

# Accessible Audio & Video

Learn about audio and video accessibility and how to make your next video more inclusive





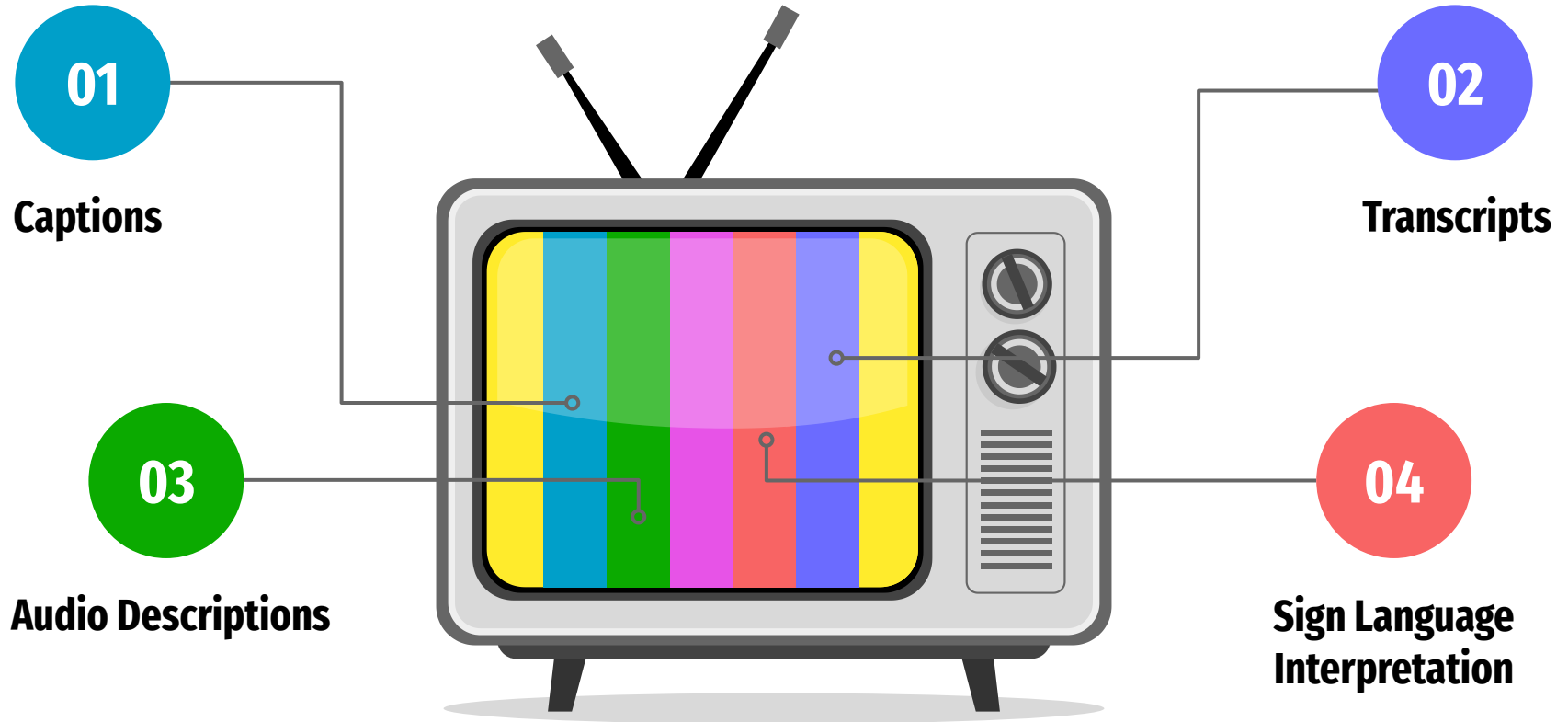
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HCI Ph.D. Candidate at Iowa State University

Author of Google's "Learn Accessibility" course

# Alternative Media Types



# Captions



Includes text  
synchronized with  
multimedia

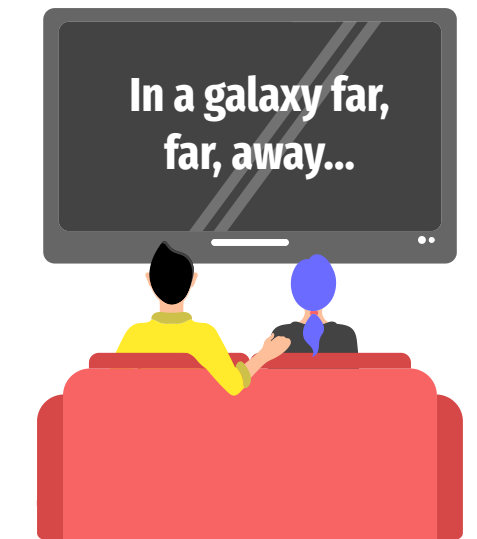
Primarily for people  
who cannot hear the  
spoken words

Are considered either  
“open” or “closed”  
but are not subtitles

# Subtitles vs Captions

	Subtitles	Closed	Open
Visual text matches audio track	✗	✓	✓
Essential background sounds	✗	✓	✓
Ability to toggle on/off	✓	✓	✗

# Auto-captions



*"Some deaf people say auto-captions are NOT better than nothing. Some deaf people say automatic captions ARE better than nothing. Personally, I'd rather see no captions than watch automatic captions. Sure, I'm disappointed there aren't captions but I avoid the painful experience of notoriously bad captions."*

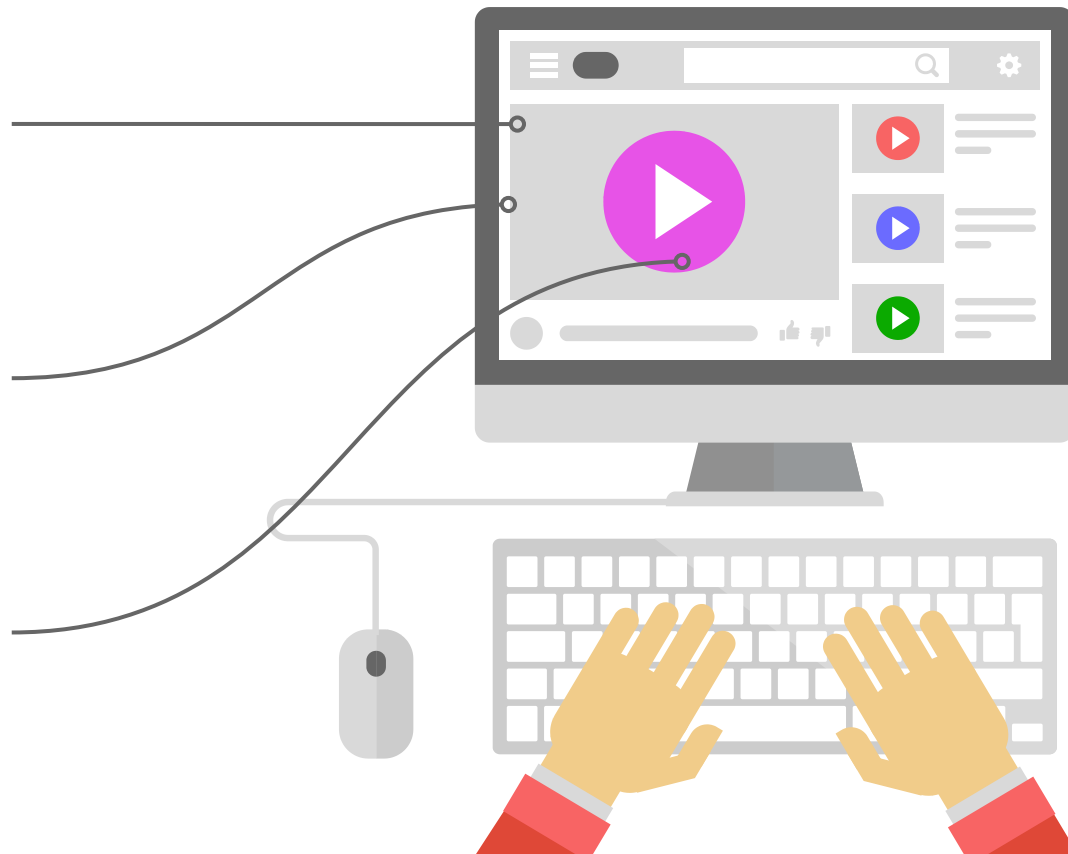
- Meryl Evans

# Transcripts

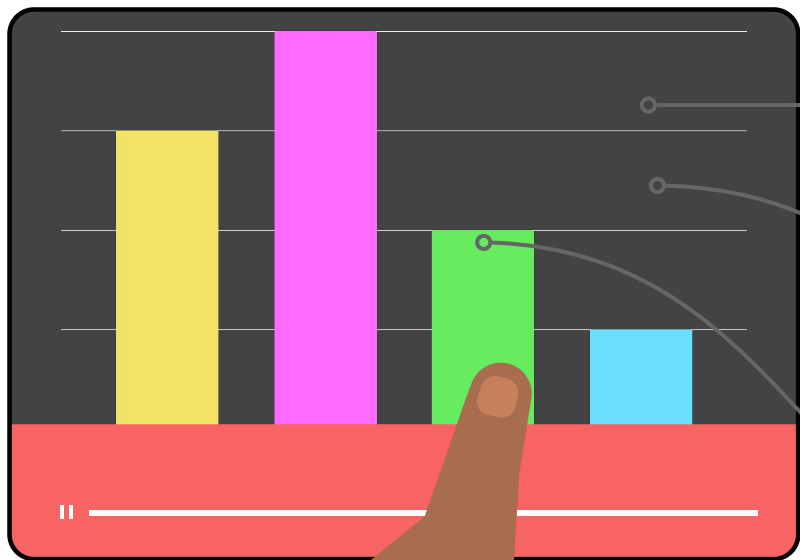
Similar to captions but include more details and time-stamps

Text-based document of spoken words and speaker identification

Can include sound effects and other visual description



# Audio Descriptions



Include a narrator who explains visual information verbally

Convey visual info that dialogue and other sounds cannot

Primarily help people who are blind or have low vision



# Sign Language Interpretation

A video or live-stream of an interpreter

For many people who are Deaf it may be first/primary language

Can be cost-prohibitive to many organizations



# WCAG Requirements for Pre-Recorded Media

	A	AA	AAA
Captions	✓	✓	✓
Transcripts	✗	✗	✓
Audio Descriptions*	✓	✓	✓
Sign Language Interpretation	✗	✗	✓

\* Or media alternative

# WCAG Requirements for Live Media

	A	AA	AAA
Captions	✗	✓	✓
Transcripts	✗	✗	✓
Audio Descriptions	✗	✗	✗
Sign Language Interpretation	✗	✗	✗

# Demo Recap



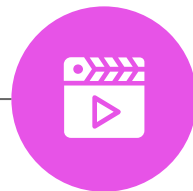
**Create and upload  
media or host a  
live-stream**



**Allow time for the  
media or live-stream  
to be processed**



**Modify captions  
manually or upload an  
externally generated  
caption file**



**Review captioning  
results and download  
the transcript**

# WCAG Requirements for Pre-Recorded Media

	Captions	Transcript	Audio Description	Sign Language
Audio-only media	×	A	×	×
Video-only media	×	A*	A*	×
Video with Audio media	A	AAA	A*	AAA

\* Or media alternative

# WCAG Requirements for Live Media

	Captions	Transcript	Audio Description	Sign Language
Audio-only media	×	AAA	×	×
Video-only media	×	×	×	×
Video with Audio media	AA	×	×	×



# Thanks!

**Slides:** [noti.st/cariefisher](https://noti.st/cariefisher)

**Article:** [web.dev/learn/accessibility/video-audio](https://web.dev/learn/accessibility/video-audio)

**LinkedIn:** [linkedin.com/in/cariefisher](https://linkedin.com/in/cariefisher)

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