

Key Points for Localising Assistive Technology

Cultural Nuances	Addressing Design	Language Layout	Translation Options	Individual Needs	Technical Issues
<p>Use polite terms and avoid slang or casual statements.</p> <p>Describe any words that may have a double meaning.</p> <p>Understand the use of gender as in many languages objects can be female or male .</p> <p>Avoid using images if you are not sure they explain your text clearly.</p> <p>Be aware of the symbols that may have to be changed to suit, religion currency and prices and may not render correctly when you are writing in another language</p> <p>Question why you might include a video to explain text if you are concerned that some images may not be acceptable.</p> <p>Watch out for time zones and how you describe time.</p> <p>Check legal, privacy, copyright and accessibility statements.</p>	<p>Text may cover more of an image than required when translated.</p> <p>If an image can be used cross culturally, keep the text separate.</p> <p>Use universal icons for controlling interactions (with text 'alt tags').</p> <p>Offer the chance to read more elsewhere if the translated text takes up more space than is available.</p> <p>Be aware of the implications of zoom and magnification.</p> <p>Allow flexible space for titles and headings.</p> <p>Avoid having narrow or too many columns and do not use tables just to layout text.</p> <p>Choose fonts that handle the languages used and are designed for screen reading - not text as images if possible.</p> <p>Icons and symbols will need to be localised,</p>	<p>Larger fonts for cursive scripts e.g. font size 12 and above for Arabic.</p> <p>Left justify text, except for cursive script or right to left languages.</p> <p>In languages where there are both spaces between characters or letters within words and between words increase the space between words.</p> <p>Different languages use different keyboard shortcuts.</p> <p>Languages not using punctuation or spaces between words require careful proof reading.</p> <p>In Hebrew and Arabic, characters go right to left but numbers go left to right.</p> <p>Some texts are still written vertically for particular elements resulting in a complete change of layout.</p> <p>Use white space to enhance readability.</p>	<p>Automatic translation engines are improving but are not perfect.</p> <p>Crowdsourcing can reduce costs but standards need to be high.</p> <p>Volunteering can be a very useful way of gathering free translations that are of interest to the translator but maintenance may be an issue.</p> <p>Professional agencies may have more quality controls but at a cost.</p> <p>Translations of assistive technology menus and other digitised text for those using screen readers, text to speech need to be extremely accurate.</p> <p>For those who have cognitive difficulties there may be more localisation as well as clarity issues arising.</p>	<p>Use good contrast levels of text on background colours and avoid using busy backgrounds.</p> <p>Avoid the need for users to travel through many web pages, links or menu items to reach main content.</p> <p>Offer the ability to search the entire site and browse a site map</p> <p>Headings must be relevant and easy to see alongside other text with good spacing.</p> <p>Avoid anything that moves or blinks on a page.</p> <p>Make sure web pages load quickly to avoid frustration.</p> <p>Too many 'pop-up' windows may confuse users or work poorly with their AT.</p> <p>Provide easy to reach contact information with an address in the correct international layout and an international telephone number.</p>	<p>Separate resources (prompts, icons, sounds, etc.) used in the software from the actual code which makes the software complete its task.</p> <p>Use the Unicode and UTF-8 standards for all text input and output.</p> <p>Support string tables for each language. Do not reuse the same string in several places, always create a new string.</p> <p>Support separate icons and images for each language.</p> <p>Support right to left user interfaces.</p> <p>Support localised keyboard shortcuts.</p> <p>Make sure keyboards and on-screen keyboards are supported for the intended languages.</p> <p>Where possible offer text / font style choices to provide alternatives in the local language.</p>

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