VPAT Accessibility Conformance Report

(Based on ITI VPAT©)

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| **Name of Product** | **Publishing Options – Submission Fee** |
| **Date Last Updated** | **June 5, 2025** |
| Completed by | Madison Russell (Digital Accessibility Team) |
| **Applicable Standards/Guidelines** | This document rates Publishing Options according to the W3C WCAG 2.1 A and AA requirements. |
| **Contact for More Information** | Elsevier Digital Accessibility Team [accessibility@elsevier.com](mailto:accessibility@elsevier.com?subject=Accessibility%20and%20ScienceDirect) |
| **Testing Tools and Methods** | **Hands-on keyboard operation Firebug/Code inspection JAWS 17 on Chrome V 108 on Windows 10 NVDA screen reader v2022.1 Wave Extension aXe Extension for Chrome**  **Color Contrast Analyzer W3C WAI Pages** Elsevier Accessibility Checklist: <http://romeo.elsevier.com/accessibility_checklist/> |
| **Document Sections** | The review document below includes all WCAG 2.1 A and AA checkpoints and is organized into 6 logical sections:   * Visuals * Keyboard * Headings and Structure * Labeling * Multimedia * Usability |
| **Pages Covered** | Submission Fee, Billing Information, Payment, Publishing Options |
| **Terms** | * **Supports: The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criteria without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation.** * **Partially supports: Some functionality of the product does not meet the criteria.** * **Does not support: Majority of functionality of the product does not meet the criteria.** * **Supports (N/A): According to W3C on conformance, "If there is no content to which a success criterion applies, the success criterion is satisfied."** |
| **Notes/Terminology** | **“AT” stands for Assistive Technology such as screen readers, voice input, etc.** |

| **WCAG 2.1 Success Criterion** | **Level** | **Evaluation** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1.1.1 Non-text Content | A | Partially supports |
| 1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) | A | Supports (N/A) |
| 1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) | A | Supports (N/A) |
| 1.2.3 Audio Description or Full Text Alternative | A | Supports (N/A) |
| 1.2.4 Captions (Live) | AA | Supports (N/A) |
| 1.2.5 Audio Description | AA | Supports (N/A) |
| 1.3.1 Info and Relationships | A | Partially supports |
| 1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence | A | Supports |
| 1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics | A | Supports |
| 1.3.4 Orientation (2.1) | AA | Supports |
| 1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (2.1) | AA | Partially supports |
| 1.4.1 Use of Color | A | Supports |
| 1.4.2 Audio Control | A | Supports (N/A) |
| 1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) | AA | Supports |
| 1.4.4 Resize text | AA | Supports |
| 1.4.5 Images of Text | AA | Supports |
| 1.4.10 Reflow (2.1) | AA | Partially supports |
| 1.4.11 Non-Text Contrast (2.1) | AA | Supports |
| 1.4.12 Text Spacing (2.1) | AA | Supports |
| 1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (2.1) | AA | Supports |
| 2.1.1 Keyboard | A | Supports |
| 2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap | A | Supports |
| 2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (2.1) | A | Supports (N/A) |
| 2.2.1 Timing Adjustable | A | Supports |
| 2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide | A | Supports (N/A) |
| 2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold | A | Supports (N/A) |
| 2.4.1 Bypass Blocks | A | Supports |
| 2.4.2 Page Titled | A | Supports |
| 2.4.3 Focus Order | A | Partially supports |
| 2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) | A | Supports |
| 2.4.5 Multiple Ways | AA | Supports |
| 2.4.6 Headings and Labels | AA | Supports |
| 2.4.7 Focus Visible | AA | Partially supports |
| 2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (2.1) | A | Supports (N/A) |
| 2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (2.1) | A | Supports |
| 2.5.3 Label in Name (2.1) | A | Supports |
| 2.5.4 Motion Actuation (2.1) | A | Supports (N/A) |
| 3.1.1 Language of Page | A | Supports |
| 3.1.2 Language of Parts | AA | Supports (N/A) |
| 3.2.1 On Focus | A | Partially supports |
| 3.2.2 On Input | A | Supports |
| 3.2.3 Consistent Navigation | AA | Supports |
| 3.2.4 Consistent Identification | AA | Supports |
| 3.3.1 Error Identification | A | Supports (N/A) |
| 3.3.2 Labels or Instructions | A | Partially supports |
| 3.3.3 Error Suggestion | AA | Partially supports |
| 3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) | AA | Supports (N/A) |
| 4.1.1 Parsing | A | Supports |
| 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value | A | Partially supports |
| 4.1.3 Status Messages (2.1) | AA | Partially supports |

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| **Visuals** | | |
| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Supporting Features** | **Remarks** |
| [1.1.1: Non-Text Content](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#text-equiv-all) (A) Provide text alternatives for non-text content (e.g. images) | Partially supports | Publishing Options does not contain a lot of non-text content and most non-text content provides text alternatives.  **Exceptions:**  Global: images of payment types lack a text alternative |
| [1.3.3: Sensory Characteristics](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#content-structure-separation-understanding) (A) Do not rely on sensory characteristics of components such as shape, size, visual location, orientation, or sound | Supports | Instructions provided for understanding and operating content do not rely solely on sensory characteristics of components such as shape, size, visual location, orientation, or sound. |
| [1.4.1: Use of Color](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#visual-audio-contrast-without-color) (A) Color is not used as the only visual means of conveying info | Supports | Content on Publishing Options does not use color only to convey meaning. |
| [1.4.3: Color Contrast (Minimum)](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#visual-audio-contrast-contrast) (AA) Text has enough contrast with the background (4.5:1 for small text and 3:1 for large text) | Supports | Text within Publishing Options has a color contrast of at least 4.5:1. |
| [1.4.4: Resize Text](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#visual-audio-contrast-scale) (AA)  Text can be enlarged up to 200% without loss of functionality. | Supports | Text can be enlarged up to 200% without loss of functionality. |
| [1.4.5: Images of Text](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#visual-audio-contrast-text-presentation) (AA) Text is used rather than images of text, except where the presentation of text is essential, such as logos | Supports | Publishing Options pages do not contain images of text. |
| [1.4.10 Reflow](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#reflow) (AA) (2.1) Content can be presented without loss of information or functionality, and without requiring scrolling in two dimensions for:  Vertical scrolling content at a width equivalent to 320 CSS pixels;  Horizontal scrolling content at a height equivalent to 256 CSS pixels. | Partially supports | Most Publishing Options content is presented without loss of information and functionality and without requiring scrolling in two dimensions when magnified.  **Examples:**  Global: Help cannot be accessed when zoomed to 400%, some content in accordion is obscured when zoomed to 400%  Submission Fee: requires horizontal and vertical scrolling when zoomed to 400% |
| [1.4.11 Non-Text Contrast](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#non-text-contrast) (AA)  (2.1) User interact components and graphical objects have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1 against adjacent color(s). | Supports | Overall Publishing Options provides good contrast between graphical objects and backgrounds. |
| [1.4.12 Text Spacing](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#text-spacing) (AA)  (2.1)  In content implemented using markup languages that support the following text style properties, no loss of content or functionality occurs by setting all the following and by changing no other style property:  Line height (line spacing) to at least 1.5 times the font size;  Spacing following paragraphs to at least 2 times the font size;  Letter spacing (tracking) to at least 0.12 times the font size;  Word spacing to at least 0.16 times the font size. | Supports | All text-based CSS settings within Publishing Options can be changed to certain minimum values with little loss of content or functionality. |
| [1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#content-on-hover-or-focus) (AA)  (2.1)  Where receiving and then removing pointer hover or keyboard focus triggers additional content to become visible and then hidden, the following are true:   * Dismissable * Hoverable * Persistent | Supports | All content that displays on hover or focus is dismissible, hoverable, and persistent. |
| [2.3.1: Three Flashes or Below Threshold](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#seizure-does-not-violate) (A) No more than three flashes in a 1-second period, or the flashes are below the defined thresholds | Supports (N/A) | Publishing Options does not contain flashing content. |
| **Keyboard** | | |
| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Supporting Features** | **Remarks** |
| [1.3.2: Meaningful Sequence](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#content-structure-separation-sequence) (A)  The correct reading sequence can be programmatically  determined | Supports | The correct reading sequence can be programmatically determined on all Publishing Options pages. |
| [2.1.1: Keyboard](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#keyboard-operation-keyboard-operable) (A)  All functionality is available from a keyboard, except for tasks such as drawing | Supports | Publishing Options provides keyboard access to interactive links and buttons. |
| [2.1.2: No Keyboard Trap](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#keyboard-operation-trapping) (A)  The user can use the keyboard to move through page elements and is not trapped on a particular element | Supports | There are no keyboard traps within Publishing Options. |
| [2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#character-key-shortcuts) (A)  (2.1)  If a keyboard shortcut is implemented in content using only letter (including upper- and lower-case letters), punctuation, number, or symbol characters, then at least one of the following is true:   * Turn off * Remap * Active only on focus | Supports | Publishing Options content does not have any keyboard shortcuts using single keys. |
| [2.4.3: Focus Order](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#navigation-mechanisms-focus-order) (A)  Users can tab through the elements of a page in a logical order | Supports | Publishing Options users can tab through the interface in a logical order, where elements receive focus from top to bottom, left to right.  **Supporting remarks:**  **Exceptions:**  Submission Fee: after activating Apply Discount the focus jumps back to the top of the page rather than the next element |
| [2.4.7: Focus Visible](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#navigation-mechanisms-focus-visible) (AA)  The page element with the current keyboard focus has a visible focus indicator | Partially supports | Most page elements have a visible focus indicator.  **Exceptions:**  Global: logo/home page button is missing a visible focus indicator, hamburger/mobile menu is missing a visible focus indicator  Submission Fee: Links are missing visible focus indicators  Billing Information: radio buttons are missing visible focus indicators  Payment: terms and conditions link is missing a visible focus indicator  Publishing Options: “Read more...” link is missing a visible focus indicator, links are missing visible focus indicators |
| [3.2.1: On Focus](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#consistent-behavior-receive-focus) (A)  When a UI component receives focus, this does not trigger unexpected actions. | Partially supports | Most UI components on Publishing Options do not trigger unexpected actions when receiving focus.  **Exceptions:**  Billing Information: Form changes when radio button receives focus |
| **Headers and Structure** | | |
| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Supporting Features** | **Remarks** |
| [1.3.1: Information and Relationships](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#content-structure-separation-programmatic) (A)  Info, structure, and relationships can be programmatically determined | Partially supports | On most pages, information, structure, and relationships can be programmatically determined.  **Exceptions:**  Global: Article information under [document name] for publishing options is visually a list but not semantically  Submission Fee: second instance of “submission fee” is visually a heading but not semantically, “pay now” is visually a heading but not semantically  Billing Information: “Enter Billing Address” is visually a heading but not semantically, “Contact Name” is visually a heading but not semantically  Payment: “Review Your Order” is visually a heading but not semantically, “Submission Fee” is visually a heading but not semantically, “Billing Information” is visually a heading but not semantically  Publishing Options: Open Access tab headings are not semantic headings |
| [2.4.1: Bypass Blocks](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#navigation-mechanisms-skip) (A)  Users can bypass repeated blocks of content. | Supports | “Skip to main content” button appears on all pages and skips the left-side main navigation |
| [2.4.6: Headings and Labels](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#navigation-mechanisms-descriptive) (AA)  Headings and labels are clear and consistent. | Supports | Publishing Options pages have clear and consistent headings and labels |
| [3.1.1: Language of Page](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#meaning-doc-lang-id) (A)  The language of the page is specified | Supports | All pages on Publishing Options have the language of the page specified, using lang=”EN”. |
| [3.1.2: Language of Parts](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#meaning-other-lang-id) (AA)  Specify the language of text passages that are in a different language than the default language of the page. | Supports (N/A) | Publishing Options does not have content in a different language than the default. |
| [4.1.1: Parsing](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#ensure-compat-parses) (A)  Use valid, error-free HTML | Supports | Page elements have complete start and end tags, elements are nested according to their specifications, elements do not contain duplicate attributes, and most IDs are unique.  **:** |
| **Labeling** | | |
| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Supporting Features** | **Remarks** |
| 1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (AA)  (2.1)  The purpose of each input field collecting information about the user can be programmatically determined when:  The input field serves a purpose identified in the Input Purposes for User Interface Components section; and the content is implemented using technologies with support for identifying the expected meaning for form input data. | Partially supports | Publishing Options does not provide many input fields pertaining to the end user  **Exceptions:**  Billing Information: some form elements pertaining to the user are missing the autocomplete attribute |
| [2.4.2: Page Titled](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#navigation-mechanisms-title) (A)  The page has a title describing its topic or purpose | Supports | Publishing Options pages have a title that describes the topic or purpose of the page.  **Supporting Remarks:** |
| [2.4.4: Link Purpose (In Context)](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#navigation-mechanisms-refs) (A)  The purpose of each link can be determined from the link text or surrounding context. | Supports | Links have descriptive and unique names. |
| [2.5.3 Label in Name](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#label-in-name) (A)  (2.1)  For user interface components with labels that include text or images of text, the name contains the text that is presented visually. | Supports | UI components with labels that include text have an accessible name that includes that text. |
| [3.2.4: Consistent Identification](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#consistent-behavior-consistent-functionality) (AA)  UI components used across the web site are identified consistently on every page. | Supports | UI components are identified consistently and on every page. |
| [3.3.1: Error Identification](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#minimize-error-identified) (A)  Input errors are clearly marked and described to the user. | Supports | Publishing Options identifies input errors in a variety of ways including text which appears below form inputs, popups, and alerts. |
| [3.3.2: Labels and Instructions](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#minimize-error-cues) (A)  Items requiring user input are clearly labeled or have clear instructions. | Partially supports | Most form inputs provide an accessible name using the <label> tag or aria-label.  **Exceptions:**  Billing Information: a red asterisk is used to indicate required fields with no instructions explaining this |
| [3.3.3: Error Suggestion](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#minimize-error-suggestions) (AA)  When the user makes an input error, give suggestions for valid input. | Partially supports | Suggestions for valid input are mostly available, clear, and easy to understand.  **Exceptions:**  Submission Fee: Apply Discount is missing suggestions for valid input |
| [4.1.2: Name, Role, Value](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#ensure-compat-rsv) (A)  For all UI components, the name, value, and role can be programmatically determined. | Partially supports | The name, role, and value can be programmatically determined for most UI components.  **Exceptions:**  Global: images of payment types do not have a role of image, current step of process is missing aria-current  Payment: Open Access and Subscription tabs are missing a role of tab |
| [4.1.3 Status Messages](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#status-messages) (AA)  (2.1)  In content implemented using markup languages, status messages can be programmatically determined through role or properties such that they can be presented to the user by assistive technologies without receiving focus. | Partially supports | Publishing Options uses status messages to alert the user that a change was successful or that an error was made.  **Exceptions:**  Billing Information: error messages are not announced to the screen reader |
| **Multimedia** | | |
| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Supporting Features** | **Remarks** |
| [1.2.1: Audio-only or Video-only (Prerecorded)](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#media-equiv-av-only-alt) (A)  Provide alternatives for pre-recorded audio-only or video-only content. | Supports (N/A) | There is no pre-recorded audio-only or video-only content on the site. |
| [1.2.2: Captions (Prerecorded)](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#media-equiv-captions) (A)  Provide captions for pre-recorded audio | Supports (N/A) | There is no pre-recorded audio on the site. |
| [1.2.3: Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#media-equiv-audio-desc) (A)  Provide alternatives for pre-recorded synchronized audio/video | Supports (N/A) | There is no pre-recorded synchronized audio/video on the site. |
| [1.2.4: Captions (Live)](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#media-equiv-real-time-captions) (AA)  Provide captions for live audio in synchronized audio/video. | Supports (N/A) | There is no live audio in synchronized audio/video. |
| [1.2.5: Audio Description (Prerecorded)](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#media-equiv-audio-desc-only) (AA)  Provide an audio description of pre-recorded video. | Supports (N/A) | There is no pre-recorded video on the site. |
| [1.4.2: Audio Control](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#visual-audio-contrast-dis-audio) (A)  Audio can be paused and stopped, or the audio volume can be changed. | Supports (N/A) | There is no audio content on the site. |
| [2.2.2: Pause, Stop, Hide](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#time-limits-pause) (A)  Users can stop, pause, or hide moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating information. | Supports (N/A) | There is no moving, blinking, or scrolling content. |
| **Usability** | | |
| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Supporting Features** | **Remarks** |
| [2.2.1: Timing Adjustable](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#time-limits-required-behaviors) (A)  Users are warned of time limits shorter than 20 hours and time limits can be turned off or extended | Supports |  |
| [2.4.5: Multiple Ways](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#navigation-mechanisms-mult-loc) (AA)  More than one way is available to navigate to other web pages. | Supports | There is more than one way to navigate to Publishing Options Pages |
| [3.2.2: On Input](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#consistent-behavior-unpredictable-change) (A)  Changing the setting of a checkbox, radio button, or other UI component does not trigger unexpected changes in context. | Supports | Publishing Options pages do not trigger unexpected changes in context when changing the setting of a checkbox, radio button, or other UI component. |
| [3.2.3: Consistent Navigation](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#consistent-behavior-consistent-locations) (AA)  Navigation menus are in the same location and order on every web page. | Supports | Publishing Options’ navigation menus are in the same location and order on every page. |
| [3.3.4: Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#minimize-error-reversible) (AA)  For web pages with legal or financial commitments, input can be reviewed and corrected before final submission, and submissions can be reverted. | Supports (N/A) | No data submissions on the site require legal or financial commitments. No data submissions allow for a users’ profile to be deleted. |
| **Mobile User Experience** | | |
| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Supporting Features** | **Remarks** |
| [1.3.4 Orientation](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#orientation)  (AA)  (2.1)  Content does not restrict its view and operation to a single display orientation, such as portrait or landscape, unless a specific display orientation is essential. | Supports | Content on Publishing Options does not restrict to a single display orientation. |
| [2.5.1 Pointer Gestures](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#pointer-gestures) (A)  (2.1)  All functionality that uses multipoint or path-based gestures for operation can be operated with a single pointer without a path-based gesture, unless a multipoint or path-based gesture is essential. | Supports (N/A) | Publishing Options does not contain multipoint or path-based gestures. |
| 2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (A)  (2.1)  For functionality that can be operated using a single pointer, at least one of the following is true:   * No Down-Event * Abort or Undo * Up Reversal * Essential | Supports | Publishing Options allows for pointer cancellation. |
| [2.5.4 Motion Actuation](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#motion-actuation)  (A)  (2.1)  Functionality that can be operated by device motion or user motion can also be operated by user interface components and responding to the motion can be disabled to prevent accidental actuation, except when:   * Supported Interface * Essential | Supports (N/A) | Publishing Options does not contain motion actuation. |