Accessibility Issues of Library Website of Engineering Institutions in India Amidst Covid-19: a study

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Abstract

The study is dedicated to millions of visually impaired learners who have a remarkable ability to contribute to society. But, to make their dream come true, they need an accessible website that can fulfill their information need during the present Covid situation. It is required by law that academic institutions ought to provide equal access to resources for learners with disabilities. Associated libraries and their website play an essential role in this context. The paper's main objective is to determine the accessibility issues on the Library Website of the top 25 Indian Engineering institutions ranked by NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework). For data collection, the library's website was evaluated in the second week of June 2021.'axe Dev Tools v4.9.3'has been used to find accessibility issues on the library home page. Six types of web accessibility issues were found. Total Automatic Issues, Needs review, Guided issues, Critical, Serious, Moderate, and Minor. Entire Automatic web accessibility issues were on the top, followed by Need Review and Serious web accessibility. Moderate web accessibility was number third, followed by critical web accessibility issues in the fourth position, and Minor web accessibility issues scored the lowest part. Not a single library home page was found with Guided web accessibility issues. The study also indicated no relation between the institute's rank and total accessibility issues found on the home page of its library website. It was concluded that the Indian Institute of Technology Madras had minor web accessibility issues on its library home page, followed by Jadavpur University, Kolkata.

Keywords: *Web Accessibility, Library website, axe Dev Tool, Engineering Institutions, Website Evaluation*