

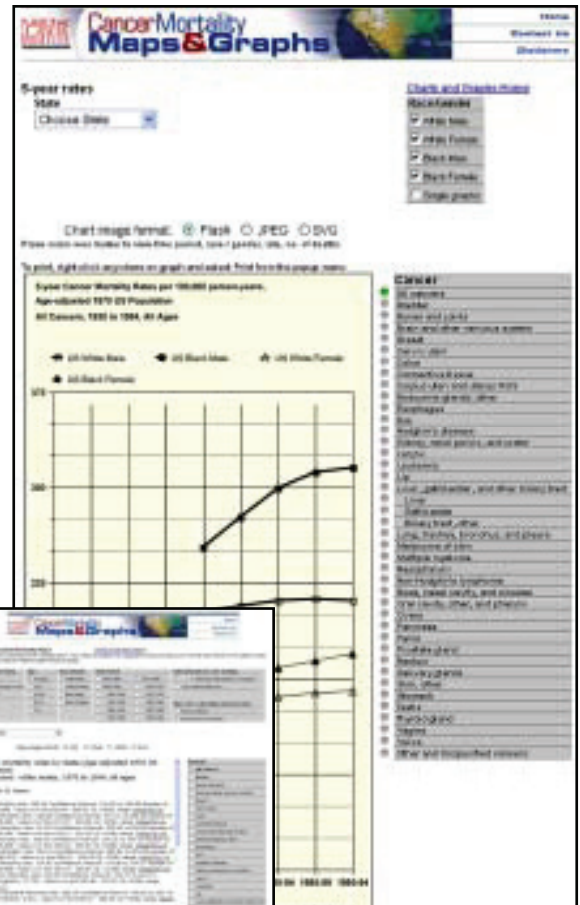
CORDA Technologies hosts National Cancer Institute “Cancer Mortality Maps and Graphs” using PopChart [D] to assist the visually impaired

The National Cancer Institute (NCI) wanted to make its “Cancer Mortality Maps and Graphs” web site available to the public. They had a large amount of data, mostly in the form of tables. Any graphs that were available were made manually. They wanted to make the huge volume of information in the database usable on a web site that was intuitive and meaningful. NCI anticipated that a certain portion of the site visitors would have a non-medical background and unsophisticated database users. They also had limited in-house support. To compound the problem, they needed to comply with the Federal Information Technology Accessibility Initiative (Section 508), which required that federal agencies’ electronic and information technologies be accessible to people with disabilities.

The web site lists forty different cancers for all 50 states and their 3,000+ counties, as well as gender and ethnic background. NCI envisioned that the data would be viewed in such a way that any visitor could find the cancer mortality rate at the county level for any of the forty cancers tracked. Because of the large size of the database the data had to be scalable and updated automatically.

An IT specialist with NCI had the task of taking the site public. “I knew I needed to make the information graphical in order for it to be easily understood. I first saw PopChart graphs on the LA Times web site showing NBA statistics. I was very impressed with the drilldown capability of the graphs. I immediately had the idea that the team stats could be the same as the states and the player stats the same as the counties. It fit my ideas for the site. I was interested, so I contacted CORDA directly. I found they could provide me with the graphing and drilldown solutions I needed. I put out a Request for Proposals and received only one proposal - - from CORDA. They have worked well with me to develop a site that is responsive to the needs of the Institute and the visitors.”

“As a somewhat visually-challenged federal employee, I have a special appreciation for the potential value of the D-link functionality. The ability for visually-impaired or blind individuals to ‘see’ graphs, added to the currently available text-reading functionality, should greatly enhance the capability of visually-impaired and blind individuals to work independently.”



“I am especially proud and honored that the National Cancer Institute’s ‘Cancer Mortality Maps & Graphs’ web site is the first web site at the National Institutes of Health, in compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, which requires that federal agencies’ electronic and information technologies be accessible to people with disabilities.”

Corda provided custom development of the site. The large amount of information was made available for searching using the drilldown feature so that specific data could be accessed with a simple mouse click. Descriptive text is attached to each graph so that a visually-impaired individual can understand the contents of the graph with the use of a screen reader. There is no need for a developer to write a line of descriptive text. It is created dynamically by PopChart [D] as the graph is requested. The specific needs of NCI were given to CORDA with fine-tuning as the project was completed. The project was finished ahead of schedule and within budget requirements. The site is hosted on CORDA servers at CORDA’s Lindon, Utah office.

