A11y Pattern Libraries?
## Design Thinking outside the box

What do IT Accessibility Resources, Accessibility Pattern libraries, and Brand Guidelines all have in common?*

Dave Fleming, **Accessibility Governance & Strategy**

Framing up the Business Problem

How do we provide Accessibility Support at the lowest cost and provide the most efficient solutions?

David Fleming, Accessibility Analyst
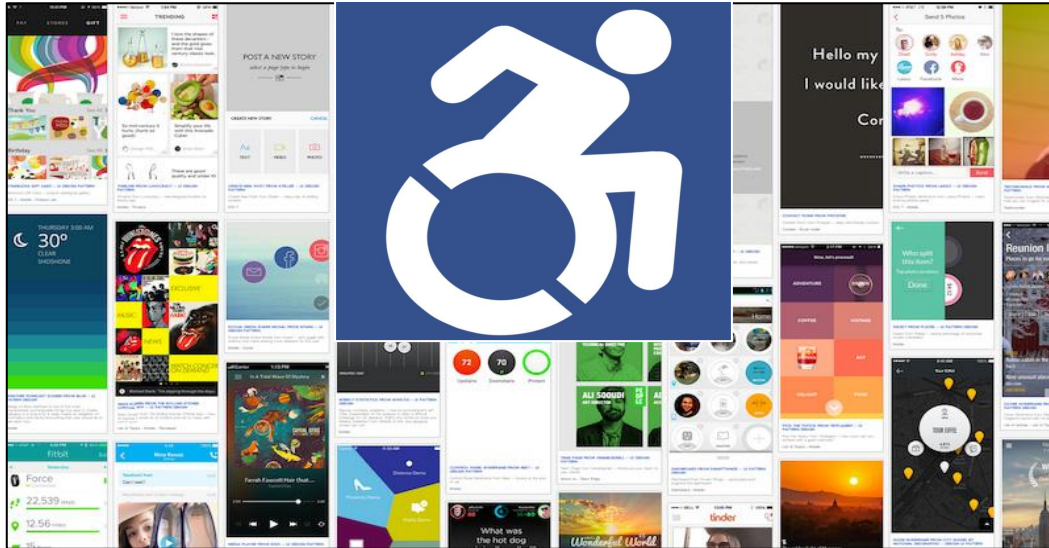
Pattern Library Rationale

- **Do Pattern Libraries save money and time?**

  - Yes, profits will accrue from the reduction of time and cost of doing defects testing because our page models and components will improve over time, reducing the need tor extensive testing.
  - Less time will be required to design, code and launch because they are developed using A11y Compliant patterns from the Pattern Library.
  - More consistency and more predictability ensue
  - One repository should be used to store and update the code

- **Who uses Pattern Libraries?**

  - Pattern Libraries are utilized extensively by the most successful corporations, governments and A11y Compliant Organizations

  - Apple, Google, Microsoft, US Gov, Canadian Gov, Best Buy, Starbucks and many more

- **Additional points that illustrate the value**

  - Design, development and implementation can be expedited using open source Pattern Library models and style guides.
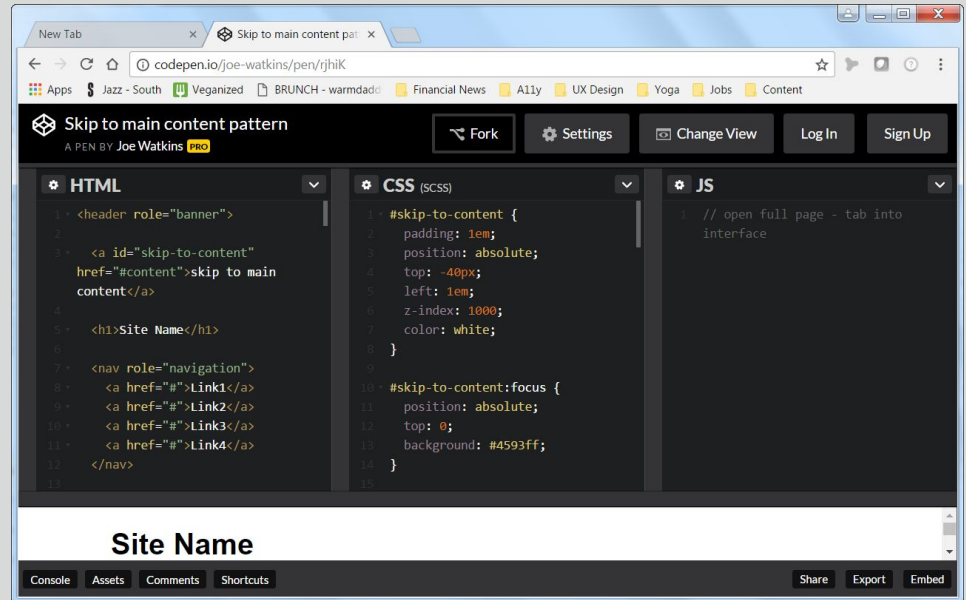
Example 1:

The [A11y Project](#), an open source accessibility pattern library

The Accessibility Project is all about making web accessibility easier for designers to understand and for developers to implement. Their strategy follows these 3 principles:
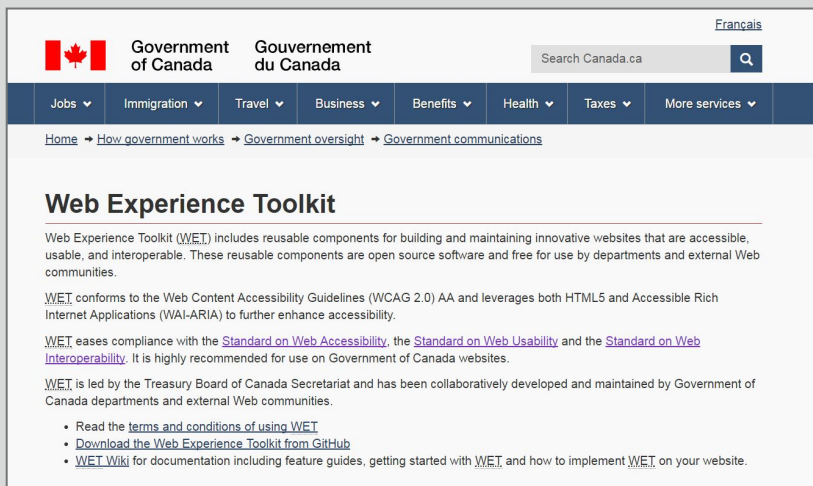
"Digestible. We strive to feature short, digestible pieces of content.

Up-to-date. The project is hosted on Github so information can be current with the latest standards.

Forgiving. People make mistakes and web accessibility is hard, so we seek to be encouraging."

Example 2:
Government of Canada

One of the strongest arguments to be made for implementing A11y Pattern libraries, is found in the Canadian Government's Accessibility Support solution for all their websites.

The [Massachusetts State Government's IT had this](#) to say:
""Ever wish all federal government websites were run on common components that are accessible and secure? The Government of Canada has taken this unique approach to Web management and built a platform of standards-compliant (W3C and WCAG) components that its agencies use to build and maintain their sites. Each website can apply unique themes to control its look and feel, but the themes all run on top of these common components, ensuring their sites are accessible and secure. The reusable components of the [Web Experience Toolkit (WET)](#) are open source software and free for use by departments and external Web communities."

David Fleming, Accessibility Analyst

Collaboration
One unified Pattern Library

User Interface Solutions
informed by Design Thinking
- Empathize
- Define
- Ideate
- Prototype
- Testing

David Fleming, Accessibility Analyst

The ROID of
an **A11y**
Pattern
Library

Accessibility Patterns, Visual Design Patterns, IT Accessibility Resources and Accessibility Brand Standards.

Advantages

- **A predictable cost reduction** in defects analysis occurs after the library is utilized enough to establish a secure and reliable foundation of Accessibility Models, Patterns and Requirements.
- **Ease of use** – a well organized library will make it easy for the Accessibility internal users to find what they want and do their work more easily
- A Pattern Library makes it **easier to onboard** new team members, reducing the overall time required to educate.
- A resource like this **enables Third Party Vendors to quickly ramp up** on projects that require A11y knowledge.
- **Cross Disciplinary efficiencies improve** when colleagues don't have get help from others instead of becoming more self sufficient.
- **Pattern Libraries are used successfully in other organizations**, giving us some historical validation of the ROI models.

David Fleming, Accessibility Analyst

A11y Pattern Library

Overview

Consolidated A11y Resources

- Accessibility Patterns with Requirements Documentation
- IT Accessibility Resources provide code examples
- Brand Style Guides are aligned
- Usability Guidelines are documented
- Visual Design Patterns are included
- Provides a consolidated framework for Accessibility teams to communicate
- Establishes an adaptable and evolving format that can quickly change, keeping pace with technology
- JIRA integration will enhance the workflow
- A unified platform enables the organization to more efficiently govern web content operations overall.

David Fleming, Accessibility Analyst

Collaboration
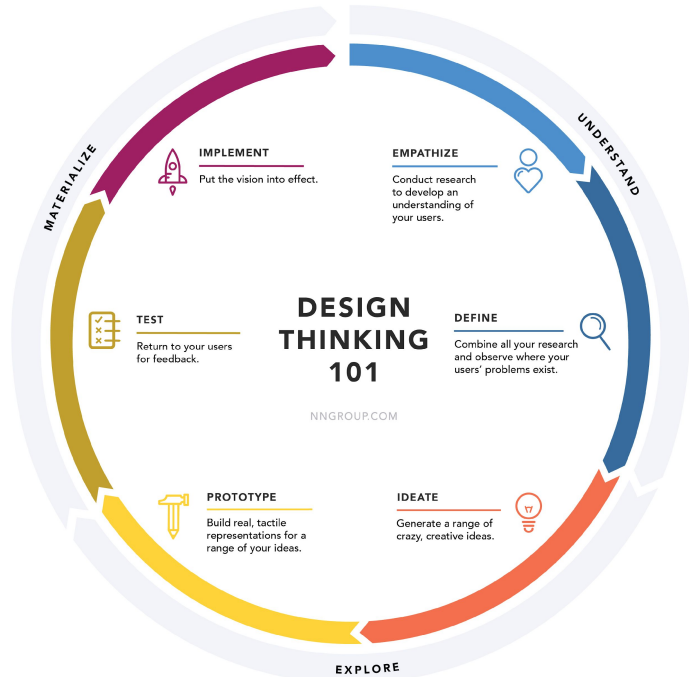
Pattern Library Planning: Workshop?

Brainstorming with an Agile User Story Map
Prepare a plan that uses screenshots of Kanban boards and JIRA Agile User Story workshops to do the initial user story brainstorming.

- To kick off the project the core team that will review the introduction, and then meet to collaborate on user stories that support the project and implementation.
- As part of the workshop sessions, include a business analyst to help define the financials.
- Using the Agile User Story Map feature, work inside JIRA and build out the project road map.
  - Begin the work with a core team of 3 team members who can do this in a 2-3 day workshop where they brainstorm on the Epics and User Stories.
  - Using JIRA enables us to manage, communicate and expedite the work as accountable and as responsibly as possible.

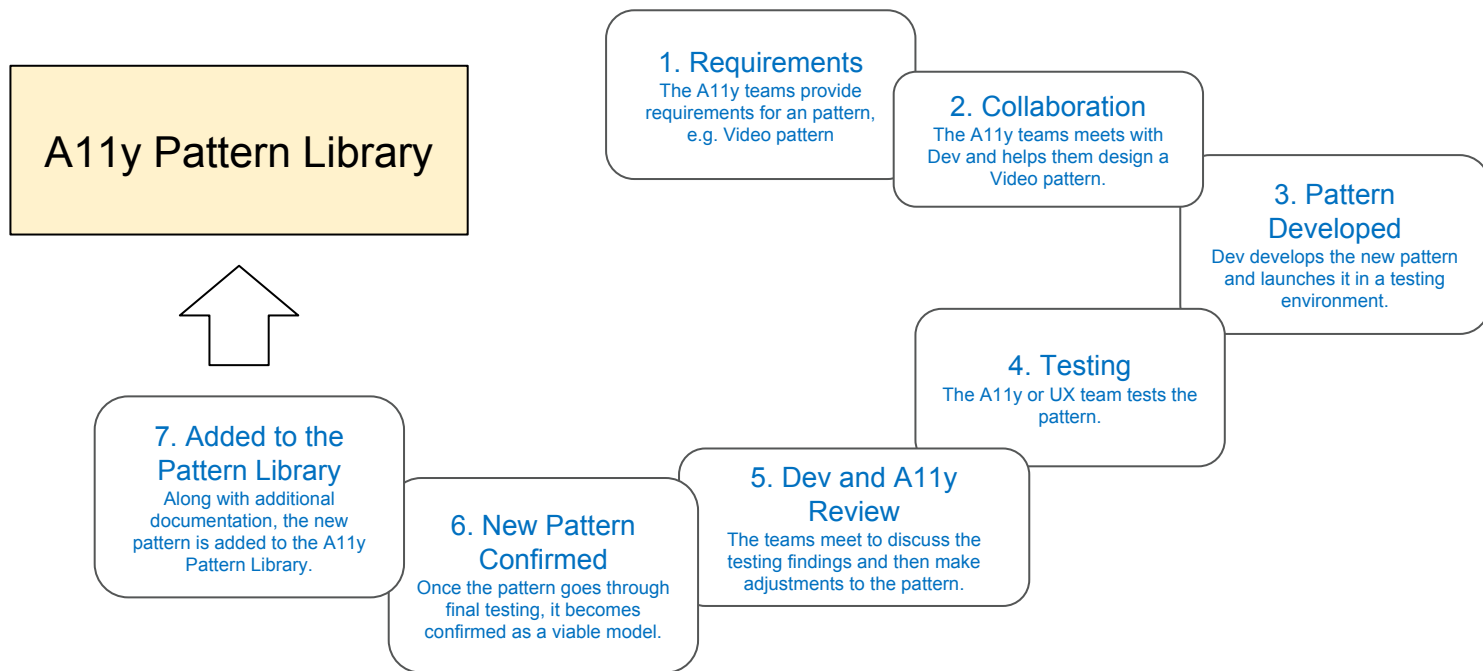**EMPATHIZE > DEFINE > IDEATE > PROTOTYPE > TEST > IMPLEMENT**

Workshop for defining the User Stories

Collaboration in developing a Agile User Story Map
Agile User Story Map example:

A11y Pattern Workflow?

A11y Pattern Library

1. Requirements
The A11y teams provide requirements for an pattern, e.g. Video pattern

2. Collaboration
The A11y teams meets with Dev and helps them design a Video pattern.

3. Pattern Developed
Dev develops the new pattern and launches it in a testing environment.

4. Testing
The A11y or UX team tests the pattern.

5. Dev and A11y Review
The teams meet to discuss the testing findings and then make adjustments to the pattern.

6. New Pattern Confirmed
Once the pattern goes through final testing, it becomes confirmed as a viable model.

7. Added to the Pattern Library
Along with additional documentation, the new pattern is added to the A11y Pattern Library.

David Fleming, Accessibility Analyst

Q & A

David Fleming, Accessibility Analyst