

VPAT Accessibility Conformance Report

(Based on ITI VPAT[®])

Name of Product	ExpertPath
Date Last Updated	April 8, 2026
Completed by	Elsevier Digital Accessibility Team
Applicable Standards/Guidelines	This document rates ExpertPath according to the W3C WCAG 2.1 A and AA requirements.
Contact for More Information	accessibility@elsevier.com
Testing Tools and Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hands-on keyboard operation• DevTools/Code inspection• Chrome 139.0.7258.157 on Windows 11 23H2• NVDA screen reader 2025.1.2• Colour Contrast Analyzer• WAVE and Axe plugins• W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) Pages• Elsevier Accessibility Checklist
Document Sections	This review document includes all WCAG 2.1 A and AA checkpoints, organized into 7 logical sections: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visuals• Keyboard• Headings and Structure• Labeling• Multimedia• Usability• Mobile User Experience
Pages/Areas Covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sign in/Register/Remote access• Header• Footer• Home (includes browse topics tree)• Search• Compare• Documents Views• CME
Terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "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
1.2.3: Audio Description or Full Text Alternative	A	Supports
1.2.4: Captions (Live)	AA	Supports (N/A)
1.2.5: Audio Description	AA	Supports
1.3.1: Info and Relationships	A	Partially supports
1.3.2: Meaningful Sequence	A	Supports
1.3.3: Sensory Characteristics	A	Supports (N/A)
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
1.4.3: Contrast (Minimum)	AA	Supports
1.4.4: Resize text	AA	Supports
1.4.5: Images of Text	AA	Supports (N/A)
1.4.10: Reflow (2.1)	AA	Partially 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 (N/A)
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	Supports
2.4.2: Page Titled	A	Supports
2.4.3: Focus Order	A	Partially 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	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)

WCAG 2.1 Success Criterion	Level	Evaluation
3.2.1: On Focus	A	Supports (N/A)
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	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	Supports

WCAG 2.1 A and AA Success Criteria

Visuals

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
<p>1.1.1: Non-Text Content (A) Provide text alternatives for non-text content (e.g. images)</p>	Partially supports	<p>Some images and icons have appropriate text equivalents.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Header: The logo image link to go to the home page has inaccurate alternative text of “logo”. • Search: When searching by images, the list of image results are buttons that have text equivalents to indicate what position the images are but not what they will do. The numbers that appear in the top right of some of the thumbnail views are separate text in the code order that is additional to the alternative within each thumbnail. The text alternatives that are given as on-screen text do not provide enough information that is provided on screen, such as clear medical descriptions of complex scans or bone structures and when there is text inside of the medical image itself. • Compare: The text alternatives that are given as on-screen text do not provide enough information that is provided on screen, such as clear medical descriptions of complex scans or bone structures and when there is text inside of the medical image itself • Document views: All the image related viewing issues in the Search results views also occur here as they have the same UI image views.
<p>1.3.3: Sensory Characteristics (A) Do not rely on sensory characteristics of components such as shape, size, visual location, orientation, or sound</p>	Supports (N/A)	<p>There are no instructions or areas of content which rely solely on sensory characteristics.</p>
<p>1.4.1: Use of Color (A) Color is not used as the only visual means of conveying info</p>	Partially supports	<p>When color is used as a means of conveying information, another visual method is also used to convey the information without color.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Header: In the responsive or magnified view, there is an icon to pin or unpin the search, this icon only uses color change to indicate pin status: black for unpinned and orange for pinned.
<p>1.4.3: Color Contrast (Minimum) (AA) Text has enough contrast with the background (4.5:1 for small text and 3:1 for large text)</p>	Supports	<p>Text has sufficient contrast with its corresponding background in most areas.</p>

<p>1.4.4: Resize Text (AA) Text can be enlarged up to 200% without loss of functionality.</p>	Supports	Text may be enlarged to 200% while preserving functionality of content.
<p>1.4.5: Images of Text (AA) Text is used rather than images of text, except where the presentation of text is essential, such as logos</p>	Supports (N/A)	No images of text are used other than for logos or essential presentation in most areas.
<p>1.4.10: Reflow (AA) Content can be presented without loss of information or functionality, and without requiring scrolling in two dimensions for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vertical scrolling content at a width equivalent to 320 CSS pixels; • Horizontal scrolling content at a height equivalent to 256 CSS pixels.. 	Partially supports	<p>Most pages utilize a responsive view where content reflows into a single column. In most instances pages may be zoomed to 400% without necessitating horizontal scrolling, nor loss of functionality/content.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CME: When attempting to zoom in at 1280px at up to 400% some controls are cut off screen, the table content is cutoff with not ability to scroll horizontally, and the footer content is hard to read.
<p>1.4.11: Non-Text Contrast (AA) User interface components and graphical objects have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1 against adjacent color(s).</p>	Supports	Non-text UI components and graphical objects have at least a 3:1 contrast ratio against surrounding colors.
<p>1.4.12: 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line height (line spacing) to at least 	Supports	Users may adjust the text spacing of content on pages to the minimum baseline properties without causing loss of content or functionality.

<p>1.5 times the font size;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 		
<p>1.4.13: 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dismissible • Hoverable • Persistent 	Supports	No applicable instances of content that may appear on hover or focus.
<p>2.3.1: Three Flashes or Below Threshold (A) No more than three flashes in a 1-second period, or the flashes are below the defined thresholds</p>	Supports (N/A)	No flashing content exists.

Keyboard

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
<p>1.3.2: Meaningful Sequence (A) The correct reading sequence can be programmatically determined</p>	Supports	The correct reading sequence is typically logical and programmatically determinable, with the DOM order according with the visual order.
<p>2.1.1: Keyboard (A) All functionality is available from a keyboard, except for tasks such as drawing</p>	Supports	Standard web page content and functionality is keyboard operable across pages.
<p>2.1.2: No Keyboard Trap (A) The user can use the keyboard to move</p>	Supports (N/A)	No pages have a keyboard trap.

through page elements and is not trapped on a particular element		
<p>2.1.4: Character Key Shortcuts (A)</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turn off • Remap • Active only on focus 	Supports (N/A)	The site does not use any character key shortcuts.
<p>2.4.3: Focus Order (A)</p> <p>Users can tab through the elements of a page in a logical order</p>	Partially supports	<p>Tab order is largely logical across the site and preserves the meaning and operability of content in most instances.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search: When the screen reader reaches the beginning or end of a next or previous image buttons, focus is not managed to the disabled button, and the screen reader jumps to the beginning of the HTML DOM. When interacting with the autosuggest listbox dropdown and attempting to close it with shift+tab keys, focus doesn't go to the triggering button, but it goes to the Topics button.
<p>2.4.7: Focus Visible (AA)</p> <p>The page element with the current keyboard focus has a visible focus indicator</p>	Partially supports	<p>Almost all elements across the site have a decent visible indication of focus – the focus indicator is typically a prominent dashed outline.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare: The tabpanel in the comparison sections do not provide visible focus indicators.
<p>3.2.1: On Focus (A)</p> <p>When a UI component receives focus, this does not trigger unexpected actions.</p>	Supports (N/A)	Focusable elements do not cause unexpected actions/changes of context when receiving focus.

Headings and Structure

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
<p>1.3.1: Information and Relationships (A)</p> <p>Info, structure, and relationships can be programmatically determined</p>	Partially supports	Most content is distinguishable via semantic structure and relationships. A logical heading order reflecting page organization and content is programmatically determinable on most pages. List markup is used appropriately in many instances. Most input elements have programmatically determinable labels. HTML sectioning elements/landmark roles demarcate content regions.

		<p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home: The browser tree dropdown list does not contain markup list structure in the dropdown items. The pagination links are not grouped within a list structure. • Search: When search by topic or by image buttons are disabled, they do not indicate programmatically that they are disabled. The search form is redundantly labeled. The pagination links are not grouped within a list structure. • Document Views: The dropdowns do not have list or grouping structure that reflects their visual presentation. • CME: Groups of related form elements are marked up as such in the HTML, however instead of referencing the existing visible legend there is a redundant invisible legend element.
<p>2.4.1: Bypass Blocks (A) Users can bypass repeated blocks of content.</p>	Supports	There are skip navigation links to skip to the header, search, main, and footer. A logical heading order demarcating various content regions allows AT users to conveniently jump to different areas of content.
<p>2.4.6: Headings and Labels (AA) Headings and labels are clear and consistent.</p>	Supports	Headings and labels used are typically clear and descriptive. For example, most pages feature visually distinct and programmatically determinable main and secondary headings to help distinguish content.
<p>3.1.1: Language of Page (A) The language of the page is specified</p>	Supports	The default page language is defined with lang="en".
<p>3.1.2: Language of Parts (AA) Specify the language of text passages that are in a different language than the default language of the page.</p>	Supports (N/A)	There are no sections of text that do not match the default language of the page.
<p>4.1.1: Parsing (A) Use valid, error-free HTML</p>	Supports	<p>HTML and CSS typically pass concerning these 4 specific criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (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. <p>Note: There may be other general HTML validation errors outside the scope of this criterion. WCAG 2.1 Errata notes: "This Success Criterion should be considered as always satisfied for any content using HTML or XML."</p>

Labeling

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
<p>1.3.5: Identify Input Purpose (AA) The purpose of each input field collecting</p>	Supports	The purpose of each input field collecting information about the user can be programmatically determined

<p>information about the user can be programmatically determined when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 		
<p>2.4.2: Page Titled (A) The page has a title describing its topic or purpose</p>	Supports	A descriptive page title that identifies content/purpose is present for all pages.
<p>2.4.4: Link Purpose (In Context) (A) The purpose of each link can be determined from the link text or surrounding context.</p>	Partially supports	<p>An identifiable purpose may be deduced for almost all links from the link text or surrounding context.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Header: The logo link to the home page is “logo” which does not describe its purpose.
<p>2.5.3: 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.</p>	Supports	User interface components that have visible text contain that text consistently within the accessible name.
<p>3.2.4: Consistent Identification (AA) UI components used across the web site are identified consistently on every page.</p>	Supports	Components are typically consistent across the site and identified consistently where they perform the same function across pages.
<p>3.3.1: Error Identification (A) Input errors are clearly marked and described to the user.</p>	Supports	Errors are identified and presented well visually. For many inputs, errors are typically validated after form submission. Error messages that offer specific feedback are presented adjacently and visually distinguished.
<p>3.3.2: Labels or Instructions (A)</p>	Partially supports	Labels or instructions are provided for most form elements, most of which are programmatically associated with their inputs.

<p>Items requiring user input are clearly labeled or have clear instructions.</p>		<p>Note: see SC 1.3.1 for exceptions where visible labels may not be programmatically associated with inputs.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Header: In responsive or zoomed-in views, the magnifier glass image button moves focus to the search form when pressed but is not labeled to inform users that, in addition to pinning or unpinning the search, it also nearly moves focus to the search form. • Compare: There are no instructions guiding users to first go to a DX document or search by DX results to select the "Compare" checkbox. Users then need to return to the header to click the "Compare" link to perform the comparison.
<p>3.3.3: Error Suggestion (AA) When the user makes an input error, give suggestions for valid input.</p>	<p>Supports</p>	<p>The nature of content would largely not give rise to opportunities for error suggestions, but relevant helpful suggestions are occasionally provided in text.</p>
<p>4.1.2: Name, Role, Value (A) For all UI components, the name, value, and role can be programmatically determined.</p>	<p>Partially supports</p>	<p>Some UI components communicate their state programmatically, and many have accessible names that are appropriately defined. Several ARIA attributes and roles are not present where appropriate.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign In: The password tooltip has an accessible state however the states updates are not immediately indicated. • Header: In responsive or zoomed-in views, the magnifier glass image button moves focus to the search form when pressed, in addition to pinning or unpinning the search, when the screen reader user unpins this there is no feedback that this was successfully unpinned. The dropdown items in the header navigation uses the ARIA action menu attributes without the associated keyboard behavior and state changes. • Home: The browse dropdown items use the ARIA action menu attributes without the associated keyboard behavior and state changes. • Search: When the using type ahead autosuggests search results states are not indicated. The incomplete ARIA listbox pattern for "Filter by category" causes the label not to be announced, preventing users from traversing list items via focus mode and leaving focus movement without any announced information. When interacting with the autosuggest search, it is not clear that users must tab out of the search field to get to the list of results and switch using arrow key navigation based on the current programmatic attributes provided. When searching by images, the list of image results are buttons that have labels to indicate what position the images are but not what they will do. When navigating a responsive view of 512px or smaller view, the image carousel gallery has no label or state information to inform users that the new carousel image as appeared, and muted/greyed out disabled images are still available to AT users.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Document Views: All the image-related viewing issues that occur in the Search also occur here. The dropdown items in the header navigation uses the ARIA action menu attributes without the associated keyboard behavior and state changes. The Thumbnail and Caption toggle buttons, when they are disabled do not indicate so programmatically. • CME: Sortable table headings lack sorting state due to the aria-sort attribute being in the wrong location. The checkboxes in tables contain 2 labels one on the checkbox itself and one that is visually hidden text.
<p>4.1.3: 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.</p>	Supports	Status messages are rare but are provided to AT users where applicable.

Multimedia

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
<p>1.2.1: Audio-only or Video-only (Prerecorded) (A) Provide alternatives for pre-recorded audio-only or video-only content.</p>	Supports (N/A)	There is no pre-recorded audio-only or video-only content.
<p>1.2.2: Captions (Prerecorded) (A) Provide captions for pre-recorded audio</p>	Supports	The video content on the web application does not contain audio. Note that there are onscreen text descriptions for all video only content.
<p>1.2.3: Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (A) Provide alternatives for pre-recorded synchronized audio/video</p>	Supports	Video content in the web application does not contain audio. Text descriptions are provided on screen.
<p>1.2.4: Captions (Live) (AA) Provide captions for live audio in</p>	Supports (N/A)	There is no synchronized audio/video content nor live audio.

synchronized audio/video.		
1.2.5: Audio Description (Prerecorded) (AA) Provide an audio description of pre-recorded video.	Supports	The video content on the web application does not contain audio. Note that there are onscreen text descriptions for all video only content.
1.4.2: Audio Control (A) Audio can be paused and stopped, or the audio volume can be changed.	Supports	No pages feature audio content that plays automatically.
2.2.2: 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 for which the criterion is applicable.

Usability

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
2.2.1: Timing Adjustable (A) Users are warned of time limits shorter than 20 hours and time limits can be turned off or extended	Supports	The logged in session time is 20 hours.
2.4.5: Multiple Ways (AA) More than one way is available to navigate to other web pages.	Supports	All pages (except steps/results of a process) may typically be located and accessed in multiple ways. For example, main navigation is consistently available across pages, and secondary navigation is often present in the form of breadcrumb trails representing page hierarchy. Global search functionality that comprehensively indexes content across the site allows users to find specific pages.
3.2.2: On Input (A) Changing the setting of a checkbox, radio button, or other UI component does not trigger unexpected changes in context.	Supports	User input, such as changing the values of form elements, does not initiate unexpected actions or changes in context for the UI components in the application.
3.2.3: Consistent Navigation (AA) Navigation menus are in the same location	Supports	Navigation menus are consistent across pages. Global navigation links in the header are consistent across pages, occurring in the same order.

and order on every web page.		
3.3.4: Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (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)	There are no submissions which require legal or financial commitments.

Mobile User Experience

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
1.3.4: 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	Pages do not restrict view and operation of content to a single orientation.
2.5.1: 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 (N/A)	Pages do not utilize or require multipoint or path-based gestures for any functionality.
2.5.2: Pointer Cancellation (A) For functionality that can be operated using a single pointer, at least one of the following is true: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (A)	Supports (N/A)	There is no content that utilizes device or user motion.

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