

SPIE Accessibility Conformance Report

Revised Section 508 Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5)

Name of Product/Version: SPIE Digital Library

Report Date: 25 June 2025

Product Description: The SPIE Digital Library is the world's largest collection of optics and photonics applied research, with more than 662,000 papers spanning biomedicine, communications, sensors, defense and security, manufacturing, electronics, energy, and imaging.

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Evaluation Methods Used: All criteria evaluated through broad product knowledge and testing by professional staff. Automated testing using ObservePoint was conducted for this report.

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 2.2	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Revised Section 508 standards published January 18, 2017 and corrected January 22, 2018	(Yes)

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.
- **N/A:** 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 2.0 Report

Tables 1 and 2 also document conformance with Revised Section 508:

- Chapter 5 – 501.1 Scope, 504.2 Content Creation or Editing
- Chapter 6 – 602.3 Electronic Support Documentation

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.0 Success Criteria, they are scoped 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
<p><u>1.1.1 Non-text Content</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A</p>	<p>Web: All content figures and tables are accompanied by explanatory captions. Time-based media have either explanatory captions (for short integrated video figures) or full-text transcripts (for full-length presentations).</p> <p>Electronic Docs: PDF formatted papers include explanatory captions for all figures and tables.</p> <p>We are currently working on ensuring that all images presented to the user have a text alternative that serves the equivalent purpose.</p>
<p><u>1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A</p>	<p>Web: Time-based media have either explanatory captions (for short integrated video figures) or full-text transcripts (for full-length presentations). Currently all but 1% of full-length presentations have full-text transcripts, the remaining 1% have attributes which prevent complete transcription (sound quality, etc.)</p>
<p><u>1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A</p>	<p>Web: Short video clips integrated into papers do not include audio content. Long-form presentations with audio are closed captioned. Currently all but 1% of full-length presentations have full-text transcripts, the remaining 1% have attributes which prevent complete transcription (sound quality, etc.)</p>
<p><u>1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A</p>	<p>Web: Currently all but 1% of full-length presentations have full-text transcripts, the remaining 1% have attributes which prevent complete transcription (sound quality, etc.)</p>

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<p><u>1.3.1 Info and Relationships</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A</p>	<p>Web: Information and Relationships are designated in the page source; Abstract as abstract, Sections as sections, etc.</p> <p>Electronic Docs: Information and relationships in the PDF files are shown via text formatting and variation as per standard printed scientific publication.</p> <p>We are currently working on ensuring that Information and relationships conveyed through presentation can be programmatically determined or are available in text.</p>
<p><u>1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A</p>	<p>Web: Information is provided in a meaningful sequence on the page in the document as a whole, following standard science publication practice.</p> <p>Electronic Docs: Information is provided in a meaningful sequence on the page in the document as a whole, following standard science publication practice.</p>
<p><u>1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A</p>	<p>Web: Instructions provided for understanding and operating content do not rely solely on sensory characteristics of components such as shape, color, size, visual location, orientation, or sound.</p> <p>Electronic Docs: As noted above.</p>
<p><u>1.4.1 Use of Color</u> (Level A)</p> <p>Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A</p>	<p>Web: Due to the nature of SPIE's optics content, some papers discuss and present color in particular depth. Even in these cases though, care is taken to have proper captions and textual explanation.</p> <p>Electronic Docs: Same as Web note above.</p> <p>We are currently working on ensuring that links are distinguished from surrounding text in a way that does not rely on color.</p>

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<p><u>1.4.2 Audio Control</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: No web page in the site contains audio content that plays automatically.
<p><u>2.1.1 Keyboard</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Tabbing through links works as expected. Focus state indicator is provided for keyboard users in order to maintain orientation on page.
<p><u>2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Focus can be moved away from page components using only a keyboard interface.
<p><u>2.2.1 Timing Adjustable</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: There is a 20-minute session time out, however, once the user takes any further action on the site, a new session is instantiated with the appropriate access to content.
<p><u>2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: All moving, blinking, or scrolling information is limited to less than five seconds. The site contains no other automatically updated information.
<p><u>2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Currently the SPIE Digital Library contains some advertisements that include blinking or otherwise cycling graphic elements. These elements animate for no more than 5 seconds, then become static.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<p><u>2.4.1 Bypass Blocks</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Structural markup and multiple navigation paths allow for bypassing non-primary content blocks.
<p><u>2.4.2 Page Titled</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Content page titles are the title of the contained article. Other page titles describe the page’s content and/or function. We are currently working on ensuring that all web pages have a meaningful title that describes the topic or purpose.
<p><u>2.4.3 Focus Order</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Focus order is preserved. See note for 2.1.1
<p><u>2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: The purpose of most links can be determined from the link text alone or from the link text together with its programmatically determined link context. Electronic Docs: As above. We are currently working on ensuring that the purpose of all links can be programmatically determined.
<p><u>3.1.1 Language of Page</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Language is designated in page metadata as ‘En’. We are currently working on ensuring that assistive technology devices can determine the language of all pages.
<p><u>3.2.1 On Focus</u> (Level A) Also applies to:</p>	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A	Web: When any component receives focus, it does not initiate a change of context.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	
<u>3.2.2 On Input</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Changing the setting of any user interface component does not automatically cause a change of context.
<u>3.3.1 Error Identification</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Error identification is provided on the input of username and password for sign-in. No errors are generated on search input (the only site input other than credentials) as all search items are considered legitimate search queries.
<u>3.3.2 Labels or Instructions</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Labels or instructions are provided for most content that requires user input, both for sign-in and search queries. We are currently working on ensuring that instructions are provided for all content requiring user input.
<u>4.1.1 Parsing</u> (Level A) Also applies to: WCAG 2.0 – Always answer ‘Supports’ Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Supports	For WCAG 2.0 and the 508 standards, the September 2023 errata update indicates this criterion is always supported. See the WCAG 2.0 Editorial Errata .
<u>4.1.2 Name, Role, Value</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: For most user interface components, the name and role can be programmatically determined and set. We are currently working on ensuring that the name and role for all UI components can be programmatically determined.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<p><u>1.2.4 Captions (Live)</u> (Level AA)</p> <p>Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Web: N/A Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A</p>	<p>No live audio content is presented on the web site.</p>
<p><u>1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)</u> (Level AA)</p> <p>Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Web: Partially Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A</p>	<p>Web: Short video content integrated into research papers are described in captions and full text. Longer conference presentations may have audio description provided by the presenter, but this is not the case with every conference presentation. Most videos will have a transcript, except those that have bad audio.</p>
<p><u>1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)</u> (Level AA)</p> <p>Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A</p>	<p>Web: A majority of content web pages meet the 4.5:1 contrast requirement.</p> <p>We are currently working on ensuring that all content web pages meet the 4.5:1 contrast requirement.</p>
<p><u>1.4.4 Resize text</u> (Level AA)</p> <p>Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A</p>	<p>Web: Supported via browser functionality</p>
<p><u>1.4.5 Images of Text</u> (Level AA)</p> <p>Also applies to: Revised Section 508</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	<p>Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A</p>	<p>Web: Some math content is represented by images of equations and formulae, this is deemed as essential to the information being conveyed (see note on WCAG 1.4.5 specifications).</p>
<p><u>2.4.5 Multiple Ways</u> (Level AA)</p> <p>Also applies to:</p>	<p>Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports</p>	<p>Web: More than one way is available to locate a Web page within a set of Web pages.</p>

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs 	Authoring Tool: N/A	
<u>2.4.6 Headings and Labels</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Most headings and labels describe topic or purpose. Electronic Docs: As above. We are currently working on ensuring that all headings and labels describe their purpose.
<u>2.4.7 Focus Visible</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Tabbing through links works as expected. Focus state indicator is provided for keyboard users in order to maintain orientation on page.
<u>3.1.2 Language of Parts</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Language is designated in page metadata as 'En'.
<u>3.2.3 Consistent Navigation</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) • 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Navigation is consistent for all pages, by content type, across the site. There are some minor changes between book, article, and video presentation pages but they are consistent inside those content types and parallel to other navigation arrangements on the site.
<u>3.2.4 Consistent Identification</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software • 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Components that have the same functionality within a set of Web pages are identified consistently.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 602.3 (Support Docs) – Does not apply to non-web docs 		
<u>3.3.3 Error Suggestion</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: The SPIE Digital Library has two places for user input, user credentials for the purpose of signing into personal accounts, and search input. No input error suggestion is appropriate for signing in. Search does not offer error suggestion but does offer search suggestions as the user types to help prevent errors ahead of time.
<u>3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)</u> (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 504.2 (Authoring Tool) 602.3 (Support Docs) 	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: User input for financial transactions (the purchase of a subscription) is reversible, checked, and confirmed.

Revised Section 508 Report

Chapter 3: Functional Performance Criteria (FPC)

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
302.1 Without Vision	Supports	The SPIE Digital Library uses standard markup language to describe the identity, operation, and state of user interface elements. This affords basic functionality with common assistive technologies such as the NVDA and ChromeVox screen readers.
302.2 With Limited Vision	Supports	Support for standard browser magnification and contrast adjustments
302.3 Without Perception of Color	Partially supports	In the basic site design, color is not used solely to convey information,

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		however, much of the scientific content on the site revolves around color and some of that content would be difficult to understand without color perception.
302.4 Without Hearing	Supports	Audio content (which is always paired with video content) is accompanied by full-text, searchable, transcripts.
302.5 With Limited Hearing	Supports	Audio content (which is always paired with video content) is accompanied by full-text, searchable, transcripts.
302.6 Without Speech	N/A	The SPIE Digital Library does not require speech input.
302.7 With Limited Manipulation	Supports	Supports standard and specialized computer input mechanisms meant for web browsing. The SPIE Digital Library does not require fine motor skills or simultaneous input actions to navigate.
302.8 With Limited Reach and Strength	N/A	
302.9 With Limited Language, Cognitive, and Learning Abilities	Supports	Supports in the sense of web site operation and navigation. Comprehension of the content is highly individualized.

Chapter 4: [Hardware](#)

Notes: This section has been removed. The SPIE Digital Library does not provide hardware.

Chapter 5: [Software](#)

Notes: This section has been removed. The SPIE Digital Library does not provide software.

Chapter 6: Support Documentation and Services

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
601.1 Scope		
<u>602 Support Documentation</u>		
602.2 Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Supports	SPIE provides accessibility information on a Help page found at https://www.spiedigitallibrary.org/help/accessibility
602.3 Electronic Support Documentation	Supports	Found at https://www.spiedigitallibrary.org/help
602.4 Alternate Formats for Non-Electronic Support Documentation	N/A	SPIE Digital Library support is supplied via electronic format and available via phone support services
<u>603 Support Services</u>		
603.2 Information on Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Supports	Support staff versed in accessibility and compatibility features of the SPIE Digital Library are available.
603.3 Accommodation of Communication Needs	Supports	Support services are available through a range of communication methods to accommodate the communication needs of individuals with disabilities.