Digital Accessibility Specialist Group

Minutes Committee Meeting 15/10/15

1 Attendance

Present:

- David Rippon (chairman)
- Peter Dudley
- Jeff Hughes
- Jean Irvine
- Suzette Keith
- Howard Leicester
- Robert Streeter
- Gill Whitney

Apologies:

- Peter Abrahams
- Dan Ballinn
- D. Brew
- Catherine Catton
- J. Dearn
- E.A. Draffan
- Nigel Lewis
- Geoff McMullen
- Claire Milne
- O. Ogne

2 Minutes of last meeting

Minutes accepted.

3   PARN Conference – Feedback – J. Irvine

The conference was judged to be a success but, unfortunately, insufficient attendees indicated an interest in forming a special interest group.

DASG attendees at the conference felt that the organisations represented may not understand the need for accessibility, or how to address that need. The possibility of AbilityNet performing a short survey of their web sites to identify any accessibility issues was discussed. This has been raised with AbilityNet and a response is awaited.

Legal questions, on information and web accessibility, raised by the event had lead to a response and contact mechanism with EHRC's Deputy Head of Disability. The door remains open for further clarification.

The organisations that attended did not appear to have any data on the numbers of members they had with accessibility needs. The possibility of developing a short survey that they could use to establish a better information base was discussed.

Action Jean Irvine/Howard Leicester/Nigel Lewis: To discuss these ideas further and report back.

4   HE/FE Conference – Update – G. Whitney

The conference: Digital Accessibility in Higher and Further Education

Date: 7 April 2016

Venue: BCS Southampton Street, London

Details at http://www.bcs.org/content/ConWebDoc/54605 .

A Steering Committee has been constituted to advise on the conference. The detailed planning is being undertaken by Gill Whitney, E.A. Draffan and Suzette Keith.

It was suggested that John Lamb should be invited onto the Steering Committee and that the Worshipful Company of Educators should be approached.

Action Gill Whitney: To invite John Lamb onto the Steering Committee.

Action Jean Irvine: To provide contact details of the Worshipful Company of Educators to Gill Whitney so that an approach can be made.

The idea of asking a student with special needs to speak at the conference on his/her experiences was discussed.

The possibility of videoing the conference was discussed.

Action David Rippon: To determine if the BCS had facilities to video a conference.

5   Best Practice Committee Feedback – P. Abrahams

Carried Forward

6 BCS Academy – G. McMullen

Carried Forward

7 Turing Lecture – G. McMullen

Carried Forward

8 Alliance for Digital Accessibility – P. Abrahams

Carried Forward

9 Repeat of John Lamb Presentation to West Sussex BCS Branch to other Branches/Organisations – All

This was agreed to be worth pursuing.

Action David Rippon: To discuss with John Lamb

10 Finances – N. Lewis

Carried Forward

11 AOB

11.1 Inaccessible BCS Documents

Following a long discussion on this issue it was agreed that we should identify inaccessible documents to the BCS and follow their procedures to see if the situation is rectified. Robert Streeter volunteered to assist in this process.

Action Howard Leicester: To identify the inaccessible documents to Robert Streeter who will then follow up with the appropriate personnel in the BCS.

Comments were also made that the .doc format is more accessible than the .pdf format and we should standardise on the .doc format for DASG documents.

Action David Rippon: To discuss with the DASG Secretary Peter Abrahams.

11.2 WCIT Invitation

A full page Braille e-book reader is being demonstrated to the WCIT Accessibility Panel on Wednesday 16th December at 4 pm in the Gold Room at the WCIT Hall and interested members of DSASG are invited to attend.

Action David Rippon: To circulate invitation

11.3 HMRC/GCHQ

Robert Streeter reported that at a recent meeting he had attended with HMRC and GCHQ the possibility of the BCS participating in research on autism in IT had been discussed. Jean Irvine suggested that Southgate College may be of assistance in this area.

ACTION Jean Irvine: To provide contact details to Robert Streeter.

11.4 SFIA+

Robert Streeter informed the meeting that SFIA+ updates would now be managed on a more regular basis to avoid the infrequent big updates that were currently the norm and asked for accessibility input from DASG.

ACTION David Rippon: To identify this opportunity to Nigel Lewis.

11.5 Thought Leadership Event

The feasibility of holding a Thought Leadership Event on the topic of Accessibility was discussed.

ACTION David Rippon: To determine if these events are still held and, if they are, how we can ask for an accessibility themed event.

11.6 DASG Strategy

Following a long discussion on what DASG was trying to achieve it was agreed that we should draw up a road map identifying where we want to be in 3 years time. This road map should consider whether focusing on one sector at a time (e.g. health, employment etc) would be beneficial.

ACTION Jean Irvine: To draft a document for further discussion.

11.7 BDF Events

As the BCS is a member of the BDF do BCS members qualify for a discount when attending a BDF event?

ACTION David Rippon: To find out

11.8 NHS Accessible Information Standard

Further involvement in NHS England's Accessible Information Standard had been raised with Jean Irvine by AIS leads. Continuing support would be maintained.

12 Date of next meeting

The meeting dates for 2016 are:

- Thursday 14th January

- Thursday 14th April
- Thursday 21st July
- Wednesday 19th October

Al l meetings will be from 2 pm to 4 pm and a sandwich lunch will be available at 1 pm.