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Chantal Intrator

Using Scripts to Improve Web Accessibility

Dissertação de Mestrado

Dissertation presented to the Postgraduate Program in Informatics of the Departamento de Informática, PUC-Rio as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Mestre em Informática

Advisor: Profª. Clarisse Sieckenius de Souza

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Abstract

Intrator, Chantal; de Souza, Clarisse Sieckenius. **Using scripts to Improve Web Accessibility** Rio de Janeiro, 2009. 103p. MSc. Dissertation - Departamento de Informática, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro.

As more and more resources become available online, the World Wide Web is turning into an important stakeholder in every individuals' lives. Nevertheless, not every segment of the distinct populations worldwide is able to freely access and use it. A new approach of navigating the web, in which users make use of automated processes created by a community of volunteers, is presented in this dissertation. The primary intent of this approach is to help blind and functionally-illiterate users in navigating the web and accessing its resources. This, though, is only the starting point for further investigations with other populations with special needs. This dissertation presents a collaborative web system, designed on top of an existing tool, for improving web accessibility.

Keywords

1. Computers and Society: social issues – thesis; 2. Web accessibility; 3. Visually-impaired; 4. Functionally-Illiterate; 5.Disabilities; 6. Scripting; 7.Web Collaboration.

Resumo

Intrator, Chantal; de Souza, Clarisse Sieckenius. **Utilizando scripts para Melhorar a Acessibilidade na Web.** Rio de Janeiro, 2009. 103p. Dissertação de Mestrado - Departamento de Informática, Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro.

À medida que mais recursos vêm sendo disponibilizados *online*, a Internet está se tornando um participante de grande importância na vida dos indivíduos. No entanto, nem todo segmento das distintas populações mundiais é capaz de acessá-la e usá-la livremente. Uma nova abordagem de navegação na web, na qual os usuários fazem uso de processos automáticos criados por uma comunidade de voluntários, é apresentada nesta dissertação. O primeiro objetivo desta abordagem é ajudar usuários cegos e analfabetos funcionais a navegar na web e acessar tais recursos. Isto, no entanto, é o passo inicial para futuras investigações com outros públicos de necessidades especiais. Esta dissertação apresenta um sistema web colaborativo, desenhado sobre uma ferramenta já existente, para melhorar a acessibilidade na web.

Palavras-Chave

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Note: this document was written in English since it is part of a joint project involving the SERG laboratory at PUC-Rio and the CoScripter research group at IBM Almaden Research – Human Computer Interaction Group.

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