

Outstanding Authors | CPD

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A recent publication by Dr. Cyndi Rowland, Jonathan Whiting, and Jared Smith was awarded the "Outstanding Author Contribution" in the 2016 Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence. The cited chapter, entitled "What do you need to create and maintain web accessibility?" was published in **Accessible Instructional Design, Advances in Special Education Technology**. It shares the expertise of the WebAIM team and outlines key factors for developers, designers, and content creators, as well as administrators to support enterprise-wide accessibility. The Emerald Literati Awards celebrate and reward outstanding contributions of authors and reviewers to scholarly research. Awards are presented to highly cited papers from all publishers. [WebAIM](#) has operated at the CPD for over 16 years, and has served clients around the world in all sectors of society including government, non-profit, education, business, and health care. Their mission is "to expand the potential of the Web for people with disabilities by providing the knowledge, technical skills, tools, organizational leadership strategies, and vision that empower organizations to make their own content accessible to people with disabilities." WebAIM offers many services including training, site evaluation, accessible site design, and consultation. Below is an excerpt from the cited chapter.

While it may be trite, it is true. The internet has changed our world in immeasurable ways. Across all countries and all sectors of society, the web has left an imprint. Few people can imagine a future without access to the internet (e.g., for education, commerce, employment, government, or entertainment); this includes browser-based access to the internet from a variety of hardware configurations including desk or laptop computers to tablets and smartphones.....

Yet, there is a continuing struggle to provide educational web content to everyone. For those individuals with a disability affecting computer and internet use, thinking of a future without the web is all too easy. That is because they struggle now to fully access content on the web, even with assistive technologies that would allow them to do so. Barriers to internet access are generally the result of the design of web pages and applications. High-end designs, even those with embedded media, can be made accessible without substantial changes to look or feel. The promise of Universal Design for Learning will be impossible if instructional content is not accessible to all. Click here to read the entire chapter: ["What do you need to create and maintain web accessibility?"](#).