VPAT Accessibility Conformance Report

(Based on ITI VPAT©)

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| **Name of Product** | **Journal Issues** |
| **Date Last Updated** | **July 15, 2025** |
| Completed by | Jay Nemchik (Elsevier Digital Accessibility Team) |
| **Applicable Standards/Guidelines** | This document rates Journal Issues according to the [W3C WCAG 2.1 A and AA](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/) requirements. |
| **Contact for More Information** | Elsevier Digital Accessibility Team [accessibility@elsevier.com](mailto:accessibility@elsevier.com?subject=Accessibility%20and%20Shadow%20Health) |
| **Testing Tools and Methods** | * **Hands-on keyboard operation** * **DevTools/Code inspection** * **Mozilla Firefox 115 and Chrome 124 on Windows 11 22H2** * **NVDA screen reader 2023.3** * **WAVE Browser Extension** * **Color Contrast Analyzer** * [W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) Pages](https://www.w3.org/WAI/) * [Elsevier Accessibility Checklist](http://romeo.elsevier.com/accessibility_checklist/) |
| **Document Sections** | This review document includes all WCAG 2.1 A and AA checkpoints, organized into 7 logical sections:   * Visuals * Keyboard * Headings and Structure * Labeling * Multimedia * Usability * Mobile User Experience |
| **Pages Covered** | Header, Homepage, Search Results, Create New Account, Login, Journal Page, Cart, Order Information, Payment |
| **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.** |

## Conformance Summary

| **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 | 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 | 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 | Does not support |
| 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 | Supports |
| 2.4.4: Link Purpose (In Context) | A | Partially supports |
| 2.4.5: Multiple Ways | AA | Supports |
| 2.4.6: Headings and Labels | AA | Supports |
| 2.4.7: Focus Visible | AA | Supports |
| 2.5.1: Pointer Gestures (2.1) | A | Supports |
| 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 | Supports |
| 3.3.3: Error Suggestion | AA | Supports |
| 3.3.4: Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) | AA | Supports |
| 4.1.1: Parsing | A | Supports |
| 4.1.2: Name, Role, Value | A | Partially supports |
| 4.1.3: Status Messages (2.1) | AA | Does not support |

## WCAG 2.1 A and AA Success Criteria

### Visuals

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| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Conformance Level** | **Remarks** |
| [1.1.1: Non-Text Content](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#non-text-content) (A) Provide text alternatives for non-text content (e.g. images) | Partially supports | Most images and icons have appropriate text equivalents.  **Exceptions:**  Payment: The credit card icon (e.g. MasterCard) does not have alternative text. |
| [1.3.3: Sensory Characteristics](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#sensory-characteristics) (A) Do not rely on sensory characteristics of components such as shape, size, visual location, orientation, or sound | Supports | There are no instructions or areas of content which rely solely on sensory characteristics. |
| [1.4.1: Use of Color](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#use-of-color) (A) Color is not used as the only visual means of conveying info | Partially supports | Color is not used as the only means of conveying information in most areas.  **Exceptions:** Journal Page: The "Cart" link text in the successfully added to cart message is not decorated and does not have enough contrast with the surrounding text at 2.86:1. |
| [1.4.3: Color Contrast (Minimum)](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#contrast-minimum) (AA) Text has enough contrast with the background (4.5:1 for small text and 3:1 for large text) | Partially supports | Text has enough contrast with its corresponding background in almost all areas.  **Exceptions:**  Header: The navigation links do not have enough contrast at 3.94:1.  Journal Page: The "Cart" link text on green background in the successfully added to cart message does not have enough contrast at 4.14:1. |
| [1.4.4: Resize Text](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#resize-text) (AA)  Text can be enlarged up to 200% without loss of functionality. | Supports | Text can be enlarged to 200% and content remains functional. |
| [1.4.5: Images of Text](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#images-of-text) (AA) Text is used rather than images of text, except where the presentation of text is essential, such as logos | Supports | No images of text are used other than for Logos or essential presentation. |
| [1.4.10: Reflow](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#reflow) (AA) 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. | Supports | Journal Issues reflows properly at small screen sizes. |
| [1.4.11: Non-Text Contrast](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#non-text-contrast) (AA)  User interact components and graphical objects have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1 against adjacent color(s). | Supports | Non-text UI components and graphical objects have at least a 3:1 contrast ratio. |
| [1.4.12: Text Spacing](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#text-spacing) (AA)  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 | The site allows users to adjust the text spacing without causing 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)  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 | Content that appears on hover or focus is dismissable, hoverable, and persistent. |
| [2.3.1: Three Flashes or Below Threshold](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#three-flashes-or-below-threshold) (A) No more than three flashes in a 1-second period, or the flashes are below the defined thresholds | Supports (N/A) | No flashing content exists. |

### Keyboard

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| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Conformance Level** | **Remarks** |
| [1.3.2: Meaningful Sequence](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#meaningfuusequence) (A)  The correct reading sequence can be programmatically determined | Supports | The correct reading sequence is usually logical with the DOM order matching the visual order. |
| [2.1.1: Keyboard](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#keyboard) (A)  All functionality is available from a keyboard, except for tasks such as drawing | Supports | All content on the site can be reached and operated by keyboard. |
| [2.1.2: No Keyboard Trap](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#no-keyboard-trap) (A)  The user can use the keyboard to move through page elements and is not trapped on a particular element | Supports | No pages have a keyboard trap. |
| [2.1.4: Character Key Shortcuts](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#character-key-shortcuts) (A)  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) | The site does not use any character key shortcuts. |
| [2.4.3: Focus Order](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#focus-order) (A)  Users can tab through the elements of a page in a logical order | Supports | Focus order on the site is logical. |
| [2.4.7: Focus Visible](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#focus-visible) (AA)  The page element with the current keyboard focus has a visible focus indicator | Supports | All elements on the site have a visible keyboard focus. |
| [3.2.1: On Focus](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#on-focus) (A)  When a UI component receives focus, this does not trigger unexpected actions. | Supports | Focusable elements do not cause unexpected actions when receiving focus. |

### Headings and Structure

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| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Conformance Level** | **Remarks** |
| [1.3.1: Information and Relationships](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#info-and-relationships) (A)  Info, structure, and relationships can be programmatically determined | Partially supports | Good use of headings to help distinguish content. Lists are typically used to group related links or text. Landmarks are used in good places.  **Exceptions:**  Header: There is a navigation landmark that needs to be uniquely labelled.  Homepage: The glossary letters should be in an ordered list.  Payment: The iframe surrounding the credit card forms needs a title. |
| [2.4.1: Bypass Blocks](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#bypass-blocks) (A)  Users can bypass repeated blocks of content. | Supports | Headings and landmarks exist, which allow users using Assistive Technology to jump to the different areas of content quickly.  A skip to main content link exists as well. |
| [2.4.6: Headings and Labels](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#headings-and-labels) (AA)  Headings and labels are clear and consistent. | Supports | Headings and labels used are clear and descriptive. |
| [3.1.1: Language of Page](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#language-of-page) (A)  The language of the page is specified | Supports | The language is defined as lang="en" on all pages. |
| [3.1.2: Language of Parts](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#language-of-parts) (AA)  Specify the language of text passages that are in a different language than the default language of the page. | Supports (N/A) | There is no text that is in a different language than the page default. |
| [4.1.1: Parsing](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#parsing) (A)  Use valid, error-free HTML | Supports | HTML and CSS passes concerning these 4 specific criteria:  (i) elements have complete start and end tags,  (ii) elements are nested according to their specifications  (iii) elements do not contain duplicate attributes (iv) any IDs are unique, except where the specifications allow these features.  Note: There are other general HTML validation errors outside the scope of this criterion. |

### Labeling

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| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Conformance Level** | **Remarks** |
| [1.3.5: Identify Input Purpose](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#identify-input-purpose) (AA)  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 | Forms that collect data about the user, such as login forms, have autocomplete attributes with appropriate values.  **Exceptions:**  Payment: The credit card forms do not have autocomplete attributes. |
| [2.4.2: Page Titled](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#page-titled) (A)  The page has a title describing its topic or purpose | Supports | All pages on the site have a descriptive and unique page title. |
| [2.4.4: Link Purpose (In Context)](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#link-purpose-in-context) (A)  The purpose of each link can be determined from the link text or surrounding context. | Partially supports | Links used have an identifiable purpose from the link text or surrounding context.  **Exceptions:** Search Results: Removing a filter needs more descriptive text than a "-" symbol. |
| [2.5.3: Label in Name](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#label-in-name) (A)  For user interface components with labels that include text or images of text, the name contains the text that is presented visually. | Supports | User interface components that have visible text contain that text consistently within the accessible name |
| [3.2.4: Consistent Identification](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#consistent-identification) (AA)  UI components used across the web site are identified consistently on every page. | Supports | UI components are consistent across the site. |
| [3.3.1: Error Identification](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#error-identification) (A)  Input errors are clearly marked and described to the user. | Partially supports | Error identification is presented with a red border and symbol. Forms announce if the entry is invalid.  **Exceptions:** Create an Account: The error summary should receive focus after submission.  Login: The error summary should receive focus after submission.  Order Information: The error summary should receive focus after submission. |
| [3.3.2: Labels or Instructions](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#labels-or-instructions) (A)  Items requiring user input are clearly labeled or have clear instructions. | Supports | All input fields are clearly labelled. |
| [3.3.3: Error Suggestion](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#error-suggestion) (AA)  When the user makes an input error, give suggestions for valid input. | Supports | The error messages given are valid suggestions for the inputs. |
| [4.1.2: Name, Role, Value](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#name-role-value) (A)  For all UI components, the name, value, and role can be programmatically determined. | Partially supports | Most UI components communicate their state programmatically.  **Exceptions:**  Homepage: The current page link already has aria-current, so the visually hidden text and title should be removed.  Search Results: The current page link already has aria-current, so the visually hidden text and title should be removed. |
| [4.1.3: Status Messages](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#status-messages) (AA)  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. | Does not support | Status messages, such as applying a coupon code, do not communicate themselves automatically to assistive technology. |

### Multimedia

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| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Conformance Level** | **Remarks** |
| [1.2.1: Audio-only or Video-only (Prerecorded)](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#audio-only-and-video-only-prerecorded) (A)  Provide alternatives for pre-recorded audio-only or video-only content. | Supports (N/A) | There is no video-only or audio-only content on the site. |
| [1.2.2: Captions (Prerecorded)](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#captions-prerecorded) (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)](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#audio-description-or-media-alternative-prerecorded) (A)  Provide alternatives for pre-recorded synchronized audio/video | Supports (N/A) | There is no pre-recorded audio/video on the site. |
| [1.2.4: Captions (Live)](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#captions-live) (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)](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#audio-description-prerecorded) (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](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#audio-control) (A)  Audio can be paused and stopped, or the audio volume can be changed. | Supports (N/A) | There is no audio that plays automatically on the site. |
| [2.2.2: Pause, Stop, Hide](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#pause-stop-hide) (A)  Users can stop, pause, or hide moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating information. | Supports (N/A) | There is no moving, scrolling, or auto-updating information. |

### Usability

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| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Conformance Level** | **Remarks** |
| [2.2.1: Timing Adjustable](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#pause-stop-hide) (A)  Users are warned of time limits shorter than 20 hours and time limits can be turned off or extended | Does not support | There is a session timeout, but there is no message that is given to users or option to extend. |
| [2.4.5: Multiple Ways](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#multiple-ways) (AA)  More than one way is available to navigate to other web pages. | Supports | Users can reach all pages in the system that are not part of a process in multiple ways. |
| [3.2.2: On Input](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#on-input) (A)  Changing the setting of a checkbox, radio button, or other UI component does not trigger unexpected changes in context. | Supports | User inputs do not cause unexpected actions. |
| [3.2.3: Consistent Navigation](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#consistent-navigation) (AA)  Navigation menus are in the same location and order on every web page. | Supports | Navigation menus are consistently in the same place and in same order. |
| [3.3.4: Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#error-prevention-legaufinanciaudata) (AA)  For web pages with legal or financial commitments, input can be reviewed and corrected before final submission, and submissions can be reverted. | Supports | There are financial commitments where the order can be reviewed and corrected before final submission. |

### Mobile User Experience

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| **WCAG 2.1**  **Checkpoint** | **Conformance Level** | **Remarks** |
| [1.3.4: Orientation](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#orientation)) (AA)  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 | Journal Issues does not restrict its view to a single orientation. |
| [2.5.1: Pointer Gestures](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#pointer-gestures) (A)  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 | Journal Issues does not use any multipoint or path-based gestures. |
| [2.5.2: Pointer Cancellation](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#pointer-cancellation) (A)  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 | All interactive content functions through the Up-Event, allowing users to potentially move their pointer off the component to cancel. |
| [2.5.4: Motion Actuation](https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/#motion-actuation) (A)  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) | There is no content on Journal Issues that utilizes device or user motion. |