

Digital Accessibility Specialist Group

Chair's Report for 2014/2015

Introduction

During the 2014/15 BCS financial year DASG has met four times:

- 2nd September 2014 (8 attendees)
- 7th January 2015 (7 attendees)
- 15th April 2014 (7 attendees)
- 16th July 2015 (13 attendees)

The current membership of DASG stands at 49.

Activities

The early part of the year was dominated by a debate on whether DASG should be outward or inward facing. Strong opinions from BCS staff and other BCS Member Organisations suggested that the views of DASG members on how they could assist the BCS to be more digitally accessible were unwelcome. Instead DASG should be focussed externally on the societal aspects of accessibility.

An article on Digital Accessibility was published in the March 2015 edition of ITNow.

A conference on the progress towards Digital Accessibility amongst professional bodies was arranged and subsequently held in September 2015 (the 2015/2016 financial year).

Initial planning is underway for a conference on Digital Accessibility in the HE/FE sector in Spring 2016

Peter Abrahams, the Secretary of DASG, has taken up a place on the Best Practice Committee.

The Membership Committee was contacted to discuss the relevance of an 'Accessibility Champion'. The membership Committee did not feel that this should be a priority and declined the suggestion.

A position statement on the unconscious bias faced by individuals with disabilities was prepared and has been published on the BCS web site:

http://policy.bcs.org/position_statements/unconscious-bias-concerning-people-disabilities

DASG authored the response to the Government consultation on the proposed changes to the Disabled Students' Allowance which was submitted by the BCS.

DASG, in co-operation with Interact, authored the response to BSi draft standard ENISO 9241-112 – 'Ergonomics of human-system interaction Part 112: Principles and general guidance for the presentation of information' which was submitted by the BCS.