

SPIE Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5)

Name of Product/Version: SPIE Digital Library

Report Date: 26 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 2.0	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 2.0 Conformance Requirements](#).

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	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). Electronic Docs: PDF formatted papers include explanatory captions for all figures and tables. We are currently working on ensuring that all images presented to the user have a text alternative that serves the equivalent purpose.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	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.)
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	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.)
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	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.)
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A	Web: Information and Relationships are designated in the page source; Abstract as abstract, Sections as sections, etc.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
	Authoring Tool: N/A	<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>
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	<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>
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	<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>
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	<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: As noted 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>
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A	<p>Web: No web page on the site contains audio content that plays automatically.</p>

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
	Authoring Tool: N/A	
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	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 to maintain orientation on page.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	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.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Web: N/A Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	We do not currently implement keyboard shortcuts in content on the Digital Library.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	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.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	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.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	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.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Structural markup and multiple navigation paths allow for bypassing non-primary content blocks.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	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.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Focus order is preserved. See remarks for 2.1.1
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	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.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Web: N/A Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Content on the Digital Library is currently “point and click”, without using a path-based gesture.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Web: N/A Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Content on the Digital Library is currently based on “up-event” interactions.
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Web: Partially Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	We are currently working on ensuring that all UI components with labels that include text or images of text also contain the text that is presented visually in the name of the label.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Web: N/A Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Content on the Digital Library is currently not triggered by moving a device or gesturing towards a device.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	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.
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	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
	Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	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.
3.2.6 Consistent Help (Level A 2.2 only)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Help can be found in the same place on all pages of the digital library (in the footer).
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	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.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	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.
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A 2.2 only)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	The Digital Library does not ask for the same information twice in the same activity.
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 .
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)	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
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	Web: N/A Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	No live audio content is presented on the web site.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Web: Partially Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	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.
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Web: N/A Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Content on the Digital Library is currently not restricted by device orientation.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	The purpose of common inputs can be programmatically determined, where technology allows.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: A majority of content web pages meet the 4.5:1 contrast requirement. We are currently working on ensuring that all content web pages meet the 4.5:1 contrast requirement.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: Supported via browser functionality
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A	Web: Some math content is represented by images of equations and formulae, this is deemed as

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
	Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	essential to the information being conveyed (see note on WCAG 1.4.5 specifications).
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Web: Does Not Support Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	We are working to ensure that content can be presented without loss of information or functionality, and without requiring scrolling in two dimensions, except for parts of the content which require two-dimensional layout for usage or meaning.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: The visual presentation of UI components and graphical objects have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1 against adjacent color(s).
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Users can adjust text spacing to make it easier to read.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Where receiving and then removing pointer hover or keyboard focus triggers additional content to become visible and then hidden, that content is dismissible, hover-able, and persistent.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: Supports Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: More than one way is available to locate a Web page within a set of Web pages.
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	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.
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: See note in this document under 2.1.1

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	When a user interface component receives keyboard focus, the component is not entirely hidden due to author-created content.
2.5.7 Dragging Movements (Level AA 2.2 only)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	The Digital Library does not rely on dragging movements for user actions.
2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Web: Partially Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	We are currently working to ensure that the target for pointer inputs meets a minimum size or have sufficient spacing around them.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Web: Does Not Support Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Web: See note in this document under 3.1.1
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	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.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	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.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	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 suggestions but does offer search suggestions as the user types to help prevent errors ahead of time.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	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.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Web: Supports Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	The Digital Library does not make people solve, recall, or transcribe something to log in.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Web: N/A Electronic Docs: N/A Software: N/A Authoring Tool: N/A	Status messages are not currently implemented on content in the Digital Library.