Literacy Works

Clear Language Lab Training Resources
Housing Matters Conference/October 20, 2023

Slide deck from session
Survey feedback for Melanie (5 minutes!)

General Plain Language Resources

Resource	Type	What to know
Center for Plain Language	🌐	D.C. based plain language organization that oversees federal agency plain language report card annual review
Literacy Works' Clear Language Lab Resources	🌐	Links to upcoming webinars, past webinars, plain language blog, one-pagers, and other resources
Made to Stick by Chip and Dan Heath	📖	Interesting look at how to share ideas that "stick" with people and how the curse of knowledge affects information sharing
Plain Language and Ethical Action by Russell Willerton	📖	Makes the case for plain language as an ethical necessity, especially when content is Bureaucratic, Unfamiliar, Rights-Oriented, and Critical (BUROC)
Oxford Guide to Plain English by Martin Cutts	📖	Accessible overview of plain language with lots of examples
Plain Language Association International	🌐	International plain language membership organization
US Government Plain Language Site	🌐	Main U.S. government page about Plain Writing Act of 2010 and including resources

Legalese and Technical Plain Language Resources

Resource	Type	What to know
[Clarity International](#)	🌐	Plain legal language member organization
[Creative Contracts](#)	🌐	South African legal contract company that makes contracts in comic book form
[If I Could Understand You, Would I Have This Look On My Face?](#) by Alan Alda	📖	Exploration of clear science communication
[Legal Writing in Plain English](#) by Bryan Garner	📖	Prolific legal plain language advocate, author, and lawyer
[Lifting the Fog of Legalese](#) + [Seeing Through Legalese](#) by Joseph Kimble	📖	Books of essays by renowned legal plain language expert challenging norms around legalese
[Making Numbers Count](#) by Chip Heath + Karla Starr	📖	Practical tips and suggestions about making math concepts accessible in a variety of communication contexts
[Michigan Bar Association Plain Language Column](#)	🌐	Long-standing plain language column from law professionals
[Scribes of Legal Writing Journal Vol. 13](#)	🌐	American Society of Legal Writers journal (interview with RBG discusses plain language)
[The Case for Plain Language Contracts](#) - Harvard Business Rvw	🌐	Article making the case for legal contracts written to be understood
[Writing for Dollars, Writing to Please](#) by Joseph Kimble	📖	Seminal text highlighting practical applications of plain language that increases effectiveness in government and business
US Govt - [Plain Language in the Legal Profession](#)	🌐	Resources collected around plain language legal writing from plainlanguage.gov

Accessibility Resources

Resource	Type	What to know
[Accessibility for Teams](#) from Digital.Gov	🌐	Tips for improving accessibility for government teams
[WebAIM - Writing Alternative Text](#)	🌐	Helpful overview of basics of writing alternative text
[WebAIM Contrast Checker](#)	🌐	Helpful tool to check color contrast with hex codes

Design Basics

Resource	Type	What to know
[Butterick's Typography](#)	🌐	Bite-size overviews of key design concepts
[Design Justice Network](#)	🌐	Social justice perspective of design principles to apply to any type of work
[Evergreen Data Visualization](#)	🌐	Firm specializing in sharing data in accessible ways with helpful blog
[The Non-Designer's Design Handbook](#) by Robin Williams	📖	Helpful overview for those without a design background who are interested in fundamentals