

Imagine all images described: Alternative text to images as cohesively structured data on Commons



What is it
Why it matters
How to make things go forward

Why does it matter ?

The vision

Imagine a world in which **every single person** on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge.

The 2030 strategy

Knowledge equity: As a social movement, we will focus our efforts on the knowledge and communities that have been **left out by structures of power and privilege**. We will welcome people from every background to **build strong and diverse** communities. We will **break down the social, political, and technical barriers** preventing people from **accessing and contributing** to free knowledge.

What is textual alternative anyway ?

- W3C's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1: Provide equivalent alternatives to auditory and visual content.
- Although some people cannot use images, movies, sounds, applets, etc. directly, they may still use pages that include equivalent information to the visual or auditory content. The equivalent information must **serve the same purpose as the visual or auditory content**. Thus, a text equivalent for an image of an upward arrow that links to a table of contents could be "Go to table of contents". In some cases, an equivalent should also describe the appearance of visual content (e.g., for complex charts, billboards, or diagrams) or the sound of auditory content (e.g., for audio samples used in education).

Source: Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0

Blind or Visually Impaired

- ... when [people] sight is bad enough that they must use **alternative methods** to engage in any activity that people with normal vision would do using their eyes.
- World Health Organization (WHO):
 - 2.2 billion people have a near or distance vision impairment [in 2021]
 - 135 million people with low vision [in 2020]
 - 40 to 45 million blind people [in 2020]

Sources:

- Blindness Statistics | National Federation of the Blind
- Blindness and vision impairment
- Up to 45 million blind people globally - and growing

Wikimedia Accessibility User Group

- Created during Wikimedia Hackathon 2021 in May
- 7 people registered members on Meta
- 50 people in our Telegram group
- 1k+ exchanged messages
- 8 main scopes already stated
- 6 topics currently highlighted



Experience it through a blind test

(Close your eyes for an extended experience)

Ömerli, 34794
Çekmeköy/İstanbul, Turkey

A village girl, Palangan, Kurdistan, Iran. At the beginning of spring, Kurdish people according to their customs and culture, celebrate an annual celebration called Nowruz or kindling fire. Nowruz and Kurdish clothes are symbols of Kurdish culture.

Experience it through a blind test



Ömerli, 34794 Çekmeköy-
İstanbul, Turkey - panoramio
(2), hüsamettin_alpaslan
CC-by 3.0
<https://w.wiki/3uXw>



Mountain child, Salar Arkan - سالار ارکان
CC-by-sa 4.0
<https://w.wiki/3uXn>
(2019 Picture of the Year, Third place)

Overview of possible roads to improvement

- Board of statistics
- Improve states of cohesively structured data on Commons
- Developing partnership
 - Be My Eyes, 4M volunteers ready to help with image tagging, if given the opportunity
- AI loop :
 - using reinforcement machine learning to feed humans with description to curate
 - Using curated description to improve machine learning outputs
- More in Karsten Hein intervention

Karsten Hein

- A documentary filmmaker, writer and photographer
- Since 2011 working with blind people on photo projects
- See Wikipedia as embodying the good side of the Internet

Thanks and beyond

- People that made this session possible:
 - Wikimania staff
 - Members of the Wikimedia Accessibility user Group
 - Wikimedia Community at large for all related contributions
- Your attention
- What you can do
 - Join us on Telegram: https://t.me/wikimedia_accessibility
 - Play with the random media link on Commons and look at the description

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Question?