VPAT Accessibility Conformance Report

(Based on ITI VPAT©)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Product** | **OACS – RA Form** |
| **Date Last Updated** | **June 27, 2025** |
| Completed by | Madison Russell (Digital Accessibility Team) |
| **Applicable Standards/Guidelines** | This document rates RA Form 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** | Home page, Corresponding Author, Co-author, Research Funders, Society Membership, Publishing Options, Licenses, Rights, Publishing Agreement, Billing Details, Review Order, Confirmation |
| **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 | Supports |
| 1.4.1 Use of Color | A | Partially supports |
| 1.4.2 Audio Control | A | Supports (N/A) |
| 1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) | AA | Partially supports |
| 1.4.4 Resize text | AA | Supports |
| 1.4.5 Images of Text | AA | Supports |
| 1.4.10 Reflow (2.1) | AA | Does not support |
| 1.4.11 Non-Text Contrast (2.1) | AA | Partially 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 | Partially 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 | Does not support |
| 2.4.2 Page Titled | A | Does not support |
| 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 | 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 | Partially supports |
| 3.3.2 Labels or Instructions | A | Partially supports |
| 3.3.3 Error Suggestion | AA | 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 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | RA Form does not contain a lot of non-text content and most non-text content provides text alternatives.  **Exceptions:**  Publishing Options: accepted credit cards image is missing a text alternative  Billing Details: accepted credit cards image is missing 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 | Partially supports | Most content on RA Form does not use color only to convey meaning.  **Exceptions:**  Global: current step in form process is conveyed using color only |
| [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) | Partially supports | Most text within RA Form has a color contrast of at least 4.5:1.  **Exceptions:**  Global: placeholder text in inputs has a contrast ratio of 1.4:1  Corresponding author: location text in search has a color contrast ratio of 2.9:1  Society Membership: input instructions have a color contrast ratio of 3.8:1 |
| [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 | RA Form 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. | Does not support | RA Form content is presented without loss of information and functionality but requires scrolling in two dimensions when magnified.  **Examples:**  Global: all pages require scrolling in two dimensions when zoomed to 400%, home button and help button in header are unavailable 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). | Partially supports | Overall RA Form provides good contrast between graphical objects and backgrounds.  **Exceptions:**  Global: “opens in new tab” icon throughout the site has a color contrast ratio of 2:1, radio buttons have a color contrast ratio of 2.1:1 |
| [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 RA Form 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) | RA Form 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 RA Form 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 | Partially supports | RA Form provides keyboard access to most interactive links and buttons.  **Exceptions:**  Corresponding Authors: organization tooltip cannot be activated using keyboard alone, close button inside organization tooltip cannot be activated using keyboard alone  Co-author: Co-author Details tooltip cannot be activated using keyboard alone, trash can button cannot be activated using keyboard alone, recently selected organization cannot be interacted with using keyboard alone, add co-author button cannot be activated using keyboard alone  Research Funders: Funder Details tooltip cannot be activated using keyboard alone, trash button cannot be activated using keyboard alone, Add Grant button cannot be activated using keyboard alone, Add Another Organization button cannot be activated using keyboard alone, order arrow buttons cannot be activated using keyboard alone |
| [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 RA Form. |
| [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 (N/A) | There are no character key shortcuts in RA Form. |
| [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 | Partially supports | RA Form users can tab through the interface in a logical order, where elements receive focus from top to bottom, left to right.  **Exceptions:**  Billing Details: “pay now” and “request an invoice” radio button inputs are in the focus order twice |
| [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:**  Co-author: radio buttons are missing a visible focus indicator, close button inside remove co-author modal is missing a visible focus indicator  Home page: help and support links are missing a visible focus indicator, Elsevier home link is missing a visible focus indicator  Research Funders: radio buttons are missing visible focus indicator  Society Membership: support center link is missing a visible focus indicator  Publishing Options: radio buttons are missing visible focus indicator, links are missing visible focus indicators  Licenses: links are missing visible focus indicators  Publishing Agreement: links are missing visible focus indicators  Billing Details: radio buttons 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. | Supports | UI components on RA Form do not trigger unexpected actions when receiving 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: iframe should be hidden from the user as it is related to a library  Home page: article title is visually a heading but not semantically, “Finalize Publishing your Article” is visually a heading but not semantically  Co-author: fields for adding a co-author are visually in a list but not semantically  Research funders: fields for adding a grant or organization are visually in a list but not semantically  Publishing Options: “open access” is visually a heading but not semantically, “Subscription” is visually a heading but not semantically  Confirmation: “Payment details” is visually a heading but not semantically |
| [2.4.1: Bypass Blocks](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#navigation-mechanisms-skip) (A)  Users can bypass repeated blocks of content. | Does not support | “Skip to main content” button is missing on all pages |
| [2.4.6: Headings and Labels](http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/#navigation-mechanisms-descriptive) (AA)  Headings and labels are clear and consistent. | Supports | RA Form 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 RA Form 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) | RA Form 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. | Supports | RA Form does not provide many input fields pertaining to the end user |
| [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 | Does not support | RA Form pages do not have a title that describes the topic or purpose of the page.  All pages have the same title: “Rights and Access” |
| [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. | Partially supports | RA Form identifies input errors in a variety of ways including text which appears below form inputs, popups, and alerts.  **Exceptions:**  Rights: error message does not identify where the error is |
| [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:**  Global: red asterisks are used to indicate required fields with no instructions explaining this  Research Funders: organization position is hidden to assistive technology due to aria-hidden=”true” |
| [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. | Supports | Suggestions for valid input are available, clear, and easy to understand. |
| [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: current steps are missing ARIA attribute aria-current=”step”  Publishing Options: accepted credit cards image is missing a role of image  Billing Details: accepted credit cards image is missing a role of image |
| [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 | RA Form uses status messages to alert the user that a change was successful or that an error was made.  **Exceptions:**  Corresponding author: error message is not read by assistive technologies  Society membership: input error message is not read by assistive technology  Rights: input error message is not read by assistive technology |
| **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 RA Form 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 | RA Form 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 | RA Form’ 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 RA Form 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) | RA Form 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 | RA Form 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) | RA Form does not contain motion actuation. |