Screen Reader Navigating Website Transcript

[Simon] Now in Safari on the AccessibleLibraries.ca website to demonstrate and go over a couple of additional things. So first of all, all of the same gestures that we just discussed will work on web pages. That means I can touch anywhere on the screen to hear what's there. I can swipe left and right to go through items, and I can double-tap to activate an item. So to demonstrate that, let's go to the top of this web page.

[Screen reader] Skip to content in page, link, banner, landmark

[Simon] That is a link specifically for screen reader and keyboard users, which if I press it, is going to jump me to the main content of the page. That's not what we want to do, but I could double-tap it and do that right here if I wanted to. So I'm going to swipe right to navigate systematically through

[Screen reader] AccessibleLibraries.ca, visited link, navigation, landmark

[Simon] And you'll notice VoiceOver giving me some additional information about all of these controls. For instance, it will tell me that that link is visited, that it's a link for that matter, and that this is the start of the navigation landmark, which is just a coded section of the page designated for navigation. There are screen reader commands and gestures that can be used to jump between different sections of the page, and the navigation landmark is just one of those sections.

[Screen reader] Navigation menu, button, collapsed

[Simon] Okay, so it's told me that that navigation button is collapsed, so let's double-tap it and expand it.

[Screen reader] Navigation menu, button, banner landmark, expanded

[Simon] Okay, now it's told me that it's expanded and the additional content has loaded of the navigation menu. So I should be able to swipe right and reach that content.

[Screen reader] Home, current page, visited link, list start, landmark, Resources, visited link, actions available

[Simon] It's told me that the home page is the current page, which is correct. I'm on the home page. That's also an HTML tag added by the website developer, that's very useful. So if I double-tap on the "Resources link"

[Screen reader] Resources, visited link, All Resources, heading level one

[Simon] I get taken to the main content of the resources page. And at this point, if I just wanted to read this page without needing to interact with the device whatsoever, I could do a read-all, which is a two finger swipe down all resources.

[Screen reader] Heading level one, main landmark, plain language heading level two, link, bookmark, March 11, 2024, the government of British Columbia has compiled a comprehensive resource

[Simon] And so on. I'm not touching my device while that happens. I'm just letting it read to me. So a couple of other things to note. When it says "Heading level one" or "Heading level two", that's VoiceOver's way of designated the different headings on the page. And headings are not just a visual aid, but also a really important navigation aid. They're the primary way that somebody will get around different sections of the web page. And VoiceOver does have a way of navigating through just the headings of a page. But to do that, we have to talk about two other sets of gestures, the rotor gesture and the swipe up and down with one finger. So swiping up and down with one finger is a sort of multifunction gesture. And to decide what that gesture will do, we have to turn the rotor. And to turn the rotor, we make a two finger turn on the screen as though we're turning an imaginary knob, just a little tiny 8th of a turn on the screen. And if I do that to the right, it's going to change what the rotor navigates by.

[Screen reader] Links

[Simon] Okay,

[Screen reader] 39 links

[Simon] So it said links and then it told me how many there are.

[Screen reader] Form controls, 17 form controls

[Simon] Form controls are buttons and text fields and such like.

[Screen reader] Speaking rate 80%

[Simon] That's completely outside the scope of the web page. That was what would let me adjust VoiceOver's speaking rate. We're going to turn the rotor all the way until we get to headings.

[Screen reader] Edit, characters

[Simon] That would let me spell something out by character. So just to demonstrate,

[Screen reader] "The government of British Co..."

[Simon] We're on that sentence right now, and if I swipe down with one finger.

[Screen reader] T, tango

[Simon] Let me do it again

[Screen reader] h-e

[Simon] repeatedly

[Screen reader] space, g-o-v-e-r-n-m-e-n-t

[Simon] And so on.

[Screen reader] Tango.

[Simon] And as you might imagine,

[Screen reader] words.

[Simon] The same is true of word navigation.

[Screen reader] of British Columbia has compiled.

[Simon] I'm just swiping down with one finger again.

[Screen reader] Lines.

[Simon] Same with that.

[Screen reader] Headings.

[Screen reader] Okay,

[Screen reader] 30 headings.

[Simon] So now we're at heading navigation. I've turned the rotor all the way back until it gets there. And if I swipe down with one finger.

[Screen reader] "Magnifier: How to make things easier to read on the screen", heading level two, "Organization of Schemas", heading level two, "Accessible Fonts", heading level two, "Accessibility Overlays", heading level two, link

[Simon] So that's navigating me through all of the headings on the page and moving my VoiceOver cursor to them. So if I then swipe right from that point, I'll start reading from there.

[Screen reader] March 5, 2024. "Accessibility overlays are software packages which are used to attempt to insert accessibility on top of a poorly accessible website, web developers"

[Simon] And so on and so forth.