

John Foliot: Web Accessibility Specialist

John Foliot is an internationally recognized Web Accessibility Specialist and champion for the cause of web standards and universal accessibility. He has provided consultation services to government agencies, educational institutions and private sector companies since 1998. His wealth of Digital Accessibility experience and insight enables him to provide stakeholders with applicable, simple and accessible strategies and solutions to everyday challenges in website design.

John is currently at Deque Systems Inc., where he is a Principal Accessibility Strategist. He is an active Contributor to W3C Working Groups for HTML5, Protocols and Formats, WCAG and related topics; W3C Community Groups for WAI-Engage, Media/Timed-Text and related topics, and was an invited speaker at the W3C Television on the Web Interest Group. Working within the W3C HTML5 Accessibility Task Force, John was co-facilitator of the Media Sub Group, and has contributed directly to the emergent HTML5 Standard at the W3C.

A Canadian citizen, John is currently living and working in the United States on an O-1A work visa.

(<http://www.uscis.gov/working-united-states/temporary-workers/o-1-individuals-extraordinary-ability-or-achievement/o-1-visa-individuals-extraordinary-ability-or-achievement>)

Specialties

- Web and Web Application Accessibility Consulting
- Web Standards Development
- ARIA Implementation
- HTML5/Media integration & accessibility
- Mobile usability and accessibility strategy
- Speaker/educator on Accessibility, Usability and User Experience
- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines, User Agent Accessibility Guidelines, Authoring Tool Accessibility guidelines.

Experience

(2015 – Present) Principal Accessibility Strategist – Deque Systems Inc.

John joined Deque Systems in the spring of 2015 as a Principal Accessibility Consultant, where he provides strategic consultation to a number of Deque's clients and internal projects as a Subject Matter Expert. He is also Deque's W3C Advisory Council representative, where he is the official spokesperson for the company.

(2012 – 2015) Senior Web Accessibility Specialist – JPMorgan Chase

John joined the Electronic Communications Accessibility Team (eCAT) at JPMorgan Chase in January 2012, where he joined an existing team of internal dedicated Web Accessibility Specialists. He was the Lead Accessibility Trainer to the various web development teams across the firm, and was instrumental in establishing their internal accessibility training initiative.

(2006 – 2011) Manager – Stanford Online Accessibility Program / Stanford University

The Stanford Online Accessibility Program (SOAP), a program directed by the Vice Provost for Student Affairs – Registrar's Office, was established to provide guidance to the Stanford Community as they used various online means to share information to their respective constituents. Initially developed by John in 2006, the program continues with the mandate to assist University web designers and online content creators in producing material that is accessible to the greatest audience possible. The program achieves this through the promotion of Universal Accessibility and web standards compliance.

(2003 – 2006) WATS.ca

A collaborative partnership with Further Ahead (an independent development company in Ottawa, CA), WATS.ca worked with both public and private sector clients to create web sites that are universally accessible, fast, focused and easy to use. Widely recognized as experienced Web Accessibility specialists, WATS.ca provided consulting, development, training services to numerous organizations, including the Supreme Court of Canada, The City of Ottawa, Queens University and numerous departments within Human Resources and Development Canada, Industry Canada, Canadian Space Agency, National Research Council, and others.

(1998 – 2006) bytown internet

A privately held enterprise, bytown internet was a small professional web development company which used the latest in technological web standards. With a diverse client base located in Ottawa, Toronto, Hamilton, Eastern Ontario and beyond, bytown internet was in business for over 8 years. As a consultant, web site developer, and corporate trainer, John created and managed web content professionally since the late '90s. He developed and managed commercial web sites for a variety of small to medium sized businesses, delivered seminars and other training opportunities and spoke regularly at conferences and technology meet-ups. Clients included:

- Canadian School for Public Service
- The Canadian Passport Office
- Treasury Board of Canada
- Ottawa City councilor Doug Thompson
- The All Seasons Church of Canada
- The Prescott-Russell Tourism Association
- ...and more.

For 2 years John also consulted as a member of the Treasury Board Secretariat's Web Accessibility testing team, advising and recommending government departments on issues of web accessibility.

(2000 – 2001) Customer Experience Prime – entrust.net

Provided customized Front-end user interfaces for entrust.net's client base of digital certificate re-sellers. Experienced in internationalization and Cold Fusion development, John worked with a team of 8 application developers, QA testers, etc.

(1999 – 2000) Course Author and Instructor – Internet Institute

Provided in-class training to public and private-sector students at the Ottawa-based Internet Institute, where John also authored the course material for "Creating Accessible Websites".

(1984 – 1999) Sales, Promotions and Marketing Representative – EMI Music Canada

Prior to entering the internet industry, John was a 15 year veteran of the recording industry, where for the last 10 years he operated a satellite office in the Ottawa region. Duties included wholesale sales, retail liaison, radio and television promotion and coordination with touring acts and local promoters.

Earlier work history prior to 1984 available upon request.

Community Outreach and Significant Speaking Engagements

(2008-current)

- Founder/organizer of Open Web Camp, an annual 1-day web developer's conference that is community supported and free to attend.

(2015)

- CSUN International Conference on Technologies for People With Disabilities (San Diego, CA)

(2014)

- CSUN International Conference on Technologies for People With Disabilities (San Diego, CA)
- W3C Technical Plenary Meetings (TPAC) (Santa Clara, CA)
- Annual a11yLA Accessibility Camp (Los Angeles, CA)

(2013)

- CSUN International Conference on Technologies for People With Disabilities (San Diego, CA)
- W3C HTML5 Face-to-Face meetings (Mountain View, CA)
- 4th Annual Accessibility Summit (online conference)
- Annual a11yLA Accessibility Camp (Los Angeles, CA)
- Numerous in-house accessibility training sessions at JPMC

(2012)

- 3rd Annual Accessibility Summit (online conference)
- W3C/Adobe – “Test The Web Forward” (San Francisco, CA)
- W3C HTML5 Face-to-Face meetings (Sunnyvale, CA)
- CSUN International Conference on Technologies for People With Disabilities (San Diego, CA)

(2011)

- W3C TPAC Conference (Santa Clara, CA)
- W3C TV on the Web Workshop (Hollywood, CA)
- Educause (Philadelphia, PA)
- Coleman Institute (Bolder, CO)
- 2nd Annual Accessibility Summit (online conference)
- 2nd Annual a11yMtl (Accessibility Montreal) (Montreal, QC)
- CSUN International Conference on Technologies for People With Disabilities (San Diego, CA)
- South By South-West Conference (Austin, TX)
- Numerous Bay Area “Meet-Up” events on the topic of on-line accessibility in HTML5

(2010)

- Educause (San Diego, CA)
- a11yMtl (Accessibility Montreal) (Montreal, QC)
- CSUN International Conference on Technologies for People With Disabilities (San Diego, CA)
- South By South-West Conference (Austin, TX)
- Numerous Bay Area “Meet-Up” events on the topic of on-line accessibility in HTML5

(2009)

- Accessing Higher Ground (Boulder, CO)
- CSUN International Conference on Technologies for People With Disabilities (Los Angeles, CA)

(2008)

- Accessing Higher Ground (Boulder, CO)

Earlier speaking date information available upon request.