

Digital Accessibility Specialist Group

Minutes Committee Meeting 30/1/2014

Secretary note: in attempt to make this document accessible all actions are preceded by 'Action:', followed by the name of the person actioned and then a brief resume of the action.

1 Attendance

Present:

- David Rippon
- Howard Leicester
- E.A. Draffan
- Sue Shoesmith
- John Lamb
- Geoffrey McMullen
- Ray Waddington-Jones
- Peter Abrahams

In attendance:

- Sallyann Cossey

Apologies:

- Alan Summerside
- Robert Barrett
- Chetz Colwell
- John Court
- Peter Dudley
- June Elgar

2 Introductions

As this was the first meeting of the SG we did a round table introduction.

3 Election of Officers

- David Rippon was unanimously elected as Chairman
- Peter Abrahams was unanimously elected as Secretary
- Alan Summerside had agreed to be Treasurer but in his absence could not be formally elected, DR agreed to stand in as treasurer until AS can be formally elected.

Sallyann Cossey show us the pop up poster for our group, it will be held at BCS and can be used at any event. She also told us that the group has £1000 budget that we can use as appropriate, but we can apply for more.

4 Annual Conference (by Q4 2014)

This section started with a more general discussion of the purpose of DASG and what its role should be in comparison to other accessibility organisations.

EAD asked how we could get students more involved with the BCS and accessibility.

SS most accessibility conferences she had been to were too much evangelising and not enough technical detail.

JL Events should be around BCS qualifications.

GM we need to get accessibility into education and SFIA.

HL wanted to know how we get information about the needs of people with special education needs in Higher Education.

PA suggested that we should not run our own conference but partner with others such as e-access.

NL contacted Dan Jellineck, organiser of e-access, during the meeting and Dan was keen to partner with BCS. NL will follow up on details.

It was suggested that BCS should present and exhibit BCS education and especially Web Essentials.

Action: DR and NL to discuss with Jellineck and report back.

5 BCS Digital Accessibility Policy (Q1 2014)

The state of the BCS Digital Accessibility Policy was briefly discussed and Geoff McMullen agreed to review it and report back to the committee.

Action: GM to review and report back.

6 Annual BCS Digital Accessibility Status Report (including web site)

PA reported that he had spoken to Brian Runciman about the BCS website and Brian was keen to have input from the DASG. The committee agreed that PA should be the spokesperson.

HL offered to help as an example of a person with special needs.

JL suggested that the BCS should run formal accessibility testing.

The immediate issue on the website are:

- Committing to WCAG AA
- Lack of captioning
- Inaccessible documents such as Forrester reports
- Accessibility page should provide information on how to use not just what guidelines are used.

Action: PA will contact Runciman and set up meeting and report back at next meeting.

7 IT Profession's awareness and understanding of Digital Accessibility issues

Annual Survey

It was agreed that we should run a survey to better understand awareness of ICT accessibility.

DR has created a questionnaire for such a survey which he will distribute to the committee for comment.

SC was asked to investigate what facilities BCS have for running the survey. It was believed that George Georgiou was the person to contact.

Action: SC and DR to set up the running of the survey.

8 External engagement on Digital Accessibility issues, including BDF membership support

BDF

It understood that the BCS has joined the Business Disability Forum (BDF). SC will check this is correct and JL said that he was willing to be the BCS representative at the BDF.

Action: SC to confirm BCS membership.

Action: JL to attend BDF.

IAAP

The International Association of Accessibility Professionals is a new organisation that will formally start at CSUN in March. NL is Vice President and it has backing from major companies such as Microsoft and Adobe. It will concentrate on certification of accessibility professionals. The meeting felt that the BCS should be associated with IAAP as we have strengths in accessibility and certification.

Action: NL to contact David Clarke to investigate how this could be set up.

OneVoice

HL, PA and NL are on the council of OneVoice they believe that the BCS should be a partner of OneVoice.

EHl

HL suggested that the BCS should approach other organisation including eHi.

Action: HL to provide introduction between DR and eHi.

9 Collaboration with WCIT Accessibility Panel

The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT) has an accessibility panel. HL, NL, DR and PA are all involved with the panel. The meeting discussed whether the DASG and the WCIT panel should merge. It was decided that this was probably not practical. It was thought that the two groups should co-operate and work more closely together to ensure synergy rather than competition.

Action: DR to contact Jean Irvine, chair of WCIT Panel, to discuss how to work together.

10 BCS Digital Literacy initiative

Is a new initiative to increase digital literacy across the UK population. It is important that it supports and incorporates accessibility. GM agreed that he would include this in his discussion with SFIA+ and ECDL see next subject.

11 SFIA+ engagement

The committee was concerned that accessibility is not embedded in the course defined by SFIA+ nor into ECDL. GM agreed to investigate.

Action: GM to contact SFIA+ and ECDL chairs.

12 Elections to BCS Council

The committee was informed that two people had put their names forward to represent the specialist groups on Council and that there were two vacancies.

It was agreed that DR should vote for them.

Action: DR, should vote as above.

13 Any other business

Membership

We need to start promoting DASG within BCS membership and beyond.

DR needs to create content for front page of the DASG area on the BCS website.

DR to create some collateral to mail out to potential interested parties.

JL has the email list of a previous accessibility group in the BCS and suggested that an email should go out to them.

Action: DR create basic collateral.

Action: JL to give DR his email list.

14 Date, time and venue for next meeting

It was suggested the next meeting should be 17 March 13:00-15:00 BCS London subject to logistics.

Before the minutes were completed the date was confirmed as 18 March 14:00-16:00 BCS London.