

## ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ACCESSIBILITY WORKSHOP

The Information Technology Accessibility Workshop is a one day course focusing on the provision of accessible computing and Internet-related technologies for people who are blind or vision impaired.

The workshop will be led by Dr Scott Hollier, a published author in the field, who has recently completed a PhD titled 'The Disability Divide: an examination into the needs of computing and Internet-related technologies by people who are blind or vision impaired'.

**Venue:** Association for the Blind Guide Dog Conference Centre  
61 Kitchener Avenue, Victoria Park, (opposite Victoria Park railway station)

**Dates:**

**Cost:** \$600 per person or \$500 for an 'early-bird' registration. Discounts available for group bookings of 5 or more  
Included in the cost are morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, and CD-Rom resources.

**Bookings:** To book please use attached registration form.

**Information:** Please contact Dr Scott Hollier, Association for the Blind, 9311 8202 or email [scotth@guidedogswa.com.au](mailto:scotth@guidedogswa.com.au)

#### Why you should attend

If your corporate website is inaccessible, thousands of people may not be able to purchase your product or use your services. If your learning software is inaccessible, students are denied access to resources. Government sites are required to ensure accessibility and can face legal action if there are accessibility issues.

This one-day workshop is designed to provide you with a wealth of resources and information through hands-on training to ensure that the technologies you use in your area are accessible to people with disabilities, whether it is your internal IT infrastructure or online presence.

In addition, attendees take home an electronic resource CD-ROM which contains demonstration versions of assistive technology products and quick-reference guides to ensure that the experience will continue after the workshop.

The workshop covers the full spectrum of accessibility requirements.

#### SESSION 1: Why should we care about IT for people with disabilities? - What is universal design?

- Explanations of usability and accessibility
- cases for accessibility: moral, legal, corporate, education
- Current 'disability divide'
- issues contributing to the divide
- importance of IT for people with disabilities

## **SESSION 2: IT accessibility tools and guidelines**

Computing:

- What is Assistive Technology?
- built-in tools
- Assistive Technology (AT) products

Internet:

- W3C Web Access Initiative (WAI) and associated guidelines
- addressing different disability needs
- relationship between WAI and AT
- validation tools

## **SESSION 3: Hands-on labs**

- Learning basic JAWS and ZoomText interaction on the PC
- Learning basic Zoom and VoiceOver interaction on the Macintosh
- Learning how to use validation tools to check websites

Testing:

- experiencing the difference between accessible and inaccessible websites
- Demonstrating attendee examples

## **SESSION 4: Writing for the web**

- Interface design
- Differences between documents and web pages
- Differences between Internet and Intranet sites
- Industry-specific issues
- Government websites
- Education and online learning software
- Publishing tools

## **PRESENTERS**

### **Dr Scott Hollier**

Scott, a published author in the field, has recently completed a PhD titled 'The Disability Divide: an examination into the needs of computing and Internet-related technologies by people who are blind or vision impaired'. He has an undergraduate Computer Science degree and six years experience in the Information Technology industry. Scott, who is legally blind, is the Principal Consultant, Corporate Development and Innovation at the Association for the Blind of WA.

### **Ruchi Permvattana**

Ruchi, a published author in the field, has completed both undergraduate and Masters degrees in Design, specialising in online interface design. Ruchi has worked for several years at Curtin University of Technology focusing on resolving online educational and web interface issues for students who are blind or vision impaired. Currently undertaking a PhD titled 'Designing accessible online learning for the vision impaired' she has an extensive knowledge of theoretical and practical elements of design.