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Accessibility of Spanish University
Web Sites



infoaccessibilidad

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Summary

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February 2006

In August 2004, the Discapnet InfoAccessibility Observatory carried out its first field survey. Its purpose was to evaluate the accessibility of the web sites of Spanish universities. The report showed there were considerable problems, and suggested possible solutions.

Eighteen months later, in February 2006, the Observatory has undertaken its first progress survey and has again evaluated compliance with a series of technical criteria that describe the overall accessibility of university web sites. At its own request, the study includes for the first time the University of Santiago de Compostela, although logically it has not been possible to make any comparisons. Since the initial study the Observatory's methodology has evolved, and so the earlier data has been reviewed and tabulated again

The most striking conclusion is the lack of significant improvement in the accessibility of these sites, even though in the intervening period the fifth provision of the Law on the Information Society and Electronic Commerce has come into force, making accessibility a requirement for all government web sites.

The University of Valencia scores highest but even so is well below the threshold for site to be considered accessible to all.

For the first time since the Observatory began its surveys a site has obtained a zero rating. This was for the site of the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, which has slipped back from its score in the first study and will need to make considerable effort to comply with legislation, and with the needs of its students both present and future who will otherwise be excluded.