

ACS Publications Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.4)

Name of Product/Version: <https://pubs.acs.org/>

Report Date: November 30, 2021

Product Description: ACS Publications Website

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Notes:

Evaluation Methods Used: WCAG 2.1 Level AA

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 2.1	Level A (Yes) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level AA (Yes) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Level AAA (No) <input type="checkbox"/>

Terms

“Voluntary Product Accessibility Template” and “VPAT” are registered service marks of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)

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 2.1 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 2.1 Conformance Requirements](#).

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)	Does Not Support	Icon fonts and images for journal covers and banners have appropriate alternative text, however, the figures in articles, and on TOC pages, lack detailed article text. Figure captions generally summarize the figures, but all of the numeric values displayed in images are not available as alternative text. The TOC figures on journal homepages repeat the article title in the alt text (e.g. on https://pubs.acs.org/journal/jacsat).
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	Some audio and video media hosted on pubs.acs.org may not include text alternatives, but they are freely available and not part of the purchased product.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	Some audio and video media hosted on pubs.acs.org may not include captions, but they are freely available and not part of the purchased product.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	Some audio and video media hosted on pubs.acs.org may not include text alternatives or descriptions, but they are freely available and not part of the purchased product.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Partially Supports	Unordered lists are utilized. Table tags are utilized correctly. Headings are in the correct order on some pages but not on other pages. Most form elements have labels, but some are missing. Most headings are in the correct order, but a few pages have headings in the incorrect order.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Supports	Each page reads aloud in logical order in a screen reader.
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supports	Instructions do not rely upon shape, size, or visual location.
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Does Not Support	Color alone is used to distinguish links on most pages and links are not underlined. The contrast ratio between links and the surrounding non-link text is less than 3:1, therefore is not sufficient. The hyperlinks change color on hover, rather than receive an underline on hover. The scientific figures in some articles use color as the only means of conveying information.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Supports	No audio plays automatically.
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most elements on the website are accessible by keyboard. There are just a few elements that are not accessible by keyboard-only, such as a few form elements under "Refine Search" on the search results page. The right-side navigation on article pages can be accessed and closed by the keyboard, but once closed, it cannot be reopened with the keyboard only

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		and requires use of a mouse.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supports	No keyboard traps exist.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	Keyboard shortcuts are not used.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Not Applicable	Time limits are not used.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Supports	Content does not blink or animate for longer than five seconds.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Not Applicable	Flashes are not used.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Does Not Support	Skip navigation links are not provided. Headings are in the correct order on some pages but not on other pages.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Supports	Pages have descriptive titles
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Supports	The navigation order of links, and focus order, is intuitive.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most links can be understood out of context, but some links have vague link text that cannot be understood out of context. For example, the links to references in articles are read to screen readers as the reference number (e.g. "5"), which may not be understood out of context.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	No path-based gestures used.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	The product does not use down-events or up-events.
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 only)	Supports	The plus sign icons in the advanced search have aria-label="Add search field" to explain the purpose of the icons to screen reader users. The search box at the top of every page has aria-label=" Search text, DOI, authors, etc"
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 only)	Not Applicable	The product does not contain features which are activated by device motion such as shaking or tilting.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Supports	Language is defined in HTML
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supports	Forms are not submitted when buttons receive focus from tabbing.
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Supports	All forms have a "Submit" button; forms do not submit until the submit button has been activated.
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Not Applicable	The product does not include error detection.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Partially Supports	The search box has aria-label, but aria-label is not present in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the journal drop down menu • volume and page inputs
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A)	Does Not Support	The website contains HTML validation errors
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)	Supports	The hamburger menu has aria-label to explain its purpose to screen reader users. The form elements on the advanced

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		search have labels (or hidden labels) to explain their purpose.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	Supports	The product does not include live video.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Supports	Some audio and video media hosted on pubs.acs.org may not include descriptions or text descriptions, but they are freely available and not part of the purchased product.
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	The website works in both portrait and landscape on desktop and on mobile tablets
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 only)	Not applicable	The product does not ask visitors for the kind of personal information that would require auto-complete.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Partially Supports	The main article text, and most of the text on the website, have sufficient color contrast. However, there are multiple items that lack sufficient color contrast, including a few buttons on journal homepages and a few text elements on the search results page. The contrast ratio between links and the surrounding non-link text is less than 3:1 on some pages, therefore is not sufficient.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Supports	All pages are readable and functional at a 200% zoom level.
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Partially supports	Most pages use text instead of images of text. However, some articles display equations and data tables as images instead of coding them as text. Some journal homepages have promotional images with text that could have coded as text.
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	All pages only require scrolling in one direction (vertically) when zoomed in to 400%. Advertisements require scrolling in one dimension (horizontally) when zoomed to 400%.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	Non-text elements have sufficient color contrast. When elements are tabbed to, the border color has sufficient color contrast compared to the background color.
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	All content is accessible when adjusting CSS to meet the criteria in WCAG 1.4.12
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	Popovers that cover text can be dismissed by moving the mouse. Popovers that appear on hover stay put until mouse focus is moved away.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Supports	Pages can be located with the search function or the navigation menu.
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Supports	Page headings and labels for form controls are informative.
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Partially Supports	It is visually apparent which page element has the current keyboard focus for most elements.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Supports	English is the only language used.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	Navigation is consistent on every page.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supports	The search box at the top of the page has an aria-label to identify it as a search box on every page.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Supports	Error detection is not used.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Supports	No used.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	Status messages are not used.

Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.6 Sign Language (Prerecorded) (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
1.2.7 Extended Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
1.2.8 Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
1.2.9 Audio-only (Live) (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
1.3.6 Identify Purpose (Level AAA 2.1 only)	Not evaluated	
1.4.6 Contrast (Enhanced) (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
1.4.7 Low or No Background Audio (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
1.4.8 Visual Presentation (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
1.4.9 Images of Text (No Exception) (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
2.1.3 Keyboard (No Exception) (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
2.2.3 No Timing (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
2.2.4 Interruptions (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.2.5 Re-authenticating (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
2.2.6 Timeouts (Level AAA 2.1 only)	Not evaluated	
2.3.2 Three Flashes (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
2.3.3 Animation from Interactions (Level AAA 2.1 only)	Not evaluated	
2.4.8 Location (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
2.4.9 Link Purpose (Link Only) (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
2.4.10 Section Headings (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
2.5.5 Target Size (Level AAA 2.1 only)	Not evaluated	
2.5.6 Concurrent Input Mechanisms (Level AAA 2.1 only)	Not evaluated	
3.1.3 Unusual Words (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
3.1.4 Abbreviations (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
3.1.5 Reading Level (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
3.1.6 Pronunciation (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
3.2.5 Change on Request (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
3.3.5 Help (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	
3.3.6 Error Prevention (All) (Level AAA)	Not evaluated	