Digital Accessibility Specialist Group

Minutes of committee Meeting 02/09/2014
2.15 pm at BCS offices, WC2E 7HA

Present:

D Rippon – Chair	N Lewis – Treasurer
Professor G Whitney	Dr G Collins
H Leicester	Ms C Catton
E A Draffan	G McMullen – Acting Secretary

1. Apologies:

Received from P Abrahams, J Irvine, J Hughes and J Lamb.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true record. The Chairman explained that he had grouped action items for this agenda according to the group's areas of interest: staff accessibility, member accessibility, and wider promotion of disability related issues across the profession, all under the heading of "Strategic Priorities".

3. Strategic Priorities

a. Accessibility for BCS staff

- BDF/BCS DA Policy

Carl Harris is the staff member leading on carrying out the BDF audit. DR will maintain contact to monitor progress.

ACTION – DR

HL requested a machine readable copy of the BDF guidance on the audit.

ACTION – DR to provide a copy.

b. Accessibility for BCS members

- BDF/BCS DA policy

This is still to be resolved with PPAB

ACTION - DR

- BCS Publications/Web Site

As a result of the 20/6 ARC meeting, PA and MF will collaborate to ensure that DASG provide any support needed in increasing the accessibility of BCS web sites and published documents.

ACTION – PA

- Annual status report on BCS Digital Accessibility

PA had previously indicated that he would be prepared to manage a follow up to last year's assessment of the BCS web site.

- BCS Audit Committee

See item covering Publications and web site

- BCS Best Practice Committee

PA's contact with this committee is intended to provide DASG with a means of addressing the member groups' forum in November to offer DASG's support in incorporating disability related matters in other groups' normal business.

ACTION – PA to report to next meeting on progress.

The need for a clear accessibility champion on the staff was supported. DR will pursue.

ACTION – DR to approach Membership Board.

HL was concerned that a more radical approach to accessibility might be required. This might especially be the case for IT professionals with additional needs, and parallel requirements to provide data in accessible formats too. (ONS was noted for its particular efforts in these areas).

EA outlined Southampton developments in creating accessible STEM materials. It was felt that cooperation between DASG and the BCS academy could help the Academy, promote AT in the BCS and help support our aims under the Royal Charter. A competition for young coders, challenging them to develop applications supporting accessibility, was seen as an additional possibility.

ACTION – GM to approach VP Academy to assess his interest in these suggestions and effect introductions, EAD and GW to follow up.

c. Awareness of accessibility issues within our profession

- Accessibility survey

The results have been posted on the DASG part of the web BCS site. JL has created a press release and DR will circulate it. The results will be publicised to non-BCS organisations and they will be asked to add links that seem useful.

ACTION – DR

- EAccess 2014

NL will speak. There will be a steering committee meeting on 5th September

- Oxford Union Debate

DR to seek JL advice on continuing.

ACTION – DR

- Joint events with other organisations

GC offered to look into creating a series of talks starting in spring 2015, involving organisations like Cambridge Wireless.
GW offered to investigate joint activities with IET.
NL offered to talk to Tech UK about working together to promote digital accessibility through events.

ACTION – GC, GW, NL

- Digital Design for Everyone

DR to discuss with JL how to proceed.

ACTION – DR

- SFIA+/ECDL Engagement

NL to report on progress at next meeting.

- BCS Best Practice Committee

See previous mention under 3b

- Road Shows

Nothing to report

- Liaison with other organisations (One Voice, BCS Health, IAAP, Tech UK)

HL provided an update on One Voice. Kevin Carey is preparing plans that show that £42,000 is needed to make One Voice a functioning organisation capable of being sustained by subscription, and Dan Jellinek has written a paper on why One Voice should be supported. HL agreed to make the DJ paper available in confidence to committee members for circulation among them with a view to making the paper better, better known and capable of being used to seek support.

ACTION – HL

IAAP and its European equivalent, AAATE are still inchoate. The Erasmus programme is supporting the creation of a MOOC that could be certified by AAATE and other organisations

to spread certifications in accessibility practice.

4.   Finances – Nigel Lewis

No report (NL had to leave early before this agenda item was reached).

5.   AOB

None

6.   Date of next meeting

To be arranged.

ACTION - DR