



Digital Accessibility Specialist Group

Minutes Committee Meeting 17/6/2014

Secretary note: in attempt to make this document accessible all actions are preceded by 'Action:', followed by the name of the person actioned and then a brief resume of the action.

1 Attendance

Present:

- David Rippon (Chair)
- Peter Abrahams (Secretary)
- Daniel Ballin
- Dave Haynes
- Geoff McMullen
- Graham Collins
- Howard Leicester
- Jeff Hughes
- Ray Waddington-Jones

Apologies:

- John Lamb
- Nigel Lewis

2 Minutes of previous meeting

HL asked for item 15 to be modified to read professionals rather than students.
The minutes were then accepted.

Matters arising

Finances: NL reported that we had spent £366 of our 2014 budget of £1000 on travel and catering. We have put in a proposal for £2900 for 2015 but have not yet had this accepted.

3 Membership Promotion

JL included an article in the May edition of Ability Magazine.

JL and DR will organise for article in the BCS magazine and email newsletter.

Action: JL and DR

4 Accessibility Survey

DASG developed a survey on accessibility which the BCS is running. There have been 280 responses by the meeting and the survey will close on 28 June. With results available early in July.

Action: DR to follow up when results are available

5 eAccess 2014

The kick off meeting for planning this conference is on the 18th June. Any suggestions about the conference to PA or NL.

Action: PA and NL to report on progress.

6 Oxford Union Debate

JL is trying to get Ray Kurzweil as a speaker

Action: JL

7 Roadshows

PA and DR had a meeting with Garfield Southall, chair of the Best Practice Committee, where they agreed that the DASG would present to the Best Practice Conference 12 November. PA has agreed to present and would like support of other members of DASG in creating or presenting the material.

Action: PA to coordinate presentation.

8 Joint Events with other Organisations

JL is talking to BATA (British Assistive Technology Association) about a joint meeting.

Action: JL

9 BCS Digital Accessibility Policy

A draft policy was sent to the PPAB (Policy and Public Affairs Board) and was sent back by the chair, Rebecca George, as being too short and lacking in detail.

It was then sent to the membership board who referred it back to the PPAB.

It has also been sent to the Audit Board (see below).

10 Everything Accessible/Digital Design for Everyone

JL had created a proposal for a web site to provide information on accessibility subjects, at present no funding has been identified for this. But the ideas led to a discussion where the following ideas came up:

- GC is a lecturer at UCL and could find speakers
- GC noted that touch impairment is a growing problem and should be included as an accessibility issue.
- GC felt that Cambridge Tool Kit was useful but rather narrowly focussed and the BCS could help to make it more generally useful.
- PA mentioned that the Government have recently published the Government Digital Strategy and that included guidelines designed to ensure accessibility, the initial exemplar systems appear to be accessible. Could this strategy be the basis for good practice outside government?
- HL said that the NHS has an Accessible Information Standard in draft. He is involved with its creation and will keep the BCS informed. It should be of value to more than just the NHS.

Action: DB and GC to discuss possible input into this initiative.

Action: All investigate the above sources to see if they could be helpful to the DASG, suggest other similar initiatives.

11 BDF

The BCS has joined the BDF (Business Disability Forum). DR, JL and Karen Tuck met with the BDF to understand what is involved. The first step is to use the Maturity Model to assess the current status of the BCS. The BCS Executive Board is responsible for completing this task. At present it appears that no progress is being made.

DB said that BT had gone through the process and it required significant effort but was worth it.

DH that the Metropolitan Police are doing an informal assessment based on the model.

To move this forward DR will contact Karen Tuck to arrange to talk to the Executive Board.

12 Connections to external organisations

IAAP

NL reported by email:

Membership is growing rapidly. 30 founding members and just short of 1,000 individual members have signed up representing nearly 30 countries. A webinar programme has started, as well as two newsletters (member and community). Development continues on building more member value through the webinar programme, training programme and certification. Also looking at reaching out to other organisations to build chapters to ensure it is a truly international organisation. Sign up is still for free at the moment for individuals, so worth signing up and having a look.

<http://www.accessibilityassociation.org/content.asp?contentid=151> .

Action: All sign up to IAAP if you are interested.

Engagement With The NHS Agenda

There is currently a major initiative underway in the NHS on accessible information standards. This will be discussed in early July at a joint meeting of the WCIT IT Accessibility Panel and the WCIT Medicine & Health Panel which will be addressed by NHS representatives. Several members of the DASG will be attending this meeting and will report back at the next DASG meeting.

Action: DASG members attending to report back.

OneVoice

HL and PA attended the meeting of OneVoice when its future was discussed. It was decided that:

- OneVoice should lobby political parties to ensure that accessibility was included in their manifestos.
- A working party should be set up to investigate how to raise funds for future years.
- Discussions should continue with BCS to see how the organisations can work more closely together.

13 Audit Committee

GM is on the BCS Audit Committee and has raised the issue of accessibility by asking if the BCS is liable to be prosecuted.

The Publications Department of the BCS have written a briefing paper to the Audit Committee outlining the current level of accessibility and the legal exposure. PA met with Matthew Flynn before the DASG meeting to understand the paper and discuss some areas of concern.

PA and Matthew have been invited to present at the next Audit Committee, GM will also be present.

Action: GM and PA report back on outcome of meeting.

14 SFIA+ECDL Engagement

NL reported by email:

SFIA+: NL thanked PA for his input on the SFIA+ consultation and noted that, disappointingly, this had been the only input received from DASG members.

The meeting was reminded of the deadline for responses and asked to make every effort to assist.

EDCL: To be addressed following the completion of the SFIA+ consultation

Action: all comments on SFIA and ECDL to NL

15 BCS Digital Accessibility & Annual Status Report (Q3 2014)

DASG created and presented a report on BCS Accessibility in Q3 2013. PA agreed to update the report in Q3 2014.

Action: PA

16 Best Practice Committee

PA noted that there is a BCS Best Practice portal (http://www.volunteer.bcs.org/Best_Practice_Committee .) but currently it does not have anything on accessibility. It may be possible to add some collateral in conjunction with the Conference (see roadshow above).

17 Tech UK Consultation – Howard Leicester

HL is supporting the current Tech UK consultation on accessibility.

18 AOB

The DASG was passed a request by the BCS web team from a IT professional with a severe vision impairment. He wanted to know how to get work given his disability. HL talked to him and put him in touch with IBM and also pointed him at the Disabled Professionals Group on LinkedIn.

Action: HL to keep in contact and report back to DASG on outcomes.

19 Date, time and venue for next meeting

To be arranged in September via Doodle poll

Following the meeting a date of Tuesday 2nd September from 2 to 4 was agreed. There will be a light lunch available from 1 pm.

Action: All to attend the next meeting