**Digital tools for educators Factsheet: WAVE**



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| Name | **WAVE** |
| Link | [**WAVE Web Accessibility Evaluation Tools (webaim.org)**](https://wave.webaim.org/) |
| Cost | Free |
| What it does | WAVE is a suite of evaluation tools that helps authors make their web content more accessible to individuals with disabilities. |
| Uses for ACL | Adult Community Learning programs strive to be inclusive for all learners. WAVE can be a valuable tool in achieving this goal. It helps identify and address barriers on websites and learning platforms used by the course. By utilising these tools, instructors and administrators can ensure course materials, registration forms, and other online resources are accessible for individuals with visual impairments, learning disabilities, or those using screen readers. This creates a more level playing field and empowers all learners to participate fully in the program's offerings. |
| Benefits | **Enhanced User Experience:** These tools help identify and fix website issues that can hinder anyone's experience, not just those with disabilities. This can include unclear navigation, confusing layouts, or missing information labels. By creating a smoother experience, you improve user satisfaction for everyone.  **Compliance with Legal Requirements:** Many British organisations have legal obligations to ensure their websites/resources are accessible under the Equality Act 2010. Web Accessibility Evaluation Tools help identify potential areas of non-compliance, allowing you to proactively address them.  **Expanded Audience Reach:** By removing accessibility barriers, you open your resources to a wider audience. This includes people with disabilities, those using assistive technologies, or even users with temporary limitations like a broken arm using voice control.  **Cost-Effectiveness:** Addressing accessibility issues early on is far more cost-effective than fixing them after your website/resources are created. Web Accessibility Evaluation Tools can help you catch problems early in the development process, saving time in the long run. |
| Alternatives | **Colour Contrast Checker**: While not a comprehensive tool, this online checker from WebAIM is a handy resource for ensuring sufficient colour contrast between text and background. It's crucial for readability, especially for users with visual impairments.  **HeadingsMap**: This online tool analyses the heading structure of your webpage. Proper heading hierarchy is essential for screen reader users to navigate content effectively.  **Manual Testing**: While automated tools are valuable, accessibility testing also benefits from manual simulations using screen readers and keyboard navigation. This helps identify issues automated tools might miss. |
| Devices it works on | Internet Browsers |