

MIT Press Direct Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5)

Name of Product/Version: <https://direct.mit.edu/>

Report Date: September, 2024

Product Description: The MIT Press is one of the largest and most distinguished university presses in the world and a leading publisher of books and journals at the intersection of science, technology, art, social science, and design. The MIT Press Direct platform, developed in close collaboration with librarians and scholars, serves as the premier source for the Press’s journals, eBook collections, and MIT CogNet.

Contact Information: Nick Lindsay, Director of Journals and Open Access at the MIT Press

Evaluation Methods Used:

This digital product has been evaluated using the W3C’s Web Accessibility Initiative’s (WAI) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 (WCAG 2.2). The evaluation was done using the WCAG 2.2 Success Criteria for Level A and Level AA conformance, and the accessibility standards established in Section 508 of the United States Rehabilitation Act.

A team of accessibility evaluators has assessed the product using the following steps:

- Overall analysis of the product to check compliance with Meaningful Sequence, Keyboard Operability, Color Contrast, Text Reflow and Text Magnification criteria
- Automated testing using Powermapper's Sortsite software (<https://www.powermapper.com/products/sortsite/checks/accessibility-checks/>) which flags non-compliant issues in the code via a full website scan
- Manual verification of the issues found in automated scanning and re-testing using Chrome Lighthouse, keyboard navigation and the Mac OS Voiceover screenreader
- Manual testing of multimedia content to check for compliance with Alternative to Time-Based Media, Captions, and Audio Description criteria

Applicable Standards/Guidelines

This report covers the degree of conformance for the following accessibility standard/guidelines:

Standard/Guideline	Included In Report
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)

Terms

The terms used in the Conformance Level information are defined as follows:

- **Supports:** The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criterion without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation.

- **Partially Supports:** Some functionality of the product does not meet the criterion.
- **Does Not Support:** The majority of product functionality does not meet the criterion.
- **Not Applicable:** The criterion is not relevant to the product.
- **Not Evaluated:** The product has not been evaluated against the criterion. This can be used only in WCAG 2.0 Level AAA.

WCAG 2.x Report

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.x Success Criteria, they are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility-supported ways of using technology as documented in the [WCAG 2.0 Conformance Requirements](#).

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most non-text content has a text alternative that serves the equivalent purpose, however some pages were flagged for the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> alt text should not be an image file name. alt text should not contain placeholders like 'picture' or 'spacer'. img elements must have an accessible name. A page has words made of Unicode characters that look like English characters but are from another alphabet. This means screen readers are unable to pronounce these words correctly. A Word document contains a graphic without Alt Text.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Does Not Support	Site contains prerecorded audio-only and video-only media but does not provide an alternative for the time-based media that presents equivalent information. The media is not clearly labeled as a media alternative for text. See: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://direct.mit.edu/lmj/article-abstract/doi/10.1162/lmj_a_01104/97074/LMJ30-Audio-Tracklist#supplementary-data
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Does Not Support	Site contains prerecorded synchronized media (videos with audio tracks), but does not provide captions. The media is not clearly labeled as a media alternative for text. See: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://direct.mit.edu/imag/article/doi/10.1162/imag_a_00026/117870/Synchronous-high-amplitude-co-fluctuations-of
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Does Not Support	Site contains prerecorded synchronized media (videos with audio tracks) but does not provide an alternative to it or audio descriptions of the prerecorded video content. The media is not clearly labeled as a media alternative for text. See: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://direct.mit.edu/imag/article/doi/10.1162/imag_a_00026/117870/Synchronous-high-amplitude-co-fluctuations-of
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Partially Supports	Information, structure, and relationships conveyed through presentation can mostly be programmatically determined or are available in text, however some pages were flagged for the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Element li not allowed as child element in this context. For data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers, use

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		markup to associate data cells and header cells. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headings should not be empty. Identify row and column headers in data tables using th elements, and mark layout tables with role=presentation. Use HTML headings instead of applying CSS heading styles to non-headings. Use semantic markup like strong instead of using the CSS font-weight property.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Partially Supports	A correct reading sequence can be programmatically determined for the most part, however some pages were flagged for the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inserting spaces between letters in a word means screen readers cannot pronounce the words correctly. A Word document contains a non-inline graphic or object.
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supports	The site's content does not rely solely on sensory characteristics.
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Partially Supports	Color is mostly not used as the only visual means of conveying information, however some pages were flagged for the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removing the underline from links makes it hard for color-blind users to see them. The alt text of an image mentions a color, which isn't useful for blind users.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Supports	Audio content does not play automatically.
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Partially Supports	The site is operable by a keyboard interface, however some pages were flagged for the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Figures and images in PDF documents should have non blank ALT text, except for decorative images which should be marked as artifacts. Clickable controls should have an ARIA role.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supports	Focus can be moved away from components using a keyboard interface.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Supports	A mechanism is available to bypass blocks of content that are repeated on multiple Web pages.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most web pages have titles that describe topic or purpose, however some pages were flagged for the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing title tags. • Blank title tags. • Title text that uses placeholder text like 'Untitled' or the page filename.
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Supports	Components can be focused in an order that preserves meaning and operability.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Partially Supports	The purpose of each link can be determined for the most part, however some pages were flagged for the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some links use general text like 'Click Here' with no surrounding text explaining link purpose. • Some links do not have an accessible name.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	For user interface components with labels that include text, the label name contains the text that is presented visually.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Partially Supports	The default human language of most Web pages can be programmatically determined, however some pages were flagged for not using the lang attribute to identify the language of the page.
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supports	Focused components do not change context.
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Supports	Changing component settings do not change context.
3.2.6 Consistent Help (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	Links to help mechanisms are consistently located in the footer of microsites.
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Supports	Input errors are described to the user.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Supports	Labels/instructions provided when user input required.
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	Information previously entered by or provided to the user that is required to be entered again in the same process is auto-populated or available for the user to select.
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A) WCAG 2.0 and 2.1 – Always answer ‘Supports’ WCAG 2.2 (obsolete and removed) - Does not apply	Not Applicable	For WCAG 2.0 and 2.1, the September 2023 errata update indicates this criterion is always supported. See the WCAG 2.0 Editorial Errata and the WCAG 2.1 Editorial Errata .

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)	Partially Supports	<p>The name and role of user interface components can be programmatically determined, however some pages were flagged for the following issues::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An element with a role that hides child elements contains focusable child elements. • An element with aria-hidden=true contains focusable content. • HTML form control has no accessible name. • iframe and frame elements must have a title attribute. • The element a must not appear as a descendant of the a element. • The element a must not appear as a descendant of the button element. • The interactive element a must not appear as a descendant of the a element. • The interactive element a must not appear as a descendant of the button element.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	Live media not used in product.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Does Not Support	<p>Audio description is not provided for prerecorded video content in synchronized media. See:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://direct.mit.edu/imag/article/doi/10.1162/imag_a_00026/117870/Synchronous-high-amplitude-co-fluctuations-of
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Content is not restricted to a specific display orientation.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	The purpose of each input field collecting information about the user can be programmatically determined.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Partially supports	The visual presentation of most text and images of text has a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1, however some pages were flagged for not having enough contrast between text and background colors.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Supports	Text can be resized by browsers.
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Supports	Text is used to convey information rather than images of text.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Content is presented without loss of functionality at mobile viewports.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially supports	One page was flagged for having a user interface control that has a contrast ratio below 3:1 against adjacent colors: https://direct.mit.edu/store/cart
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	There's no loss of content or functionality with text spacing settings.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Content triggered by hover and focus states is dismissable, hoverable and persistent.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Partially supports	Most pages can be located in more than one way, however the ePub Viewer pages can only be located in one way.
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Supports	Headings and labels describe topic or purpose.
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Partially supports	Any keyboard operable user interface has a mode of operation where the keyboard focus indicator is visible, however two pages were flagged for having elements with a CSS outline or border style that makes it difficult or impossible to see the link focus outline.
2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	When a user interface component receives keyboard focus, the component is not entirely hidden due to author-created content.
2.5.7 Dragging Movements (Level AA 2.2 only)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	The size of the target for pointer inputs is at least 24 by 24 CSS pixels.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Partially supports	The human language of each passage or phrase in most of the content can be programmatically determined, however some pages were flagged for containing phrases in a different language that should be in a span or div with a lang attribute.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	Navigations that are repeated on multiple pages appear in the same order
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supports	Components that have the same functionality are identified consistently.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Supports	Suggestions are provided to the user for secure input errors.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Supports	For Web pages that cause legal commitments or financial transactions for the user to occur, that modify or delete user-controllable data in data storage systems, or that submit user test responses, data entered by the user is checked for input errors and the user is provided an opportunity to correct them.
3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	A cognitive function test (such as remembering a password or solving a puzzle) is required for an authentication process, however a reset password mechanism is available to assist the user in completing the cognitive function test.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Does Not	Status messages do not use the role=status or role=alert attributes, so cannot be

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
	Support	programmatically determined such that they can be presented to the user by assistive technologies without receiving focus.

Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.6 Sign Language (Prerecorded) (Level AAA)		
1.2.7 Extended Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AAA)		
1.2.8 Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level AAA)		
1.2.9 Audio-only (Live) (Level AAA)		
1.3.6 Identify Purpose (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)		
1.4.6 Contrast (Enhanced) (Level AAA)		
1.4.7 Low or No Background Audio (Level AAA)		
1.4.8 Visual Presentation (Level AAA)		
1.4.9 Images of Text (No Exception) (Level AAA)		
2.1.3 Keyboard (No Exception) (Level AAA)		
2.2.3 No Timing (Level AAA)		
2.2.4 Interruptions (Level AAA)		
2.2.5 Re-authenticating (Level AAA)		
2.2.6 Timeouts (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)		
2.3.2 Three Flashes (Level AAA)		
2.3.3 Animation from Interactions (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)		
2.4.8 Location (Level AAA)		
2.4.9 Link Purpose (Link Only) (Level AAA)		
2.4.10 Section Headings (Level AAA)		

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.12 Focus Not Obscured (Enhanced) (Level AAA 2.2 only)		
2.4.13 Focus Appearance (Level AAA 2.2 only)		
2.5.5 Target Size (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)		
2.5.6 Concurrent Input Mechanisms (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)		
3.1.3 Unusual Words (Level AAA)		
3.1.4 Abbreviations (Level AAA)		
3.1.5 Reading Level (Level AAA)		
3.1.6 Pronunciation (Level AAA)		
3.2.5 Change on Request (Level AAA)		
3.3.5 Help (Level AAA)		
3.3.6 Error Prevention (All) (Level AAA)		
3.3.9 Accessible Authentication (Enhanced) (Level AAA 2.2 only)		

Legal Disclaimer (Company)

Include your company legal disclaimer here, if needed