(a short introduction to)

Accessibility

Jeffrey P. Bigham
Human-Computer Interaction Institute
Carnegie Mellon University

www.jeffreybigham.com
Goals

• Human Abilities are Diverse

• Accessibility is a broad field seeking to embrace that diversity in HCI

• Relatively easy things you can do to make the world more accessible in your work
Accessibility

- legal requirements
- ~15-25% of the U.S. population has a disability
- you have or will have a disability (hopefully)
- situational impairments affect us all
Diseases can span disability segments:

- Parkinson’s Disease: Parkinson’s affects cognition, speech and mobility
- ALS: ALS affects mobility and speech

Ray Charles - Colorblind, Low vision, Blind
Marlee Matlin - Hearing loss, Deaf
Temple Grandin - Dyslexia, Seizure, Learning Disabilities, Autism
James Earl Jones - Accents, Speech impediment, Unable to speak
Josh Sundquist - Arthritis, Quadriplegia, Spinal cord injury
Catherine Zeta-Jones - Bipolar, Anxiety, PTSD, Depression

Slide courtesy of Microsoft Chief Accessibility Officer Jenny Lay-Flurrie
Engelbart’s Mouse and Keyboards

http://www.catb.org/~esr/writings/taouu/html/ch02s05.html
The Long Slog Against Ability Assumptions

Locking In Assumptions of Abilities Allowed HCI to Progress

• Accessibility
• Expanded Modalities
• Translating Assumed Modalities to Others
• Making Accessibility Discoverable
• Legacy Problems

50+ accessibility features on iPhone
What is Accessibility?

- HCI x Abilities x Identities
  - Design
  - Psychology
  - Technology
  - Advocacy
  - Policy
  - Disability Studies
  - Profession
Assistive Technology Examples
Screen Readers

Use a Computer Non-Visually

BLIND PERSON USING A COMPUTER?
Switch Control

Leverage Whatever People Can Do for Input
Screen Magnification

Making Things Bigger
Ultimately, Accessibility is a Value

• Human Abilities are Diverse
• Accessibility is a broad field seeking to include & embrace that diversity in HCI
• Many relatively easy things you can do to make the world more accessible