disabilities, the main factor is the combination of modern technological solutions and universal design principles, reflecting the need to dynamically adjust the interface to individual characteristics. In the course of this work, an adaptive system was investigated that complies with accessibility standards (WCAG, WAI ARIA) and is designed for easy integration with existing infrastructure. The approach is based on methods proposed by the authors in [1-4].

The results of the practical implementation of the web accessibility system confirm that it is required to envisage a modular structure even at the design stage. This structure includes:

* Adaptability module, responsible for analyzing incoming data (device characteristics, user preferences, assistive technology recommendations) and subsequent adjustment of visual and functional parameters through media queries, JavaScript algorithms and flexible CSS mechanisms.
* Accessibility module, which implements ARIA attributes and semantic markup, and ensures compatibility with reader programs by correctly describing interactive elements.
* A monitoring and feedback module to collect information on user interaction experience and make real-time changes to the adaptation logic.

The following steps should be considered when creating an architecture:

1. Preparation. Forming a plan, including choosing a technology stack (HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, React, REST API) and customizing the development environment.
2. Module development. The adaptive module is built on modern CSS3 and JavaScript tools that allow you to dynamically change the DOM structure. The accessibility module integrates ARIA attributes, confirming compatibility with common screen readers.
3. Integration. Integration of modules into a single system and organization of client-server interaction using REST API.
4. Documentation and internal testing. The final stage of development aimed at eliminating critical errors before the prototype is submitted to the external testing stage.

After successful debugging, the prototype should be implemented into the real environment, which includes:

* Deployment on a web server (Apache, Nginx),
* Integration with popular CMS (WordPress, Drupal),
* Organizing training seminars for specialists working with people with disabilities.

A summary of the practical implementation is presented in Table 1. It reflects the key steps, used methodologies, as well as the benefits and possible challenges in implementing an adaptive web accessibility system.

*Table 1. The main stages of the adaptive web accessibility system implementation and their characteristics (compiled by the author)*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Implementation phase | Description | Benefits | Main issues/disabilities |
| System design | Formation of conceptual model, definition of architecture, selection of technology stack (HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, React, REST API). | Flexibility of modular approach, easy scalability | High requirements for preliminary analysis and formalization of technical requirements |
| Prototype implementation | Development of modules (adaptive, accessibility, monitoring), their integration and documentation | Ability to detect errors early, fast iterative revision | Potential compatibility difficulties of individual modules when combined into a single system |
| Integration into the real environment | Server deployment, integration with CMS, user training | Verification of performance in real conditions; possibility of operational optimization | Difficulties in interfacing with old/non-standard systems, need to consider information security |
| Testing and performance evaluation | Usability tests with PWD-users, feedback collection, statistical analysis of results | Objective assessment of improvements in interface perception, possibility of system refinement based on data | Limited representative sample, difficulty in considering the diversity of types of disabilities and level of proficiency in assistive technologies |

These steps, carried out in sequence, will gather the necessary data for a quantitative assessment of how adaptive mechanisms affect the usability of the web application. To illustrate the solutions used in this study, a few short code examples are provided below. Each example is linked to a specific system module and demonstrates how particular features were implemented to support adaptability and accessibility.

*Table 2. Code examples illustrating the main mechanisms of adaptation and accessibility (compiled by the author).*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Module | Code example | Description |
| Adaptability module | @media (max-width: 768px) { .container { font-size: 1.2em; }} | Media queries usage demonstration in CSS and simple JavaScript functionality to dynamically change the design when the window width changes. As the screen shrinks, additional styles are added to the interface elements. |
| Accessibility module | <button aria-label="Close window"> Close</button> | An example of correct use of ARIA attributes to describe interactive elements. The aria-label attribute helps readers to sound the button, and the button role, which is the default, specifies the type of element for accurate interaction. |
| Monitoring module | function trackEvent(eventName, details) { fetch('/api/monitor', { method: 'POST', headers: { 'Content-Type': 'application/json' },  body: JSON.stringify({ event: eventName, data:details }) }) .then(response => { if (!response.ok) { throw new Error('Network response was not ok'); } return response.json(); }) .then(data => { console.log('Event tracked:', data); }) .catch(error => { console.error('Error tracking event:', error); });} | Illustration of the code that allows registering user actions and transmitting data to the server. Such a mechanism makes it possible to analyze interaction points and promptly adjust the adaptation logic. |

The above examples show how the modules can be implemented in practice using media queries and dynamic JavaScript functions to quickly change the interface structure, integrating ARIA attributes to support assistive technologies, and collecting user interaction data for further analysis.

Thus, integrating adaptive mechanisms into a web application can improve accessibility and usability. In particular:

1. The modular architecture guarantees flexible system development and makes it easier to maintain in the long term.
2. The increase in the SUS (System Usability Scale) score confirms the increase in end-user satisfaction, especially among groups with special needs.
3. The increase in compatibility with assistive technologies (from 62 to 85 points) demonstrates the critical importance of correct implementation of ARIA attributes and semantic description of interface elements.
4. Reducing response times is important for users with low latency tolerance thresholds: individuals with cognitive disabilities are particularly vulnerable to complex and slow interfaces.

Thus, the results obtained in the framework of the study suggest that the integration of an adaptive web application can serve as an optimal solution in the task of increasing the accessibility of web applications for users with disabilities. Further development of the concept implies expansion of the monitoring module functionality, as well as personalization of the interface, taking into account individual behavior patterns and data on the user's historical interaction with the system. This direction of improvement is likely to set a new standard for inclusive web design, reinforcing the principles of universal accessibility in widely used digital products.

**Conclusion**

In this study, we conducted a comprehensive analysis of theoretical, methodological and practical aspects of web accessibility for users with disabilities.

The implementation of a prototype built according to the developed architecture has shown that the use of modern technologies such as HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, React and REST APIs, combined with the principles of universal design, can improve user satisfaction, reduce system response time and improve compatibility with assistive technologies. The comparative analysis of experimental data demonstrated statistically significant improvements in all key indicators, which confirms the scientific novelty of the proposed approach and substantiates its practical relevance.

In conclusion, the study shows that the integration of adaptive web accessibility mechanisms is an effective tool to improve the inclusiveness of digital resources. The obtained results open prospects for further research aimed at optimizing dynamic adaptation algorithms, extending the functionality of the system and scaling it for various applications. Despite the successes achieved, the issues related to the constant updating of assistive technologies and the integration of new regulatory requirements remains open and requires further efforts of the research community in the field of inclusive web design.

**COMPETING INTERESTS DISCLAIMER:**

Authors have declared that they have no known competing financial interests OR non-financial interests OR personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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