

LANGUAGE, TECHNOLOGY, AND THE BODY

Critical Research into Disability, Impairment & Web Accessibility for UK Jobseekers

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Abstract:

This paper draws on the methodological approach of a research team examining eDiscrimination on the web. Disabled computer users have highlighted problems that occur when accuracy of terms is lost and specific meanings become conflated. Within the IS field there appears little critical reflection on the meaning of the term, 'disabled' – with notable exceptions. In this paper we illustrate how an alternative methodological approach has been forged based on the understandings of people with impairments, who are disabled by inaccessible ICT design, and demonstrate how such understandings form an historical continuity. Adopting a research agenda where clear and definite meanings are allocated for the terms 'impairment' and 'disability' is shown to provide a clearing for fruitful critical research.

Keywords: Social Issues; Research Methodology; Language; Interface.