



In Depth: Accessibility

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“ **The *power* of the Web is in its universality. Access by *everyone*, regardless of disability, is an essential aspect**

- *Tim Berners-Lee*,
W3C Director and inventor of the World Wide Web

”

Source: [World Wide Web Consortium Launches International Program Office for Web Accessibility Initiative | 1997 | Press releases | W3C](#)

Web Accessibility in Higher Education

Laws

- US State-level legislation (e.g., WA, CA, TX)
- UK Regulations for Public Sector websites (2018)
- European Accessibility Act (Directive (EU) 2019/882)

Evolving Standards and Best Practices

- WCAG 2.2 (expected Q4 2023)
- EN 301 549
- UN Sustainability Goals for Quality Education



Institutions

- Procurement policies
- Office of Inclusion
- Libraries asked to create long term plans for improving accessibility

Litigation

- Cases and settlements involving libraries and universities
- EAA allows lawsuits

What is Web Accessibility?

The inclusive practice of ensuring there are no barriers that prevent interaction with websites



Visual

Visual impairments including:
Blindness
Low vision and poor eyesight
Color blindness



Motor/Mobility

Difficulty or inability to use the hands
Tremors
Loss of fine muscle control



Auditory

Deafness
Hearing impairments
Partial hearing loss



Sensory

Reactions (seizures) to visual strobe or flashing effects
Autism spectrum related sensitivity (noise, light, touch)



Cognitive and Intellectual

Developmental disabilities
Learning difficulties
Cognitive disabilities

Paraphrased from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_accessibility

What are Assistive Technologies?

Tools, software and browser plugins that help differently-abled individuals use the web



Visual

Screen readers
Braille keyboards and printers
Keyboard only navigation
Screen magnifiers
Text and contrast adjustment



Motor/Mobility

Adapted keyboards and overlays
Mouse/touch
Speech recognition



Auditory

Closed captions
Real time transcription
Sign language video



Sensory

Augmentative and alternative communication



Cognitive and Intellectual

Text and contrast adjustment
Text to speech readers

Paraphrased from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_accessibility

Accessibility Acronyms

EAA

European Accessibility Act

Standardizes the requirements for accessible products and services and aims to eliminate barriers to those products and services. Sets a framework for seeking legal action.

EN 301 549

Harmonized European Standard on Web Accessibility

European standard of Accessibility defining how to meet minimum requirements of EU Directive 2016/2102.

Adopts latest version of WCAG.

WCAG

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

Recommendations from the W3C for making web sites accessible.

The most recent version of the standards is WCAG 2.2.

A/AA/AAA

Compliance levels of WCAG

AAA is the highest standard.

AA is a moderate standard and the target accessibility level for most organizations.

A is the basic standard.

What's New in WCAG 2.2

1 criteria removed

9 new criteria

2.4.7 Focus Visible
now level A

Standard	Minimum (Level AA)	Enhanced (Level AAA)
2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured	Keyboard focus is at least partially visible.	Keyboard focus is fully visible.
2.4.13 Focus Appearance		Focus indicator is sufficient size and contrast.
2.5.7 Dragging Movements	Provide a simple pointer alternative for dragging actions.	
2.5.8 Target Size	24×24 CSS pixel minimum or sufficient spacing around them.	
3.2.6 Consistent Help (Level A)	Help is in a consistent location.	
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A)	Don't ask for the same information twice in the same session.	
3.3.8 Accessible Authentication	Don't make people solve, recall, or transcribe something to log in.	Don't make people recognize objects or user-supplied images and media to login.

Source: <https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/new-in-22/>

Accessibility Acronyms Continued

VPAT

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template

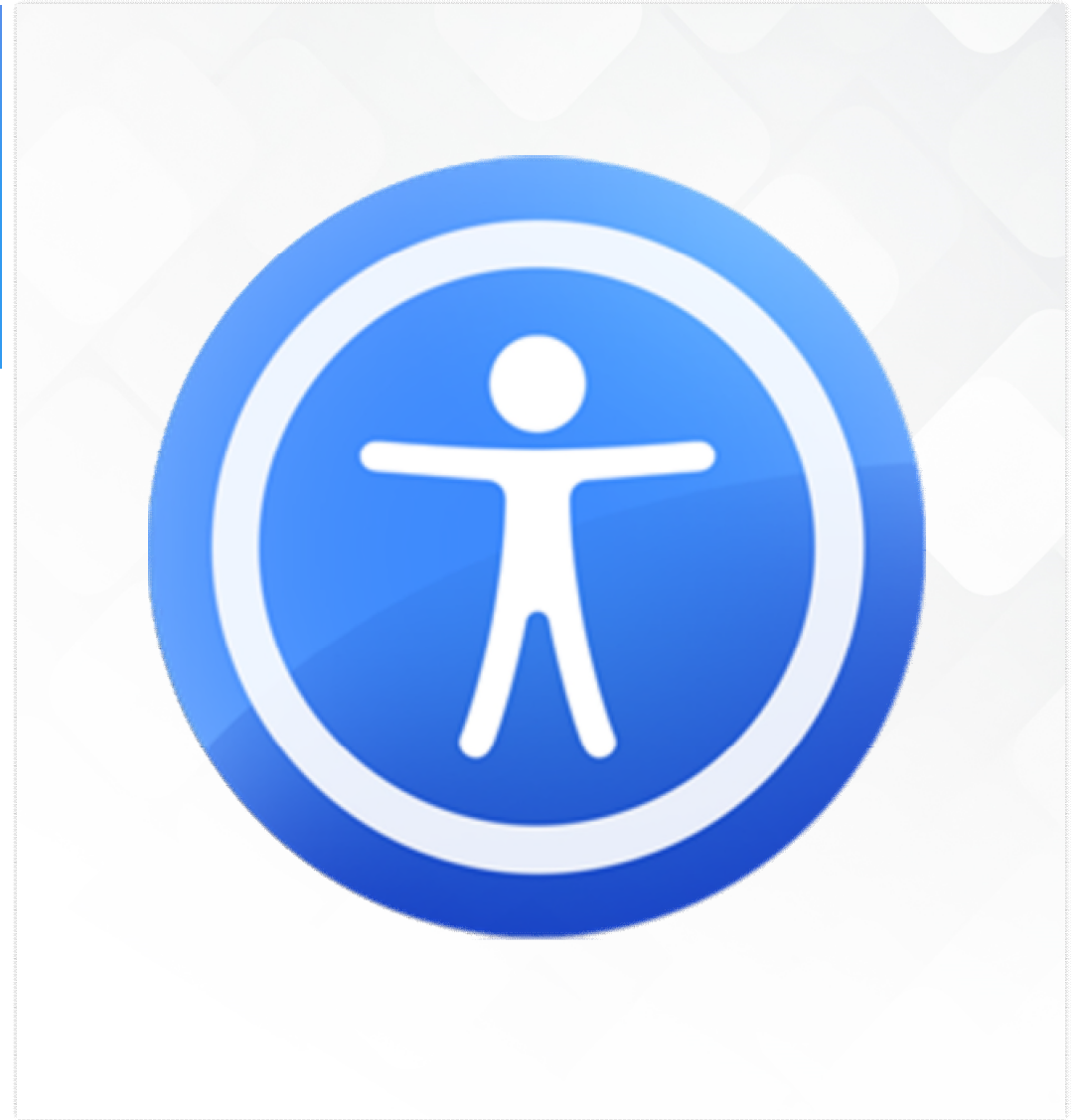
Template to document how well a web application or site supports accessibility criteria based on WCAG and Section 508 of the ADA.

ACR

Accessibility Conformance Report

Completed VPAT

Should indicate how compliance level was verified.





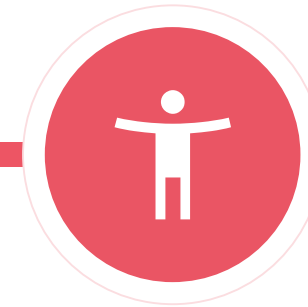
How we approach accessibility

Accessibility Conformance Reports (VPATs)



Available in the Ex Libris Knowledge Center. Process for regular review and updating.

User-Centered Accessibility Statements



Linked from product footer.
Written for users of assistive technology.
Also addresses specific requirements for UK and EU accessibility legislation.

<https://knowledge.exlibrisgroup.com/Cross-Product/Security/Policies/Accessibility>

Sample Accessibility Statement

Home » Alma » Product Materials » Alma Accessibility Statement

Alma Accessibility Statement

◀ 2013 | Implementation and Migration ▶ [+ Table of contents](#)

Ex Libris Accessibility

All library staff, including those with physical impairments, need to manage all their resources and unique materials.

Ex Libris, including Alma, is working towards providing all of our users with a fully accessible experience for research, insights, and analytics. We make every effort to ensure that our platforms and workflow solutions can be used by everyone. Ex Libris aims to meet Level AA of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1) and Section 508 of the US Rehabilitation Act for features and functions with as few exceptions as possible.

Document Purpose

This document illustrates the continuous effort to ensure that accessibility standards are built into our design and style guides and are included as part of the requirements across Alma and the Higher Education Platform software development and quality assurance pipelines.

In addition to our methodology, this document also illustrates the current status of Alma's compliance with WCAG 2.1.

Accessibility Features and Gaps for WCAG 2.1

Alma users should be able to:

- Navigate most of the web application using a keyboard only
- Listen to most Web applications using a screen reader
- Navigate most of the Web applications using speech recognition software
- Zoom in up to 200% using browser tools without losing any text
- Control the density of the display across the system

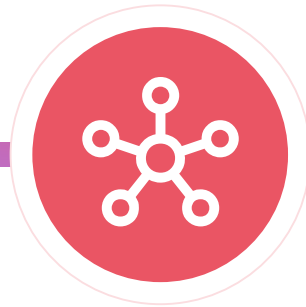
There may be some parts of the Web application that are not fully accessible:

- Alma is responsive but not optimized to be used on smartphones.
- A small number of features are challenging to navigate using only the keyboard.

If users have a disability and need to make their computer, tablet, or laptop easier to use, we recommend [AbilityNet](#) as a resource. We also recommend browsing free add-ons offered for [Google Chrome](#) and [Mozilla Firefox](#).

Technical Information About This Site's Accessibility

Clarivate Accessibility Council



Provides cross-functional direction and support; shares best practice tools and resources and increases organisational capabilities.

Members from UX, Product Management, Technology, Content, Legal and Tech Support.

Ongoing Accessibility by Design



Improving product development processes and capabilities.

Continuous effort.



Accessibility by Design as a Continuous Effort

Engagement and Understand users

In August we hosted a lecture by Orly Tal, a blind developer



ExLibris
Part of Clarivate

**WHY ACCESSIBILITY:
HEAR ORLY TAL'S STORY,
A BLIND DEVELOPER**

We'd like to introduce you to Orly Tal, a blind developer at the Israeli Tax Computers Division who lives a full and satisfying life.

Orly will share her story and briefly illustrate how she manages common computer tasks like composing and sending emails in Outlook or surfing the web.

As we strive to improve our products accessibility, we encourage you to attend to better understand our customers' needs.

To RSVP, email Uri Beladev by August 10th.

**Monday, August 14th
11:00 - 12:00
Dining Room**

Continuous Accessibility Improvement Efforts

- Develop internal expertise
(e.g. 5 individuals with IAAP* Web Accessibility Specialist certification)
- Annual accessibility training session
- Improvement of internal workflows to assure accessibility
(Product, Development, QA)
- Acquire technology assistance tools for testing
- Improvement and addition of internal documentation and guides

* IAAP - International Association of Accessibility Professionals

Accessibility in Numbers

Hundreds
of days invested
in accessibility
in 2022 and
2023

380+
Accessibility
issues fixed
in **2023**

3 Levels
Assessment
to implement
accessibility

95%
of customer
accessibility issues
that comply with
level A and AA* are
on the roadmap

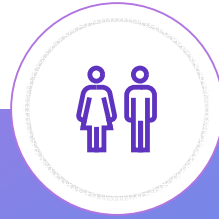
*According to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

Accessibility Roadmap



Internal checks

Accessible infrastructure by design to eliminate to minimum:
color contrast, keyboard access, labeling and screen readers, text dictation, and more



External third-party company assessment

An annual audit by a third-party leading-in-its-field compliance company



Issues found by users

Level A and AA issues are prioritized and added to roadmap

What Comes Next?

- Many accessibility issues fixed for November 2023 Alma Release
- Continue improving product accessibility
- Ongoing effort for accessibility learning and training
- Update Alma VPAT is planned for early 2024
- Apply WCAG 2.2 Level AA in 2024

Key Takeaways

- Web Accessibility removes barriers that prevent interaction with websites.
- Accessibility is important for everyone. It assists with temporary or permanent impairment.
- Accessibility standards (WCAG)
- Ex Libris invest great efforts to understand users' needs and create accessible products
- Your collaboration is part of our mutual success!



Thank You!

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