

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template[®] (VPAT[®])

WCAG Edition

Version 2.5

Cambridge University Press and Assessment Accessibility Conformance Report WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5)

Name of Product/Version:

Cambridge Core

Report Date:

2nd April 2025

Product Description:

Cambridge Core is a platform for Cambridge University Press's academic content.

Contact Information:

The best way to reach us is to [submit a diagnostics form](#), which will put you in touch with our technical support team. If you are unable to complete the form or prefer to contact us by phone, please find our technical support phone number and email address on our [contact information page](#).

Evaluation Methods Used:

The website is measured against the Web Accessibility Initiative's (WAI) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 (WCAG 2.2) to give accurate feedback on any non-compliant issues. To attain our standard accreditation all A and AA criteria must be achieved. To give a more accurate review of the website we and our 3rd party auditors (the Digital Accessibility Centre) employ two main testing processes. The first is a manual technical audit using automated tools and the second a dedicated team of user testers with differing disabilities test using a range of adaptive technologies. The findings of both are combined to give more accurate feedback on the website. By using the testing team in conjunction with an automated procedure a more accurate set of results are made available. The resulting report combines technical auditing with disabled user feedback. The test does not list each specific area that requires change but highlights patterns of problems where they exist. Each section of the report includes a qualifying statement of pass, fail or recommendation to help developers quickly identify which parts of the website need the most urgent attention.

Notes:

Cambridge University Press & Assessment Academic teams are currently undergoing major project to ensure any newly created content is accessible and compliant with the latest version of WCAG. Specific areas of improvements of our content include alternative text for all descriptive images (including long descriptions for complex images), captions and descriptive transcript for video/audio content, semantic mark up of content tables, etc. This will be followed by addressing any accessibility issues with older content.

We are also working towards including accessibility metadata related to individual pieces of content.

We have also reported any 3rd party accessibility issues to the providers.

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 2.0	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
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 only be used in WCAG Level AAA criteria.

WCAG 2.2 Report

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.2 Success Criteria, they are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility-supported ways of using technology as documented in the [WCAG 2.2 Conformance Requirements](#).

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)	Partially Supports	Examples of supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Images include descriptive alternative text.• Form buttons have a descriptive label.• Form inputs have associated text labels. Examples of exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Older archive content reproduced from original printed sources is presented in the form of scanned PDFs with accompanying background text, produced using OCR (Optical Character Recognition).• Some HTML content tables are presented as images.• Some HTML content images don't include alt tags, but most include adjacent description.• Some third-party plugins may not include descriptive text alternatives.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Does not support	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A descriptive text transcript is not provided for web-based audio.• A text or audio description is not provided for web-based video-only.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Partially Supports	Examples of supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Synchronized captions are present for some videos. Examples of exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Captions may not be present for some content supplementary videos.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Does not support	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A descriptive text transcript / audio description audio track is not provided for web-based video.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Partially Supports	Examples of supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Headings and lists are used for hierarchical content structure.• Pages are usable with styles disabled.• Text labels are associated with form input elements.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required form fields are clearly marked. Examples of exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some PDF documents are lacking the appropriate structure for screen reader users to interact with the document. There are third party widgets on the site which may not have the appropriate semantic html structure to enable users of assistive technology to interact with the widgets.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reading and navigation order (determined by code order) is logical and intuitive.
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instructions and content do not rely upon shape, size, visual location or sound.
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Partially Supports	Examples of supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In most areas colour is not used as the sole method of conveying content or distinguishing visual elements. Examples of exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some textual links are not distinguishable from standard text without relying on colour.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambridge Core website does not contain any auto-playing audio.
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Partially Supports	Examples of supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All page functionality is available using the keyboard on most of the platform. Access keys are not present (to avoid any system and browser compatibility issues). Examples of exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some third-party plugin functionality may not be fully accessible via keyboard.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No keyboard traps are present on the website.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No keyboard shortcuts are present on the website.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No time limits are present on the website.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambridge Core website does not contain any moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating content.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The website does not contain any flashing content.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skip to content link is present to bypass repeating elements (e.g. navigation) on all pages. Heading structure is marked up to aid assistive technology navigation.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pages have a descriptive and informative page title.
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The navigation order of links, form elements, etc. is logical and intuitive.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of links (and buttons) can be determined from the link text alone where possible. Where not possible, additional text is provided for screen readers, e.g. using aria-label/aria-labelledby.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All functionality on this website can be operated with a single pointer without relying on a multipoint or path-based gesture.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pointer cancellation occurs on the up-event for interactive elements.
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The accessible name (label, alternative text, aria-label, etc.) of a component includes visible label text of that component.

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2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content is not dependent on a user's ability to move a device.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The language of the page is identified using the HTML lang attribute (<html lang="en">).
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No page elements trigger changes in context when they receive focus.
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where controls trigger changes in context, users are notified of this.
3.2.6 Consistent Help (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help and contact details occur in the same order relative to other page content throughout this website.
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Required form elements are clearly marked. Form validation errors are intuitive and accessible. The errors are clearly identified (by proximity of the message and a highlight).
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labels, cues, and instructions for interactive elements are provided via instructional text, examples and properly positioned form labels.
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information previously entered by or provided to the user is not required to be entered again in the same process.
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A) WCAG 2.0 and 2.1 – Always answer ‘Supports’ WCAG 2.2 (obsolete and removed) - Does not apply	Supports	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	Examples of supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Markup in general follows the HTML/XHTML specifications (e.g. form elements, links, lists, etc.). Aria-label/aria-labelledby are used to provide descriptive link/button names where the visual label is not sufficient. Examples of exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some third-party plugin functionality may include elements without accessible names.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live audio content is not present on this website.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Does not support	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Video content may not include an appropriate audio description or media alternative. Cambridge University Press are looking into requesting this from authors and making this part of our policy.
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The website is fully responsive and works well in portrait and landscape modes.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input fields have an appropriate autocomplete attribute defined where applicable.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Examples of supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The colour contrast is sufficient (4.5:1) in most areas throughout the website. Examples of exceptions:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some third-party plugins components lack sufficient colour contrast.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The pages are readable and functional when the text size is increased to 400%.
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Examples of supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Images of text are not used where possible. Examples of exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In some areas, images of text have been used to display beneficial content, which cannot be modified to the users' needs.
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The page is readable and functional when the text size is increased to 400% without horizontal scroll bars.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially Supports	Examples of supports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-text colour contrast is sufficient (3:1) in most areas throughout the website. Examples of exceptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some third-party plugins components lack sufficient colour contrast in non-text elements.
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elements that contain text use relative sizes so no loss of content or functionality occurs when the user adapts different text spacing.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Content presented on hover or focus can be dismissed. The new content remains visible until the pointer or keyboard focus is moved away.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple ways are available to find other pages on the site, e.g. navigation, search, site map, crumb trails, etc.
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headings are descriptive. Labels are descriptive.

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2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All elements which are within the control of Cambridge Core have a visible focus state indicator.
2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused components are not obscured by other page components.
2.5.7 Dragging Movements (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No functionality that requires dragging movement is present on the website.
2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The size of the target for pointer inputs is at least 24 by 24 pixels. Where this is not possible, sufficient spacing is applied around the target.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The language of page content that is in a different language is identified using the lang attribute.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Navigation is consistent throughout the website.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elements that have the same functionality across multiple web pages are consistently identified (e.g. search box looks the same and uses the same identification throughout).
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about how to correct input errors is provided.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facility for users to review and correct data before submitting is provided.
3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A cognitive function test (such as remembering a password or solving a puzzle) is not required on this website.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Important status messages are announced by screen readers.