CSUN 2016 Diagrammar Focus Group

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

# Purpose

Learn how people might want to use the ability to get image “descriptions” in various formats (alt-text, longdesc, tactile graphics, 3D, haptics, etc.)

# Participants

Representation from:

* Print-disabled students
* Publishers
* Teachers / Accessibility Specialists

# Logistics

2 30-hour sessions with 4-5 people each

* 11:50-12:20
* 12:30-1:00

# Format

Get started 5 min after start (unless everyone is there)

Explain the purpose of diagrammar: to provide an easy, intuitive, non-intrusive way for readers to get access to alternative image representations (alt-text, longdesc, tactile graphics, 3D, haptics, other)

Let users spend 10 minutes exploring the demo tool.

Regroup for questions (15 min).

# Executive Summary

We had 4 people in the first group:

* Maia Scott
* Aaron Page
* Corrine Mueller
* Jen Tennison

and 5 people in the second group:

* Murray Sargent, Microsoft
* Jacob Alexander, Microsoft
* Bruce Moszcelt, T-base
* Stephen Bailey
* Jeff Jullion, T-base

People generally liked the idea behind Diagrammar. Would like to have an icon and earcon (tone) to indicate that an image has additional accessible formats beyond the alt-text.

## Design Improvements

* Make sure it is clear which image the alternative formats belongs to.
  + Appended to end of alt-text rather than separate so that it is clear which image it is attached to
  + Make image itself a link to alternatives
  + Like idea of a list of all images (and alternative formats) in book, but again, need to make sure association is clear
  + How will we know which image 3D files are associated with?
    - Imprinted figure number?
* Allow user to set default – short or long description (default would be short)
* Would like alternatives to open in place as long as it doesn’t change pagination
  + Or a popup, but technically clunky?

# Notes

Now that you’ve had a chance to play with the prototype, let me start with a few questions about images.

* **What types of images do you or your students encounter most often?**
  + Charts and graphs
  + Art images, elements of design
  + Charts, art, music, photos
  + Quadratic formulas, graphs
  + Anatomy, other sciences, biology and chemistry
  + Graphs, charts
* **What types of images do you or your students have the most difficulty with?**
  + Make big or tactile
  + Description seems very subjective, translation is difficult
  + Subjective images
* **What types of images do descriptions work just fine?**
  + Bar charts and anything that is objective is easy
  + Easy math subjects, line graph or bar graph
  + Simple images
  + Easy to reproduce

So this is a prototype and was intended to make it possible for you to try out accessing multiple alternative image formats. This is not necessarily the final design.

* Now that you have tried this out, how did it work for you?
* If there is additional material for an image, how do you want to be notified? Tone? Icon? Earcon?
  + Additional label appended to end of alt-text, press enter for alternatives,
  + Make sure the button/icon tells you which image you are working with
  + Make graphic itself a link to downloading other files
  + Popup menu would be ideal – from technical perspective kinda clunky
    - Make it a modal popup?
  + List of all images in book (on particular page) and the formats available for each image
  + Speech –
  + As reading, default would be short description
  + For 3D objects, how do you know which image it is in the book?
    - Have a figure # somewhere?
    - 3D printing might be good for lower grade levels in the classroom
  + glossary of list of images and files
  + set up preferences at the beginning, but want to be able to alter choice while inside text
  + dynamic -
* How do you want to access the material? Space-bar, tap, enter?
  + Read2Go a lot – voice change or tone, hit enter to pop open
  + Pressing button – took me back to top of image, make sure the focus stays in place
* What should the access look like? A menu? A separate browser page? A printer?
  + In place as long as it doesn’t change page numbers
  + Would want to specify short or longdesc and that would be the way it was always
* Any concerns you have with this design?
  + Make sure it’s not limited to chrome
  + Easy to tell that alt formats belong to which image
  + Embedded into a EPUB file
  + VitalSource better than Readium – Aaron Page
  + What formats are the files downloaded in
  + Don’t necessarily need to see the files here, just click download
  + Short description would also say that there are additional formats, tab to continue on
* Any additional features you would like to see?
  + Tours
  + Zip file – ability to download every images 3D print file
  + Options, choices are good
  + Maps
  + Hooking these features up to tactile maps
  + Anything that speeds up the creation of the tactile
  + Software that can recognize the form and create a file
  + Use chart tables to create 3D or tactile files