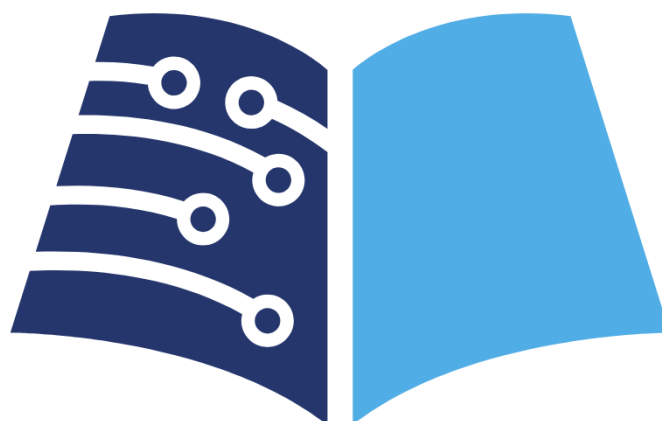




DIGITABILITY

**PROMOTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES' EMPLOYMENT
BY ENHANCING THEIR DIGITAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCES TO SUPPORT
A REMOTE WORKING SCHEME**

Module on: Accessing information online



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A. Accessing information online

Introduction

The development of digital literacy involves as much knowledge of the logic of how the Web works - such as the use of search engines and links - as it does the use of a cognitive component that disregards the fact that one is using an online channel to satisfy one's information need, but at the same time cannot disregard the fact that the abundance of information found online makes the cognitive process itself more complex.

That is why a person mastering a skill such as digital literacy should:

- be familiar with the places online where information can be found;
- be able to use the right keywords to pursue their research;
- make use of tools that deal with the collection of materials from different sources;
- be able to assess the validity of a source, paying particular attention to the phenomenon known as "fake news."

Knowing the main dynamics typical of the web is therefore fundamental, and the functioning of search engines is certainly among them. A user, in fact, cannot consider himself "digitally literate" if he does not know, even at a minimal level, the mechanism behind the generation of search results of a tool such as Google, since the information he can access (based on the keywords entered) depends precisely on the logic behind the so-called "online indexing."

Search engines, therefore, can certainly be considered as the primary online environment in which information can be found. But they are certainly not the only one: from the various wikis, to Quora, passing through Google Scholar, ResearchGate, ScienceDirect without forgetting the TED repository, the tools available to users are really many.

Just as many are also the solutions that allow users not to go in search of content, but to make sure that content reaches users directly: tools such as Feedly, thanks to the ability of users to identify the most authoritative and interesting information sources, facilitate, and not a little, those who are never satiated with learning about and delving into new topics.

Finally, it is interesting to note that today we find ourselves in the same situation as the first generations who had to learn how to apply grammar and syntax appropriately: just as today this is no longer considered a complex task to complete, neither will "using the Internet and information technologies to access, manage, integrate and evaluate information from a wide range of sources accessible through a variety of technological devices" be so in a few years.

In other words, digital literacy is a digital soft skill (for a more in-depth discussion of (digital) skills, please refer to the article [The \(digital\) skills in the context of digital](#)

transformation) that has now been assimilated into a real basic skill as inescapable as writing, reading and counting: so much so that it is now a curricular skill even in schools. Digital literacy is now also a skill of great importance in the life of organizations. To succeed in bringing innovation, it is increasingly common to make use of projects aimed at generating Open Innovation, a process through which sources, partners and opportunities for external "contamination" are sought that can inspire and innovate the activities that the organization carries out. With this in mind, knowing how to act a critical and structured reading of information and sources is a basic requirement for each of us.

What is Web Accessibility

Web accessibility means that websites, tools, and technologies are designed and developed so that people with disabilities can use them. More specifically, people can: perceive, understand, navigate, and interact with the Web contribute to the Web

Web accessibility encompasses all disabilities that affect access to the Web, including:

- auditory
- cognitive
- neurological
- physical
- speech
- visual

Web accessibility also benefits people without disabilities, for example:

people using mobile phones, smart watches, smart TVs, and other devices with small screens, different input modes, etc.

older people with changing abilities due to aging people with "temporary disabilities" such as a broken arm or lost glasses;

people with "situational limitations" such as in bright sunlight or in an environment where they cannot listen to audio;

people using a slow Internet connection, or who have limited or expensive bandwidth.

Accessibility is Important for Individuals, Businesses, Society

The Web is an increasingly important resource in many aspects of life: education, employment, government, commerce, health care, recreation, and more. It is essential that the Web be accessible in order to provide equal access and equal opportunity to people with diverse abilities. Access to information and communications technologies, including the Web, is defined as a basic human right in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

The Web offers the possibility of unprecedented access to information and interaction for many people with disabilities. That is, the accessibility barriers to print, audio, and visual media can be much more easily overcome through web technologies.

Accessibility supports social inclusion for people with disabilities as well as others, such as:

- older people
- people in rural areas
- people in developing countries

There is also a strong business case for accessibility. As shown in the previous section, accessible design improves overall user experience and satisfaction, especially in a variety of situations, across different devices, and for older users. Accessibility can enhance your brand, drive innovation, and extend your market reach.

1.1 The Learning Objectives Covered by Topic

In completing this Topic, the learner will be able to:

Learn how to access information online:

- MS Edge
- Google chrome
- Safari
- Firefox
- Opera
- Search Engines Accessibility Management:
- Google

Activate and enable accessibility features related to each specific impairment

2. Accessibility for People with Cognitive Impairments (autism/ dyslexia/ dysgraphia/ dyscalculia/ ADHD)

Challenges related to cognitive disabilities, such as autism, dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and ADHD, require specific approaches to ensure an inclusive web browsing experience. Microsoft Edge, aware of these needs, is committed to providing tools and features that facilitate accessibility for people with cognitive disabilities. In this chapter, we will explore key features of Microsoft Edge designed to improve the browsing experience for those with cognitive challenges.

Simplified Reading and Text Support

For people with dyslexia and other reading difficulties, Microsoft Edge offers simplified reading tools. These tools allow you to simplify page structure, improve text readability, and customize word spacing. In addition, advanced text support facilitates comprehension of content by providing clear visual cues and making reading easier.

Pronunciation and Speech Synthesis Tools.

To address pronunciation and text comprehension challenges, Microsoft Edge offers advanced pronunciation and speech synthesis tools. These tools allow users to hear text read aloud, making it easier to understand the content. This feature is particularly useful for those with dyslexia or ADHD, offering an alternative to traditional reading.

Text and Color Customization

To adapt to the individual needs of users with cognitive disabilities, Microsoft Edge allows customization of text and colors. Users can adjust the size of text, choose color combinations to suit their preferences, and improve the overall readability of the page. This flexibility is critical to ensuring an optimal browsing experience for those with specific cognitive challenges.

Reading Mode and Concentration Tools.

Microsoft Edge's Reading Mode provides a distraction-free reading environment, ideal for anyone struggling with concentration difficulties such as those associated with ADHD. Concentration tools allow users to highlight text, reducing visual distractions and making it easier to focus on content.

Support for Learning Tools.

Microsoft Edge integrates support for a wide range of learning tools, useful for those facing challenges related to dysgraphia and dyscalculia. Learning tools include the ability to annotate web pages, highlight text, and even solve mathematical operations directly in the browser.

Accessibility Extensions for Microsoft Edge:

Unlock a more accessible web browsing experience with extensions from the Microsoft Edge Add-ons store! These extensions work seamlessly with Edge to enhance its built-in accessibility features. Follow these steps to find the perfect one for you:

Access the Microsoft Edge Add-ons Store: Open Microsoft Edge and navigate to the Add-ons store.

Search for Accessibility Extensions: In the Add-ons store's search bar, type "accessibility" and hit enter. This will display a list of extensions designed to improve browsing accessibility.

Explore and Choose Your Extension: Browse the available extensions and read their descriptions to find one that addresses your specific needs. Popular options include extensions for improved text-to-speech functionality, visual modifications for better readability, and tools that simplify navigation.

Install the Chosen Extension: Once you've found the perfect extension, click on it to access its details page. Locate the "Add to Edge" button and click on it to begin the installation process.

Confirm Installation: A confirmation window will appear. Click "Add extension" to complete the installation.

1.

2. 2.1 Exercises

Exercise 1: Intuitive Navigation

Objective: Practice navigation through the address bar and bookmark usage.

Tasks:

Open Microsoft Edge.

Navigate to a website of your choice using the address bar.

Add the site to your favorites.

Use the favorites bar to quickly access the site without typing the URL.

Exercise 2: Immersive Reader

Objective: Experience the built-in Immersive Reader function in Microsoft Edge.

Tasks:

Select a short text on a webpage.

Click the "Immersive Reader" button (usually located in the address bar or accessibility options).

Explore the different reading options available in Immersive Reader, such as adjusting text size, changing the background color, and focusing on specific lines of text.

Exercise 3: Accessibility Settings

Objective: Personalize Microsoft Edge's accessibility settings.

Tasks:

Go to Edge settings by clicking on the three-dot menu in the top right corner and selecting "Settings."

Explore the "Accessibility" section. Here you can adjust various settings like text size, focus indicators, and audio descriptions.

Customize according to your preferences to improve the browsing experience.

Exercise 4: Installing Accessibility Extensions

Objective: Discover and install extensions from the Microsoft Edge Add-ons store to further enhance your browsing experience.

Tasks:

Access the Microsoft Edge Add-ons Store:

a. Open Microsoft Edge and navigate to the Add-ons store. You can find it by clicking on the three-dot menu in the top right corner and selecting "Extensions" or by typing "edge://extensions" in the address bar.

Explore Accessibility Extensions:

- a. In the search bar of the Add-ons store, type "accessibility" and press enter. This will display a list of extensions designed to improve browsing accessibility.
- b. Browse through the available extensions and read their descriptions to find ones that address your specific needs. Popular options include extensions for improved text-to-speech functionality, visual modifications for better readability, and tools that simplify navigation.

Install Your Chosen Extension:

- a. Once you've found the perfect extension, click on it to access its details page.
- b. Locate the "Add to Edge" button and click on it to begin the installation process.
- c. A confirmation window will appear. Click "Add extension" to complete the installation.

Verify Installation and Explore Features:

- a. Once installed, the extension's icon should appear in the top right corner of your Microsoft Edge window.
- b. Click on the extension's icon to access its settings and explore its features.
- c. Customize the extension's settings to suit your preferences and enhance your browsing experience.

3. Google chrome for People with Cognitive Impairments (autism/ dyslexia/ dysgraphia/ dyscalculia/ ADHD)

Navigating the vast landscape of the internet can present formidable challenges for individuals grappling with cognitive disorders like autism, dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and ADHD. Fortunately, Google Chrome emerges as a powerful ally, offering an array of features and extensions crafted to enhance web accessibility. In this comprehensive exploration, we will delve into the nuanced facets of Google Chrome, uncovering a spectrum of tools designed to customize the browsing experience for individuals with cognitive disorders.

Understanding the Challenges:

Cognitive disorders pose unique hurdles, affecting how individuals process information and engage with online content. From difficulties in reading and comprehension to challenges in time management and focus, these obstacles demand tailored solutions to make the digital realm more inclusive.

Dyslexia Extensions:

Reading, often a fundamental aspect of web navigation, can become a formidable task for individuals with dyslexia. Google Chrome steps in with purpose-built extensions, such as the intuitive 'Read&Write for Google Chrome.' This extension not only reads aloud but also strategically underlines words, providing a visual guide to follow the text. Moreover, users can personalize the reading speed to align with their individual preferences.

Time and Productivity Management Tools:

Individuals with ADHD encounter distinct challenges related to time management and sustained focus. Google Chrome addresses these concerns through extensions like 'StayFocusd,' enabling users to set time limits on distracting websites. Complementary tools like 'Mindful Browsing' introduce periodic reminders, fostering mindfulness and reflection during online activities.

Customizing the Interface:

Recognizing the diverse needs of users, Google Chrome allows for interface customization. This proves invaluable for individuals with autism who may benefit from

extensions minimizing visual distractions. 'Mercury Reader,' an exemplary tool, streamlines web pages by removing extraneous elements, directing attention to the essential content.

Writing Tools:

For those grappling with challenges like dysgraphia, the act of writing can be an uphill battle. Google Chrome introduces supportive extensions such as 'Grammarly,' correcting spelling and grammatical errors in real-time. The built-in voice dictation tool offers an alternative, allowing users to input text through voice recognition, mitigating the fatigue associated with traditional handwriting.

Customizing Colors and Contrast:

Acknowledging the diversity of visual needs, Google Chrome empowers users to personalize colors and contrast. This feature proves particularly beneficial for individuals with visual impairments or color sensitivity. By adjusting Chrome's accessibility settings, users can adapt the display of web pages, enhancing readability and accessibility.

In essence, Google Chrome emerges as a dynamic platform committed to inclusivity, offering a spectrum of tools and features tailored to address the unique challenges faced by individuals with cognitive impairments. This chapter serves as a guide to unlocking the full potential of Google Chrome, transforming it into a more accommodating and personalized web-browsing experience for everyone.

3.1 Exercises

1: Install and Configure "Read&Write for Google Chrome"

Open Google Chrome on your computer.

In the address bar, type 'Read&Write for Google Chrome' and press Enter.

Select the link for the extension in the Chrome Web Store.

Click on "Add to Chrome" and confirm the installation.

Once installed, you will find the Read&Write icon in the Chrome toolbar.

Visit a web page containing text and experiment with the read aloud functionality. You can customise the reading speed according to your preferences.

Exercise 2: Use "StayFocusd" to Manage Online Time

Search for 'StayFocusd' in the Chrome Web Store and install the extension.

After installation, you will find the StayFocusd icon in the toolbar.

Access the StayFocusd options and set a daily time limit for non-productive websites.

Visit a leisure website and watch how StayFocusd will notify you when you reach the set time limit.

Explore other features of StayFocusd, such as the ability to block certain types of content.

Search for and install the 'Mercury Reader' extension from the Chrome Web Store.

Visit a web page with complex content.

Click on the Mercury Reader icon in the Chrome toolbar.

Observe how Mercury Reader simplifies the display, removing superfluous elements and focusing attention on the main content.

Explore the customisation options offered by Mercury Reader.

Exercise 4: Improve your writing with 'Grammarly'

Install the 'Grammarly' extension from the Chrome Web Store.

Launch a text window, such as an email or online text document.

Start typing text and observe how Grammarly reports spelling and grammatical errors.

Click on flagged errors to view correction suggestions.

Explore Grammarly's settings to customise preferences and notifications.

Exercise 5: Customise Colours and Contrast in Google Chrome

Open Google Chrome's settings by clicking on the three-dot icon in the top right-hand corner and select 'Settings'.

Scroll down and click on 'Advanced'.

In the 'Accessibility' section, find the options for 'Colours and Fonts'.

Experiment with the different options to customise the colours and contrast of web pages.

Visit a web page and observe how the changes affect your visual experience.

4. Safari for People with Cognitive Impairments (autism/ dyslexia/ dysgraphia/ dyscalculia/ ADHD)

Safari, Apple's web browser, is designed with a strong commitment to accessibility, making it an inclusive tool for individuals with cognitive impairments. This chapter explores features and functionalities within Safari that cater to the unique needs of users facing challenges related to autism, dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and ADHD.

1. Simplified Interface

Safari's interface is intentionally clean and straightforward, reducing visual clutter for users with cognitive impairments. The simplified design aims to create an environment that is easy to navigate, minimizing distractions and promoting a more focused browsing experience.

Available on: iPhone, iPad, Mac

2. Reader Mode

Safari's Reader Mode extracts and presents the main content of a web page in a distraction-free format. This feature is particularly beneficial for individuals with cognitive challenges, such as ADHD, by providing a streamlined and focused reading experience without the visual noise of ads or irrelevant content.

Available on: iPhone, iPad, Mac

3. Text-to-Speech (TTS) Integration

Safari supports Text-to-Speech (TTS) functionality, allowing users to have web content read aloud. This feature is advantageous for individuals with dyslexia or reading difficulties, providing an auditory alternative to traditional text-based consumption. Users can adjust the reading speed and choose different voices for a personalized experience.

Available on: iPhone, iPad, Mac

4. Customizable Font and Text Settings

Users with dyslexia or visual processing challenges can benefit from Safari's customizable font and text settings. Adjustments such as font size, style, and spacing provide users the flexibility to tailor the appearance of text to suit their preferences, enhancing readability.

Available on: iPhone, iPad, Mac

5. Picture-in-Picture (PiP) Mode

Safari's Picture-in-Picture mode allows users to detach video content from the webpage, providing a more flexible and controlled viewing experience. This feature is beneficial for individuals with ADHD or attention-related challenges, enabling them to maintain focus on specific content while navigating other parts of the web.

Available on: iPhone, iPad, Mac

6. Reading and Focus Tools

Safari includes features such as highlighting and the ability to focus on selected text, aiding users with dyslexia or attention difficulties. These tools enhance comprehension and concentration, making it easier for individuals with cognitive impairments to engage with written content on the web.

Available on: iPhone, iPad, Mac

7. Reading List and Bookmarks

Safari's Reading List and Bookmarks allow users to save and organize web content for later consumption. This feature supports individuals with cognitive challenges in

managing information, facilitating a more structured and organized approach to online content consumption.

Available on: iPhone, iPad, Mac

8. Guided Access

Guided Access is a feature that limits the use of an iOS device to a single app and allows for control over which features are available. This can be particularly helpful for individuals with cognitive impairments who may benefit from a simplified and focused interaction with Safari, reducing potential distractions.

Available on: iPhone, iPad

9. Speech Recognition

Safari supports Speech Recognition, enabling users to dictate text instead of typing. This feature is advantageous for individuals with dysgraphia or those who find traditional typing challenging. It promotes a more accessible and efficient way to input information.

Available on: iPhone, iPad, Mac

10. Personalized Settings and Preferences

Safari allows users to personalize settings and preferences, providing a tailored browsing experience. This flexibility accommodates the diverse needs of individuals with cognitive impairments, allowing them to adapt Safari to suit their specific preferences and requirements.

Available on: iPhone, iPad, Mac

4.1 Exercises

Exercise 1: Activate Reader Mode

Objective: Learn to use Reader Mode for focused reading.

Open Safari on your device (iPhone, iPad, or Mac).

Visit a website containing articles or long texts.

Tap the "AA" icon in the address bar.

Select "Reader Mode" from the menu that appears.

Outcome: Experience Reader Mode, which extracts the main content of the page in a distraction-free format.

Exercise 2: Use Text-to-Speech

Objective: Activate Text-to-Speech and customize settings.

Open Safari and go to a webpage with text.

Select a paragraph of text.

Tap "Share" and choose "Listen" or "Speak" (depending on your Safari version).

Experiment with different reading speeds and voices.

Outcome: Listen to the text being read aloud and adjust settings to suit your preferences.

Exercise 3: Customize Text Settings

Objective: Modify text settings for improved readability.

Open Safari and go to a webpage.

Tap the "AA" icon in the address bar.

Adjust text settings like size, style, and spacing.

Outcome: Customize text settings based on your preferences to enhance readability.

Exercise 4: Use Picture-in-Picture Mode

Objective: Try Picture-in-Picture Mode for more flexible video viewing.

Visit a webpage with a video.

Start playing the video.

Tap the Picture-in-Picture icon (usually appears when you start playing a video).

Move the video to a convenient position and continue browsing.

Outcome: Experience Picture-in-Picture Mode for flexible video viewing while navigating.

Exercise 5: Utilize Reading and Focus Tools

Objective: Use reading and focus tools to improve concentration.

Select a block of text on a webpage.

Experiment with highlighting and focus mode.

Note how these tools enhance text comprehension.

5. Firefox Accessibility for People with Cognitive Impairments (autism/ dyslexia/ dysgraphia/ dyscalculia/ ADHD)

In an ever-evolving digital landscape, ensuring accessibility for all users is imperative. Among the diverse user base, individuals with cognitive impairments, such as autism, dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and ADHD, face unique challenges when navigating the web. This chapter explores how Firefox, a popular web browser, is committed to enhancing accessibility for these users and creating a more inclusive online experience.

Understanding Cognitive Impairments

Before delving into Firefox's accessibility features, it's essential to grasp the nature of cognitive impairments. Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) can impact social interaction and communication, while dyslexia affects reading, dysgraphia influences writing, dyscalculia hinders mathematical abilities, and ADHD involves difficulties with attention and impulse control. Each condition presents distinct challenges that web developers and browser manufacturers must address to promote inclusivity.

Firefox's Commitment to Accessibility

Mozilla, the organization behind Firefox, has long been dedicated to making the web accessible to everyone. This commitment extends to users with cognitive impairments, with a focus on designing features that accommodate their unique needs.

Reading Assistance for Dyslexia

Dyslexic users often struggle with reading, so Firefox incorporates features to enhance the reading experience. The browser supports dyslexia-friendly fonts and provides customizable text spacing and background colors. Additionally, the reader mode in Firefox simplifies webpage layouts, making content more digestible for individuals with dyslexia.

Writing Support for Dysgraphia

Individuals with dysgraphia may find typing and writing challenging. Firefox offers customizable keyboard shortcuts, predictive text input, and speech-to-text functionality. These features empower users with dysgraphia to interact with web content more easily, ensuring a smoother browsing experience.

Mathematical Support for Dyscalculia

Addressing the needs of users with dyscalculia, Firefox includes options for customizable numerical displays and supports math accessibility features on web pages. This enables individuals with dyscalculia to access and understand mathematical content without unnecessary barriers.

Focus and Attention Support for ADHD

Users with ADHD often struggle with maintaining focus during online tasks. Firefox incorporates features like distraction-free browsing modes, customizable tab management, and focus-enhancing themes. These tools assist individuals with ADHD in managing their attention and creating a more conducive digital environment.

Sensory-Friendly Design for Autism

To cater to individuals with autism, Firefox adopts a sensory-friendly design approach. This involves minimizing unnecessary animations, providing options to disable autoplay videos, and offering customizable interface elements. These adjustments create a more predictable and less overwhelming browsing experience for users with autism.

5.1 Exercises:

Exercise: Implement Dyslexia-Friendly Fonts in Firefox

Objective: Customize the font settings in Firefox to make web content more readable for users with dyslexia.

Steps:

Open Firefox and go to the settings menu.

Navigate to the "Fonts and Colors" section.

Experiment with dyslexia-friendly fonts such as OpenDyslexic or Lexie Readable.

Visit a website with textual content to observe the changes and assess readability.

Exercise: Explore Firefox Reader Mode for Dyslexia

Objective: Utilize Firefox's Reader Mode to simplify webpage layouts for users with dyslexia.

Steps:

Find an article or blog post on the internet.

Open the article in Firefox and activate Reader Mode.

Customize the settings within Reader Mode, such as adjusting text spacing or background colors.

Compare the original webpage with the simplified Reader Mode to observe the difference.

Exercise: Enable Speech-to-Text for Dysgraphia Support

Objective: Enable and test the speech-to-text functionality in Firefox to assist users with dysgraphia.

Steps:

Go to Firefox settings and locate the "Accessibility" section.

Enable the speech-to-text feature.

Open a text editor or a website with input fields.

Use the speech-to-text feature to input text and assess its accuracy.

Exercise: Customize Numerical Displays for Dyscalculia Support

Objective: Explore and adjust Firefox settings to enhance numerical displays for users with dyscalculia.

Steps:

Navigate to Firefox preferences and find the section related to numerical displays.

Customize the settings, such as font size or color contrast for numbers.

Visit a website with mathematical content to observe the changes and assess usability.

Exercise: Utilize Distraction-Free Browsing for ADHD Support

Objective: Activate distraction-free browsing features in Firefox to help users with ADHD maintain focus.

Steps:

Explore Firefox settings for distractions, such as autoplay videos or animated content.

Disable or customize these features.

Open multiple tabs and use Firefox's tab management features to reduce visual clutter.

6. Opera Accessibility for People with Cognitive Impairments (autism/ dyslexia/ dysgraphia/ dyscalculia/ ADHD)

Opera, a browser committed to inclusivity, recognizes the diverse needs of users, including those with cognitive impairments such as autism, dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and ADHD. This chapter explores features and functionalities within Opera

designed to enhance accessibility for individuals facing cognitive challenges, fostering a more inclusive online experience.

Simplified User Interface

Opera offers a simplified user interface option, minimizing unnecessary elements and reducing visual clutter. This streamlined design provides a cleaner browsing experience, potentially benefiting users with cognitive impairments by making it easier to focus on essential content.

Customizable Fonts and Readability

Recognizing the challenges faced by individuals with dyslexia and other cognitive conditions, Opera allows users to customize fonts and enhance readability. Users can adjust font styles, sizes, and spacing to create a more comfortable reading environment tailored to their specific needs.

Text-to-Speech and Speech-to-Text

Opera integrates text-to-speech and speech-to-text functionalities to support users with cognitive impairments. Text-to-speech can assist those who may struggle with reading, while speech-to-text facilitates communication for users who find it easier to express themselves verbally.

Focus Mode and Distraction-Free Environment

Opera's focus mode and distraction-free settings create an environment that minimizes distractions. This feature can benefit users with ADHD or other cognitive conditions by providing a more focused and manageable browsing experience.

Visual Cues and Prompts

To aid users with cognitive impairments in navigation and understanding, Opera incorporates visual cues and prompts. These visual aids can guide users through various browser functions, making the browsing experience more intuitive and accessible.

6.1 Exercises:

Exercise 1: Explore the Simplified User Interface

Open Opera and navigate to the browser settings.

Find the option for a simplified user interface or reduced visual elements.

Enable this feature and explore how it impacts the overall browsing experience.

Exercise 2: Customize Fonts for Readability

Access Opera's settings and navigate to the section related to fonts and readability.

Experiment with different font styles, sizes, and spacing options.

Optimize the settings to enhance readability according to your preferences.

Exercise 3: Utilize Text-to-Speech and Speech-to-Text

Enable text-to-speech in Opera's settings.

Open a webpage with textual content and activate the text-to-speech functionality.

Explore speech-to-text by using voice inputs to compose text in a text box.

Exercise 4: Engage Focus Mode and Distraction-Free Settings

Access Opera's settings and locate the options for focus mode or distraction-free browsing.

Enable these settings and observe how they create a more focused environment.

Test the distraction-free mode on different websites to evaluate its effectiveness.

Exercise 5: Explore Visual Cues and Prompts

Navigate to Opera's settings and find the section related to visual cues.

Enable visual cues and prompts.

Explore various browser functions and observe how visual cues enhance navigation and understanding.

B. Search Engines Accessibility Management

1. Accessibility for People with Cognitive Impairments (autism/ dyslexia/ dysgraphia/ dyscalculia/ ADHD)

Google is dedicated to creating an inclusive online experience for users of all abilities, including those with cognitive impairments such as autism, dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and ADHD. This chapter explores the features and functionalities within Google designed to enhance accessibility and provide a more accommodating digital environment.

Simplified User Interface

Google offers a simplified user interface option, minimizing visual complexity to create a cleaner and more focused digital environment. This streamlined design aims to assist users with cognitive impairments in navigating through Google services with ease.

Customizable Fonts and Readability

Understanding the challenges faced by individuals with dyslexia and other cognitive conditions, Google allows users to customize fonts and enhance readability. Users can adjust font styles, sizes, and spacing to create a more comfortable reading environment tailored to their specific needs.

Text-to-Speech and Speech-to-Text

Google integrates text-to-speech and speech-to-text functionalities to support users with cognitive impairments. Text-to-speech assists those who may struggle with reading, while speech-to-text facilitates communication for users who find it easier to express themselves verbally.

Focus Mode and Distraction-Free Environment

Google's focus mode and distraction-free settings create an environment that minimizes visual and auditory distractions. This feature can benefit users with ADHD or other cognitive conditions by providing a more focused and manageable digital experience.

Visual Cues and Prompts

To aid users with cognitive impairments in navigation and understanding, Google incorporates visual cues and prompts. These visual aids can guide users through various functions, making the digital experience more intuitive and accessible.

1.1 Exercises:

Exercise 1: Explore the Simplified User Interface

Open a Google service such as Gmail or Google Drive.

Locate and activate the simplified user interface option in the settings.

Explore how the simplified interface impacts your overall digital experience.

Exercise 2: Customize Fonts for Readability

Access Google settings and navigate to the section related to fonts and readability.

Experiment with different font styles, sizes, and spacing options.

Optimize the settings to enhance readability according to your preferences.

Exercise 3: Utilize Text-to-Speech and Speech-to-Text

Enable text-to-speech in Google settings.

Open a webpage or document and activate the text-to-speech functionality.

Experiment with speech-to-text by using voice inputs to compose text in a text box.

Exercise 4: Engage Focus Mode and Distraction-Free Settings

Access Google settings and locate the options for focus mode or distraction-free browsing.

Enable these settings and observe how they create a more focused digital environment.

Test the distraction-free mode on different websites to evaluate its effectiveness.

Exercise 5: Explore Visual Cues and Prompts

Navigate to Google settings and find the section related to visual cues.

Enable visual cues and prompts.

Explore various Google functions and observe how visual cues enhance navigation and understanding

9. Resources

[Use the APA citation style – see <https://www.library.cornell.edu/research/citation/apa> for details]

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DIGITABILITY



DIGITABILITY

**PROMOTING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES' EMPLOYMENT
BY ENHANCING THEIR DIGITAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCES TO SUPPORT
A REMOTE WORKING SCHEME**



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