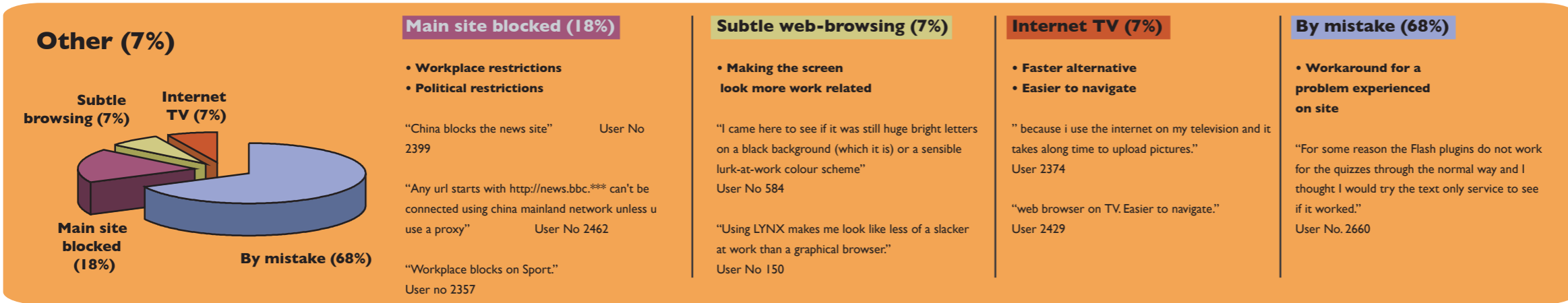


Why do people use 'text only' on bbc.co.uk?



'Text only' is not just about disability

Alternative presentation is more important than ever

Text browser or old computer

- Through choice
- Old computer

"my old win 95 laptop is slow!, only 640x480 and 24 mg ram and 200mg hd"
User No 2381

"my browser doesn't support html"
User No 2320

"Harder to read in a text browser" (uses Elinks browser)
User No 2708

Linear or Less cluttered

- Prefers linearised site
- Prefers cleaner layout
- Generally or because of MLD*/Dyslexia

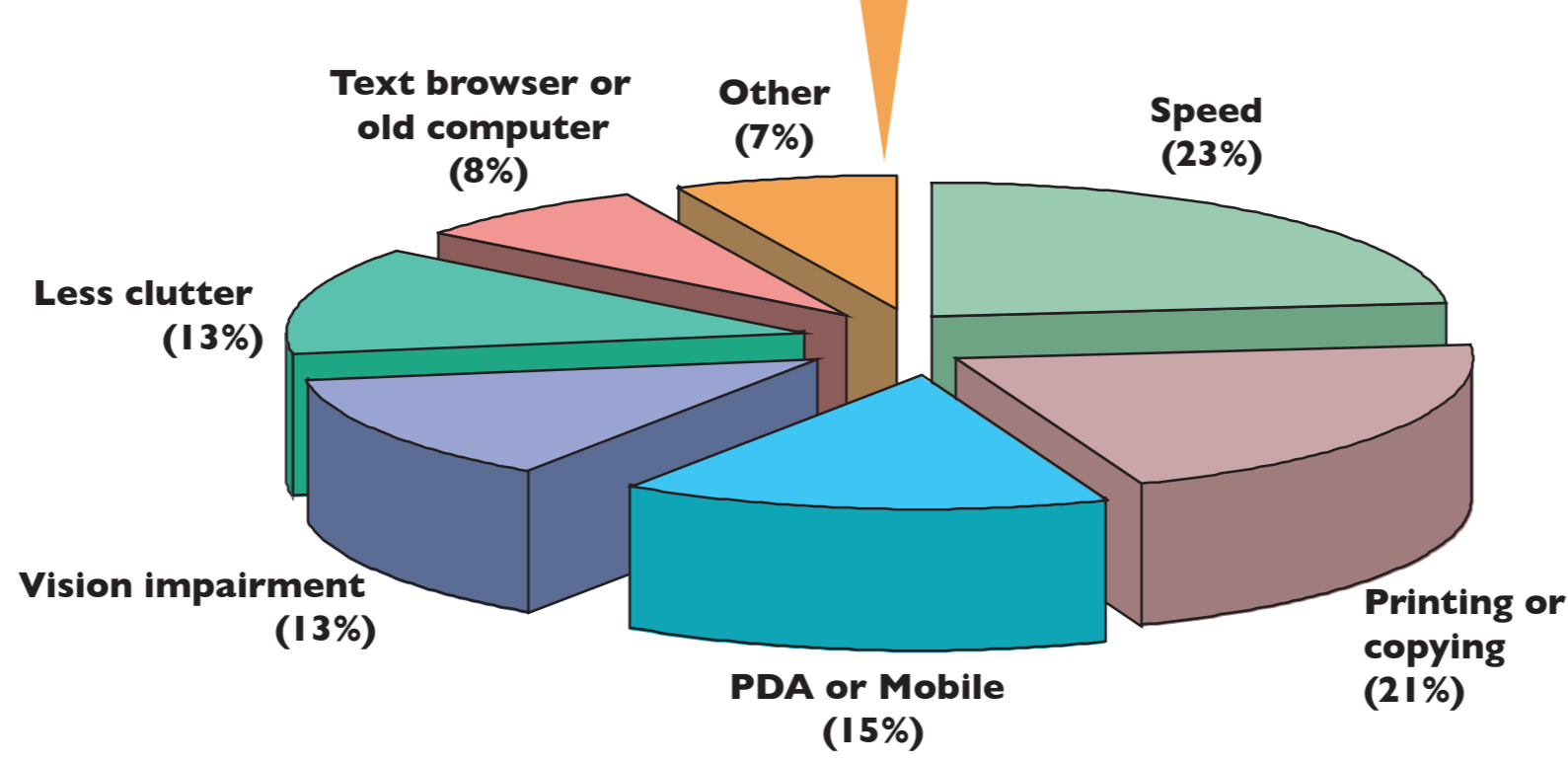
"I am one of those folks n'er imagined in my childhood -- an adult with (rather 'severe' ADHD** which was not either recognized or diagnosed in the 40' and fifties while I was growing up.) I am described as being very bright, smart, a quick learner, etc. -- I have several post-graduate degrees, speak several languages, etc. AND it is difficult for me to concentrate, focus, pay attention on my intended goal. I find full-blown web-sites too overpowering and distractive for me to use efficiently... I find the text feature more profitable while studying, learning. When I'm browsing or relaxing, I do avail myself of regular web pages and enjoy them... I find Betsie a valuable form of 'self-defense'..."
User No 2347

"The main site causes distractions with all the logos etc."
User No 2632

"dislexic"
User No 2594

"Because I have got a learning difficultie and because I am abit dislexic with reading"
User No 2572

* MLD - moderate learning difficulties
**ADHD - Attention Deficit, Hyperactivity Disorder



Vision impairment

- Blind (screenreader user)
- Low vision (or screen magnifier user)
- Colour-blind

"Too much stuff at the top of the page before I get to what I'm looking for. Not so much "difficulty" as unnecessarily laborious if you are restricted by a screen reader into linear surfing."
User No. 2540

"the pale blue background makes the normal page almost impossible for me to see"
User No. 1893

"It works well with my screen reader, however, the text size is easy to change so that my visually impaired children are also able to use it. I can't see at all but they can see a little and the don't like listening to my speech synthesiser they prefer reading the large print for themselves."
User No 2268

PDA or mobile

- Access areas not available on mobile version
- Less data to download

"mobile edition is not comprehensive enough"
User No 2209

"To keep the data transfer quantity to a minimum as I am using it on a GPRS phone and have to pay for each kilobyte."
User No 285

"it is quicker loading the text version on a pda"
User No 2460

"ok on laptop not good for pda could use avantgo but like real time web browsing"
User No 2429

Speed

- Has slow connection
- From countries with poor infrastructure
- Paying per MB on mobile device

"Am typically frustrated with the loading time of graphics, find they (especially animated graphics) tend to detract from the overall ease of use. Multiple internet windows, dial-up connection."
User No. 2404

"My net connection is slow and it takes a while for the other page to load"
User No. 2701

"I am in University. The college has a (very low) fixed upload/download bandwidth usage quota...I am usually listening to BBC 3 When I am working in my room. One the whole, I think the BBC websites can be quite graphically intensive. Whereas it is pleasant to have nice layouts and GUI, it does use up a relative big bandwidth quota...So I try to use the text only version when I can bear it, often to look up radio schedule or news, etc."
User No. 32

Printing or Copying

- For printing
- For copying and pasting into a document

"If I download the news directly it does not fit on my page. I use the "tiny" setting and it fits on two pages. Then I can take it with me to read as I have my morning coffee."
User No. 91

"so that i can copy and paste the words to another document to print my research"
User No 814

"if there is no printable version of the information i am printing i use betsie to save ink and paper from my printer"
User No 2640

"I want to read the transcript at my leisure and not have to sit in front of my computer to do it."
User 1837

Note: All quotations are replicated exactly as input by users