

Reviewing Screen-based Content: Resources

Websites/web articles

Style, design, editing

What	Where	Notes
InformIT - Web Design Guide	http://www.informit.com/guides/content.asp?g=webdesign&seqNum=135	Section on Content has some good guidelines and things to look out for; use sidebar navigation to go to other sub-areas of the Content section.
Vischeck	http://www.vischeck.com/vischeck/	Allows you to see the world as colour blind people do. Also allows you to check graphics/images and web pages online to see if they pose problems for the various forms of colour blindness.
IBM web accessibility guidelines	http://www-306.ibm.com/able/guidelines/web/accessweb.html	Checklist.
Web Style Guide	http://www.webstyleguide.com/	The definitive guide!
Research-based web design & usability guidelines	http://usability.gov/guidelines/	"This site provides over 50 of the top Web design and usability guidelines based on research studies and supporting information from the field."
Free usability advice	http://www.freeusabilityadvice.com	Articles on usability, and answers to questions; anyone can ask a question.
Ergonomic Guidelines For User-Interface Design	http://ergo.human.cornell.edu/ahtutorials/interface.html	These are guidelines for good software (and website) interface design; they apply to screen content.
All about technical editing	http://www.jeanweber.com/about/index.htm	

Fonts, white space, etc.

Hint: Do a Google search for:

- fonts +online +print +study +readability
- "white space" +online +print +study +readability

What	Where	Notes
Readability Research	http://www.stcsig.org/usability/topics/readability.html	Links to many research papers on readability; put together by the Usability Special interest group (SIG) of the Society for Technical Communication (STC).
Readability	http://deyalexander.com/resources/readability.html	Links to web articles and research on readability of web pages and online content.
"A Comparison of Popular Online Fonts: Which is Best and When?"	http://psychology.wichita.edu/surl/usabilitynews/3S/font.htm	Studies various fonts at 12pt size for readability, usability, user preference, etc. (Wichita State University: Software Usability Research Lab).
"So, What Size and Type of Font Should I Use on My Website? "	http://psychology.wichita.edu/surl/usabilitynews/2S/font.htm	Examines readability of Times New Roman and Arial at various sizes. (Wichita State University: Software Usability Research Lab).
"More about fonts"	http://www.humanfactors.com/downloads/feb02.asp	Compares the various research into the readability of fonts on the web.
"Fonts for the web"	http://tlt.its.psu.edu/suggestions/research/fonts.shtml	Suggests the best choices and gives a rationale for these suggestions.
"All you wanted to know about Web type but were afraid to ask"	http://www.wpdfd.com/editorial/wpd0704news.htm#feature	All about Windows and Mac fonts; safe choices; best fonts to use, etc.
"The latest word on fonts for the web"	http://hid.fidelity.com/q22002/fonts.htm	"Traditionally, the view has been that serif fonts, such as Times New Roman, are the better choice for printed pages while sans serif fonts, such as Verdana, are the better choice for online viewing. The argument has been that the serifs aid in letter recognition when the font is being shown at the high resolutions commonly used in print, but that they just add visual "noise" when the font is being shown on lower-resolution screens. Recent research at Wichita State University has been somewhat inconclusive in determining whether there are any real differences in the readability of fonts online, at least for the commonly used fonts such as Times New Roman and Verdana. Consequently, we decided to conduct a study of those two fonts in particular, assessing their readability at different sizes when viewed on the Web."
"Text Width and Margin Width Influences on Readability of GUIs"	http://hubel.sfasu.edu/research/textmargin.html	
"Finding Information on the Web"	http://psychology.wichita.edu/surl/usabilitynews/2W/whitespace.htm	"Does the Amount of Whitespace Really Matter?" (from Wichita State University: Software Usability Research Lab).

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"Reading Online Text"	http://psychology.wichita.edu/surl/usabilitynews/62/whitespace.htm	"A Comparison of Four White Space Layouts" (from Wichita State University: Software Usability Research Lab).
"Readability Standards, IQ, and The Fourth Estate"	http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/11243/90872	Long article on readability algorithms and other factors that affect the readability of text (paper and online).
"Paper vs Pixels: Pt 1"	http://www.wpdfd.com/editorial/wpd0804news.htm#feature2	Designing for screens.
"Paper vs Pixels: Pt 2"	http://www.wpdfd.com/editorial/wpd0904news.htm#feature2	Font size, colour, resolution.
"Paper vs Pixels: Pt 3"	http://www.wpdfd.com/editorial/wpd1004news.htm#feature2	Navigation, plug-ins, browsers.
"Paper vs Pixels: Pt 4"	http://www.wpdfd.com/editorial/wpd1104news.htm#feature2	Technical issues, bandwidth.
Eyetrack	http://www.poynterextra.org/eyetrack2004/main.htm	Research into how people scan web pages/online content.
"Reading text online"	http://www.humanfactors.com/downloads/feb03.asp	This study suggests that full-screen line length be avoided for online documents, especially if a large amount of text is presented. For adults, it is suggested that medium line lengths should be used (65 to 75 characters per line); children: 45 cpl.

Writing/printing for the web

What	Where	Notes
"The unexploited craft of web writing"	http://www.shorewalker.com/section1/web_writing.html	"The difficulties of screen reading often force readers to print items out rather than absorb them as pixels. And the dynamic environment of the Web encourages visitors to forget what they saw just minutes earlier, making the fight for attention becomes even tougher. As Web usability expert Jakob Nielsen has pointed out, Web page visitors don't read: they scan, searching for nuggets of useful, credible knowledge amid the info-torrent. The Web writer must cater to that behaviour."
"All the views that's fit to print"	http://www.shorewalker.com/section1/quilty_printing.html	"The bottom line: if keen users are likely to print your Web pages, you should probably make it easier for them to do so. Whenever you produce technical documentation, or any piece of print stretching for more than 200 words - anything which looks like a "read" - you should presume that some of your most involved clients will want to print it."
"The 10 commandments of internet writing"	http://www.webpronews.com/ebusiness/contentandcopywriting/wpn-6-20040813The10CommandmentsofInternetWriting.html	Some good hints on how to write for the web.
"What are the differences between Web and Print media?"	http://context.com/topics.html#comparison	Comparison chart of the differences between web and print.
"Creating a PDF document from a CHM file"	http://www.cybertext.com.au/tips_HTML_pdf_from_chm.htm	

Books

Title	Bibliographic Details	Notes
<i>Don't make me think! A common sense approach to web usability</i>	KRUG, Steve New Riders Press, 2 nd ed, 2000; 0789723107	"Don't make me think" is Krug's First Law of Usability: <i>"When I look at a Web page it should be self-evident. Obvious. Self-explanatory. I should be able to 'get it' - what it is and how to use it - without expending any effort thinking about it."</i>
<i>Microsoft Manual of Style for Technical Publications</i>	Microsoft Press, 3 rd ed, 2003; 0735617465	Style guide for writers of computer books, online Help for software, and the like. Supposedly 'the bible' for Microsoft's technical writing team, but there are enough variations in Microsoft's own products to think that they don't all follow it faithfully!
<i>Read me first! A style guide for the computer industry</i>	Sun Technical Publications, Prentice-Hall, 2 nd ed, 2003; 0131428993	Similar to the Microsoft one, but from Sun's perspective. Again, originally written as an in-house style guide for their own writing teams.