American Physical Society Journals Accessibility Conformance Report
WCAG Edition

Based on Voluntary Product Accessibility Template® (VPAT®)[1]

VPAT® Version 2.3 – December 2018

Name of Product/Version: American Physical Society Journals

Product Description: Journal Website of APS **https://journals.aps.org/**

Date: October 03, 2019

Contact information: APS Technical Support

help@aps.org

Notes:

Evaluation Methods Used: Evaluated using AXE 3.9.0 accessibility validator, manual element level checking and NVDA Screen Reader testing.

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, at *http://www.w3.org/TR/2008/REC-WCAG20-20081211/*	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 at *https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/*	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)

Terms

The terms used in the Conformance Level information are 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 not evaluated against the criterion.

WCAG 2.x Report

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.x Success Criteria, responses are 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)	Web: Partially Supports Electronic Docs: Partially Supports	Web: Images with meaningful information are having appropriate alternative text and ARIA attributes. There are some images used for user input functionality, which are missing image description. Electronic Docs: The non-text content represented by surrounding captions, however there is no specific alternative text description provided for the same.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Web: Does not support Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: Videos embedded from youtube and other author content do not typically contain closed captions, transcripts, or other text equivalents. Electronic Docs: Audio and video content supplied Web-only, not in PDFs or other document formats.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Web: Not Applicable Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: Videos embedded from youtube and other author content do not typically contain closed captions, transcripts, or other text equivalents. Electronic Docs: Audio and video content supplied Web-only, not in PDFs or other document formats.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Web: Not Applicable Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: Videos embedded from youtube and other author content do not typically contain closed captions, transcripts, or other text equivalents. Electronic Docs: Audio and video content supplied on Web-only, not in PDFs or other document formats.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Web: Partially supports	Web: Semantic HTML elements used for input and navigation. Form elements include labels and use the appropriate attributes to indicate their state (e.g., "selected"). ARIA attributes are included for most input and

		navigation elements to provide additional information for screen readers and other assistive devices. There are few form elements missing an explicit <label> element.
	PDF: Partially supports	Heading levels should follow semantic order. Electronic Docs: Cross-reference links for references, figures, and other callouts are available in the PDF.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports	Web: The structure of the Pages and content are well-defined with appropriate HTML5 semantic markup, ARIA attributes and metadata information. Electronic Docs: The existing structure of PDF will follow the sequence as paginated.
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: There is no specific animation or effects used to represent or convey any information. Electronic Docs: PDF documents do not have any special effects.
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions Electronic Docs: Does Not Support	Web: Information and alerts use color only as a highlight, all information conveyed in text (e.g., error messages are not just red but use text indicating there was an error and what the issue is). We have not tested all components to verify this functionality. Electronic Docs: There are some design elements such as tables, images, etc., are present with color to convey meaningful information.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Web: Not Applicable Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: No audio used for conveying any information. Electronic Docs: No audio is embedded in our PDFs.
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions	Web: Majority of the elements, including math display with Mathjax, are accessible via keyboard. However, there may

	Electronic Docs: Supports	be minimal content hidden or not accessible via keyboard since not all pages were tested. Electronic Docs: All the elements in the PDF are accessible via Keyboard.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions Electronic Docs: Supports	Web: There is no methodology available to verify this option. Electronic Docs: The standard PDF features will not have any keyboard trap.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 only)	Web: Not Applicable Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Not available
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports	Web: No timed responses are used. Electronic Docs: No timed responses are used.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Not applicable	Web: No auto-updating, scrolling, blinking, or similar elements are used on the website. Electronic Docs: This functionality is not applicable to PDFs.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports	Web: No such functionality available. Electronic Docs: No such functionality available.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: Navigation elements use semantic HTML5 markup and ARIA metadata that enable them to be bypassed. Electronic Docs: This is not applicable for PDFs.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: All pages are titled. Electronic Docs: Not applicable.
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions	Web: The focus order functionality is working fine. However, there may be few exceptions, as we did not check all the elements.

	Electronic Docs: Supports	Electronic Docs: All the elements are in order for focus.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Web: Partially Supports with Exceptions Electronic Docs: Supports	Web: Link text is present that identifies the purpose of a link without needing additional context. Some links are enhanced with appropriate ARIA mark-up. Electronic Docs: All the links provided with proper labels in the PDF.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 only)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: All the functionality can be operated with single pointer and no path-based gesture used. Electronic Docs: PDFs does not have such functionality, as the default system function will be applicable.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 only)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: The pointer cancellation will occur in the activation of a target, when the pointer is released. Electronic Docs: PDFs does not have such functionality, as the default system function will be applicable.
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 only)	Web: Does Not Support Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: Labels does not have accompanying text and at minimum hover text also missing. Electronic Docs: PDFs does not have any label elements.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 only)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports	Web: Motion based interpretation functionality is not available. Electronic Docs: Motion based interpretation functionality is not available.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Does Not Support	Web: Appropriate language code provided for all the pages. Electronic Docs: Though the entire content are in English language, the language option was not set to English.
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Not	Web: No context changes performed on focus. Electronic Docs: Functionality not relevant to PDFs.

		Applicable	
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: Most input elements only perform a change on submit or by a clear action taken by the user. There are some interface elements that update after being changed such as a drop down on a search filter, or expanding a mobile navigation element. Electronic Docs: Functionality not relevant to PDFs.	
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: Error message prompted for input errors with a summary of issues above the inputs or on individual inputs. We have not verified all the components. Electronic Docs: Functionality not relevant to PDFs.	
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: Most of the input elements have associated labels and/or placeholder text explaining their purpose and use. There are few input elements missing labels or instructions. Electronic Docs: Functionality not relevant to PDFs.	
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports	Web: All the pages structured with HTML5 elements and well-formed. Electronic Docs: All PDFs are validated to ensure they are well-formed.	
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: Standard HTML5 controls are used where possible and in cases where they are customized, HTML5 and/or ARIA attributes are included to provide additional information for screen readers and other assistive devices. We have not tested all components to verify this functionality. Electronic Docs: Functionality not relevant to PDFs.	

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	Web: Not Applicable Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: No live audio or video is presented. Electronic Docs: No live audio or video is presented.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Web: Not Applicable Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: Videos embedded from youtube and other author content do not typically contain closed captions, transcripts, or other text equivalents. Electronic Docs: Audio and video content supplied Web-only, not in PDFs or other document formats.
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 only)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports	Web: Content is not restricted to any single display orientation. PDF: Content is not restricted to any single display orientation.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 only)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: Appropriate input types provided for the input elements. PDF: Functionality not relevant to PDFs.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions Electronic Docs: Partially Supports Exceptions	Web: Branding and navigation elements are designed to comply with minimum contrast requirements in WCAG 2.0 AA, but we have not tested all components to verify this functionality. Content supplied by authors as part of supplemental material may contain elements not compliant with minimum contrast requirements. Electronic Docs: Text in PDFs formatted by APS comply with minimum contrast requirements but figures supplied by the author may contain text that does not meet this guideline.

[1.4.4 Resize text](#) (Level AA)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions Electronic Docs: Supports	Web: All font sizes are provided in em's and percentages. Text is scalable using built in browser controls. We have not tested all components to verify this functionality. Electronic Docs: Supported natively by PDF readers.
[1.4.5 Images of Text](#) (Level AA)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions Electronic Docs: Supports with Exceptions	Web: The main content of the site and articles all display as text in forms native to the browser/operating system. There are images of text included in the author provided content. Electronic Docs: The main content of the article is native PDF text. There may be images of text included in the author provided content as part of figures. We did not inspect all components to verify this functionality.
[1.4.10 Reflow](#) (Level AA 2.1 only)		Meets the requirement
[1.4.11 Non-text Contrast](#) (Level AA 2.1 only)		Meets the requirement
[1.4.12 Text Spacing](#) (Level AA 2.1 only)		Meets the requirement
[1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus](#) (Level AA 2.1 only)		Fails to meet this criteria. Meaningful information should be displayed while hovering over the focus triggers.
[2.4.5 Multiple Ways](#) (Level AA)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: Primary article content may be navigated in multiple ways (e.g., by volume/issue, search, highlighted content, etc.). Some information pages link only through a direct parent page or other means. Electronic Docs: Each PDF is a self-contained document.
[2.4.6 Headings and Labels](#) (Level AA)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions Electronic Docs: Partially Supports Exceptions	Web: Pages contain descriptive headings and labels. We did not tested all components to verify this functionality. Electronic Docs: PDFs contain headings and labels indicating pages and other information. Content includes headings as provided by the authors.
[2.4.7 Focus Visible](#) (Level AA)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions	Web: Default browser indicator styles are used across the pages. All skip links should have a focusable target. Electronic Docs: Focus functionality is provided by the

	Electronic Docs: Partially Supports Exceptions	PDF reader, we have no way to verify this functionality.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Does Not Support	Web: Only English content available across all the pages, which is marked perfectly in all the HTML metadata. Electronic Docs: No language specified.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Does Not Support	Web: Pages are well-structured with consistent navigation. Electronic Docs: No navigation in the PDF.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Web: Partially Support Electronic Docs: Does Not Support	Web: Elements in the pages are well-structured with proper HTML5 markup. However the document should have only one main landmark and each iframe in the page has at most one main landmark. Some page content is not contained by landmarks. Electronic Docs: PDF elements are not captured with relevant tagging structure.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: Clear error messages are provided indicating any errors. Messages contain guidance for the user to correct the input by highlighting omission of required fields. Electronic Docs: This functionality is not available in the PDF. No PDFs sampled allow user input.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Web: Partially Supports Exceptions Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Web: User account creation has a message indicating the user is agreeing to the terms with links to these documents. This is checked for all users and may not be unchecked. Purchases on the site use a multi-step process with confirmation of the purchase details and amount at each step before the order is finalized. Electronic Docs: This functionality is not available in the PDF.

[4.1.3 Status Messages](#) (Level AA 2.1 only)	Web: Not Applicable Electronic Docs: Not Applicable	Not available

Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA

Notes: We aim for conformance with WCAG 2.0 Level AA, AAA not evaluated at this time.

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