

Digital Accessibility Specialist Group

Minutes Committee Meeting 18/03/14

1 Attendance

Present

- David Rippon
- Jean Irvine
- Nigel Lewis
- Peter Abrahams
- Gill Whitney
- Howard Leicester
- Geoff McMullen
- John Lamb
- Aaron Woods
- David Haynes
- Ray Waddington-Jones
- Jeff Hughes
- Chris Mairs

Apologise

- E A Draffan
- Sue Shoesmith
- Katharine Cattan
- Alan Summerside

Action: PA to get list of members and their position.

2 Minutes of last meeting and actions arising

Corrections

EHI should read BCS Health. Otherwise the minutes were accepted.

Matters arising not covered in the agenda

GW: WCIT is working with education and she will pass information onto HL.

Action: GW

3 Budget – David Rippon

DR: OneVoice has decided to close at end of June so budget line is not needed.

After discussion it was agreed that it should be kept as OV coordination so it can be used for admin.

OV have resources to bequeath. PA will investigate how to do this.

HL: Need for OV but no momentum. OV is a known brand there is a need for DASG to take it over in some way.

JH: DASG should be enabler to keep OV alive.

DR: GW asked to think about student prizes.

The budget was agreed.

Action: PA find out how to put OV collateral on DASG site.

Action: DR submit budget.

4 Committee Elections – All

NL volunteered to be treasurer. DR to inform Sallyann Cossey.

DR: suggested that there was a need for an executive committee that could meet electronically between full committee meetings: JI and HL volunteered, along with PA secretary and NL Treasurer.

Action: DR

5 Membership Promotion – David Rippon/John Lamb

JL provided a list of about 100 BCS members who were involved in accessibility and DR contacted them so far 11 have joined the DASG. JL will send a further list with the understanding that DR will only contact them once.

Action: JL to send DR list.

6 Terms of Reference – David Rippon

The ToR were accepted and will be sent to the Membership Committee.

Action: DR

7 Accessibility Survey – David Rippon

The draft survey has been passed to Kerry and DR is awaiting a response and will chase. DR will also send the draft to the new members of the DASG for comment.

Action: DR

8 eAccess 2014 – Nigel Lewis/David Rippon

Dan Jellinek has agreed that the BCS should have a speaking slot at eAccess 2014 which is now scheduled for 28 October. DR will be away so NL will present.

Can it be marketed by BCS, can it go onto the website.

Action: DR to discuss with BCS.

9 Conference Programme – All

What kind of conference should we have.

Discussion:

HL: How do we get non-converted, can we build on his Health initiative.

JH: Should this be an internal event (for BCS members). Can we be included in other conferences.

Jl: diversity in professions should discuss with other professional bodies.

HL: debate is this charity or business imperative.

JL: Ray Kurtzweil as a speaker, or IAAP. To lead an Oxford Union type debate.

CM: Wearable tech and accessibility as an interesting subject.

PA: Offer to area branches for speakers.

NL: Create Webinars

Jl: Have a provocative debate.

Jl: Discuss accessibility Digital Economy

Jl: update OV business case

GM: will organise roadshow. HL willing to speak. Launch at Member Group Convention in the Autumn.

JL: Contact Kurtzweil and Oxford Union.

HL: can we get public bodies to go public on benefits

Conclusions:

- No DASG conference this year
- JL to investigate Oxford Union type debate **Action: JL**
- Organise roadshow to other Specialist and Regional Groups **Action: GM and PA**
- Work with other organisation like WCIT for joint events **Action: JI**
- Present at eAccess 14 **Action: NL**

10 BCS Digital Accessibility Policy – Geoff McMullen

GM: There is confusion about what a policy is, no real examples, we should wait for BCS to ask.

DASG should make it known that they feel there is a need for a policy and would be willing to produce one if asked.

Action: DR to contact membership board

11 Everything Accessible/Digital Design for Everyone – John Lamb

JL: Nothing new to report. The intention is to create a repository of information relating to accessibility.

There was general agreement that there is a need for this resource.

PA: Some of the OV collateral should be included.

There was discussion on education resources and the following were noted:

- Web essentials is a starter course on accessibility see www.bcs.org/category/16276
- Nomensa run course see www.nomensa.com
- GW has accessibility course material from Middlesex University that could be made available.

Action: JL will follow up and report to next meeting.

12 BDF – David Rippon/John Lamb

JL and DR met BDF (Business Disability Forum).

BCS have joined at the lowest level and therefore cannot join the BDF Technology Task Force. BCS may join at a higher level in the future.

DR given a copy of The Technology Task Force document on Communications and was surprised that digital accessibility was only mentioned on p24 of 30. This suggest that it is only a small part of the BDF remit.

BDF gave the BCS the Maturity model which the BCS now needs to score. Karen Tuck was at meeting and it is up to her to position the BCS against the Maturity Model and to push accessibility within BCS.

No timetable in action was agreed at the meeting.

Action: JL and DR to work with Karen Tuck to move agenda forward. And take actions forward

13 IAAP – Nigel Lewis

The International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP) launches officially this Thursday 20 March at CSUN. NL is a CP of IAAP.

It is trying to make accessibility professional. Certification under development. Some synergy with BCS SFIA+.

BCS should consider approaching IAAP to agree some form of collaboration.

HL: Are we defining what the gaps are and if IAAP and BDF fixes them.

GM: Make sure IAAP is not peddling product.

Action: NL will arrange for BCS to meet IAAP CEO, DR and GM will attend.

14 BCS Health Informatics – Howard Leicester

HL and NL will promote Accessibility and DASG at BCS Health Informatics conference 19/20 March.

15 BCS Publications – Howard Leicester

HL: We need to put pressure on BCS to make books they provide accessible., especially those that will be used by students.

PA: At meeting with Brian Runciman (see 17 below) Brian said there were standard procedures for creating BCS documents that should ensure they are accessible but recent example such as the New Wave have not followed the procedures.

When we have seen the procedures we should report to Senior BCS management.

The audit committee should also be made aware.

Action: PA to go back to Runciman and ask for links to the procedure on accessibility.

Action: GM to raise issue with audit committee.

16 SFIA+/ECDL Engagement – Nigel Lewis/Howard Leicester

NL: ECDL discussion yet to happen.

NL and HL discussed accessibility Tim Cardinal of SFIA. Timing was good as SFIA is doing a review and we should specify how DA should be imbedded into SFIA.

Action: NL Will send note to committee explaining how to be involved in the review and then will coordinate our response.

17 BCS Digital Accessibility & Annual Status Report (Q3 2014) – Peter Abrahams/Nigel Lewis

PA: I met with Brian Runciman who is responsible for the BCS website and is chair of the new Website Council. Our timing is good as the BCS has decided that the technology that the website is built on is no longer fit for purpose and therefore are in the early stages of a major redevelopment.

Brian is interested in recommendations from the DASG as to suitable technology. The general view is that Wordpress is getting better but Drupal is the front runner for creating accessible websites.

DASG would also be willing to review procedures (see 15 above).

Chris Mairs has been involved in a similar technology selection and is willing to talk to Brian.

Action: PA pass information back to Runciman

18 Best Practice Committee

(http://www.volunteer.bcs.org/Best_Practice_Committee .) -
All

It was agreed that we should offer to work with the Best Practice Committee to get DA imbedded.

Action: PA to contact and find how we get to sit on it.

19 AOB

GW: Has been working on an update to ISO Guide 71:2001 Guidelines for standards developers to address the needs of older persons and persons with disabilities. She will

ask the committee for their views on the changes.

Action: GW

20 Date of next meeting

W/B 16 June

Action: DR to confirm room and date.

After the meeting this was arranged for Tuesday 17 June 2pm (lunch from 1pm) at Southampton Row, room to be confirmed.