INTENTIONAL PURCHASING: Accessible Procurement in Higher Education

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WHAT IS INTENTIONAL PURCHASING

Intentional Purchasing is examining products with the intention of purchasing those that are accessible, work well with accessible technology or can be updated to become accessible.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

Social Justice
Right Approach
Economics

IMPLICATIONS FOR UNIVERSITY

Commitment
Culture of Inclusivity
Equality – Equity – Liberation

INTENTIONAL PURCHASING: FOCUS AREAS

Raise Awareness
Initiate discussion on accessibility and how being inclusive is good for the entire WMU community. Assume a proactive approach toward accessibility when making purchases

Establish Guidelines
Establish the use of and review the WCAG 2.0 and 2.1 (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines) when making purchasing decisions

Market Research
Research companies on their familiarity with accessibility and their willingness to adapt changes which will make their product more accessible

Interview Vendors
Ask vendors questions about their products such as
• What experience does the company have in developing an accessible product?
• How do they meet WCAG guidelines with this product?
• How does your company test for accessibility?

Request VPATs or Conformance Reports
Request company submit a VPAT (provide a timeframe)

Review VPATs or Conformance Reports
Review submitted VPAT
• Current date (not over 12 months)
• Manual and automated testing
• No information documented

Product Review Committee
Accessibility Compliance Specialist reviews technology as part of Product Review Process
Perform Manual and Automated testing
Specialized Technology Lab consultant performs manual and automated testing on technology purchases and submits a report

EEAAP (if necessary)
Equally Effective Alternative Access Plan created for those technologies which are purchased but may not currently meet accessibility requirements

Purchase
Make purchase decision after completion of the process

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