

GeoScienceWorld Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5)

Name of Product/Version: <https://pubs.geoscienceworld.org/>

Report Date: December, 2023

Product Description: GeoScienceWorld (GSW) is a nonprofit collaborative and comprehensive resource for research and communications in the Earth Sciences.

Contact Information:

Notes:

Evaluation Methods Used:

This digital product has been evaluated using the W3C's Web Accessibility Initiative's (WAI) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 (WCAG 2.2). The evaluation was done using the WCAG 2.2 Success Criteria for Level A and Level AA conformance, and the accessibility standards established in Section 508 of the United States Rehabilitation Act.

A team of accessibility evaluators has assessed the product using the following steps:

- Overall analysis of the product to check compliance with Meaningful Sequence, Keyboard Operability, Color Contrast, Text Reflow and Text Magnification criteria
- Automated testing using Powermapper’s Sortsite software (<https://www.powermapper.com/products/sortsite/checks/accessibility-checks/>) which flags non-compliant issues in the code via a full website scan
- Manual verification of the issues found in automated scanning and re-testing using Chrome Lighthouse, keyboard navigation and the Mac OS Voiceover screenreader
- Manual testing of multimedia content to check for compliance with Alternative to Time-Based Media, Captions, and Audio Description criteria

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	<p>Level A (Yes)</p> <p>Level AA (Yes)</p> <p>Level AAA (No)</p>

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 be used only in WCAG 2.0 Level AAA.

WCAG 2.x Report

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.x 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)	Partially Supports	Most non-text content has a text alternative that serves the equivalent purpose, but: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some images use alt text that matches an image file name. • Some images use alt text that is too generic such as “graphic”. • Some PDFs contain images with no alt text. • Some pages contain img elements that do not have an accessible name. • Some images use alt text that mentions a color, which isn't useful for blind users. • Some pages contain words made of Unicode characters that look like English characters but are from another alphabet. This means screen readers are unable to pronounce these words correctly.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Does Not Support	The site does not provide an alternative for time-based media that presents equivalent information for prerecorded video-only content. See: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://pubs.geoscienceworld.org/gsa/geosphere/article/16/2/474/580278/Dynamic-models-of-earthquake-rupture-along-branch
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Not Applicable	Synchronized media not used in product.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Not Applicable	Synchronized media not used in product.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Partially Supports	Information, structure, and relationships conveyed through presentation can mostly be programmatically determined or are available in text, however: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One page contains an li element that is not allowed as a child element in this context. • Some pages contain headings that are empty. • Some pages contain data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers but do not use markup to associate data cells and header cells.. • Some PDFs are not tagged to be accessible by screen readers. • Some pages should use HTML headings instead of applying CSS heading styles to non-headings. Screen reader users rely on headings to navigate within pages. • Some pages should use semantic markup like strong instead of using the CSS font-weight property.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Supports	Correct reading sequence can be programmatically determined.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supports	The site's content does not rely solely on sensory characteristics.
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Partially Supports	Color is mostly not used as the only visual means of conveying information, however: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some links have underlining removed but do not use an additional visual cue such as bold formatting to convey that they are links. • Some images use alt text that mentions a color, which isn't useful for blind users.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Supports	Audio content does not play automatically.
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Partially Supports	The site is mostly operable by a keyboard interface, however some pages contain link elements with no href or ARIA role attributes.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supports	Focus can be moved away from components using a keyboard interface.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Supports	A mechanism is available to bypass blocks of content that are repeated on multiple Web pages.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Partially Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some pages are missing title tags. • Some PDFs contain blank title tags.
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Supports	Components can be focused in an order that preserves meaning and operability.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Partially Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some pages contain <a> tags that do not contain text or an img with an alt attribute. • Some pages contain links that share the same link text and surrounding context, but go to different destinations.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	For user interface components with labels that include text, the label name contains the text that is presented visually.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Partially Supports	Some pages do not have a lang attribute to identify the language of the page.
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supports	Focused components do not change context.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Supports	Changing component settings do not change context.
3.2.6 Consistent Help (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	Links to help mechanisms are consistently located in the footer of microsites.
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Supports	Input errors are described to the user.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Supports	Labels/instructions provided when user input required.
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	Information previously entered by or provided to the user that is required to be entered again in the same process is auto-populated or available for the user to select.
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A) WCAG 2.0 and 2.1 – Always answer ‘Supports’ WCAG 2.2 (obsolete and removed) - Does not apply	Not Applicable	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)	Partially Supports	The name and role of user interface components can be programmatically determined, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some pages contain an element with a role that hides child elements but has focusable child elements. • Some pages contain an element with an aria-hidden=true attribute but has focusable content. • Some pages contain clickable controls that should be keyboard accessible. • Some pages contain an HTML form control that has no accessible name. • Some pages contain links that must have an accessible name. • Some pages contain the element a which must not appear as a descendant of the button element.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	Live media not used in product.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	Synchronized media not used in product.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Content is not restricted to a specific display orientation.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially supports	Some pages contain input type=password elements, that do not have the autocomplete attribute set to new-password or current-password in order to identify input purpose.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Partially supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some pages contain text with less than a 4.5:1 contrast ratio. Some pages have background colors set on the body element but do not have color attributes set. If you set any of the colors on the body or a elements you must set all of them.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Supports	Text can be resized by browsers.
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Supports	Text is used to convey information rather than images of text.
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Content is presented without loss of functionality at mobile viewports.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially supports	Some pages contain user interface controls that have a contrast ratio below 3:1 against adjacent colors.
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	There's no loss of content or functionality with text spacing settings.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Content triggered by hover and focus states is dismissable, hoverable and persistent.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Partially supports	Most pages can be located in more than one way, however "View Large" Figure and Table pages can only be located in one way.
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Supports	Headings and labels describe topic or purpose.
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Partially supports	Some pages contain a CSS outline or border style on an element that makes it difficult to see the link focus outline.
2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	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)	Not Applicable	Feature not used in product.
2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	The size of the target for pointer inputs is at least 24 by 24 CSS pixels.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Some pages contain phrases in a different language that are not inside a span or div with a lang attribute.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	Navigations that are repeated on multiple pages appear in the same order
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supports	Components that have the same functionality are identified consistently.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Supports	Suggestions are provided to the user for secure input errors.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Supports	For Web pages that cause legal commitments or financial transactions for the user to occur, that modify or delete user-controllable data in data storage systems, or that submit user test responses, data entered by the user is checked for input errors and the user is provided an opportunity to correct them.
3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	A cognitive function test (such as remembering a password or solving a puzzle) is required for an authentication process, however a reset password mechanism is available to assist the user in completing the cognitive function test.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Does Not Support	Status messages do not use the role=status or role=alert attributes, so cannot be programmatically determined such that they can be presented to the user by assistive technologies without receiving focus.

Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.6 Sign Language (Prerecorded) (Level AAA)		
1.2.7 Extended Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AAA)		
1.2.8 Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level AAA)		
1.2.9 Audio-only (Live) (Level AAA)		
1.3.6 Identify Purpose (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)		
1.4.6 Contrast (Enhanced) (Level AAA)		
1.4.7 Low or No Background Audio (Level AAA)		
1.4.8 Visual Presentation (Level AAA)		
1.4.9 Images of Text (No Exception) (Level AAA)		
2.1.3 Keyboard (No Exception) (Level AAA)		

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.2.3 No Timing (Level AAA)		
2.2.4 Interruptions (Level AAA)		
2.2.5 Re-authenticating (Level AAA)		
2.2.6 Timeouts (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)		
2.3.2 Three Flashes (Level AAA)		
2.3.3 Animation from Interactions (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)		
2.4.8 Location (Level AAA)		
2.4.9 Link Purpose (Link Only) (Level AAA)		
2.4.10 Section Headings (Level AAA)		
2.4.12 Focus Not Obscured (Enhanced) (Level AAA 2.2 only)		
2.4.13 Focus Appearance (Level AAA 2.2 only)		
2.5.5 Target Size (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)		
2.5.6 Concurrent Input Mechanisms (Level AAA 2.1 and 2.2)		
3.1.3 Unusual Words (Level AAA)		
3.1.4 Abbreviations (Level AAA)		
3.1.5 Reading Level (Level AAA)		
3.1.6 Pronunciation (Level AAA)		
3.2.5 Change on Request (Level AAA)		
3.3.5 Help (Level AAA)		
3.3.6 Error Prevention (All) (Level AAA)		
3.3.9 Accessible Authentication (Enhanced) (Level AAA 2.2 only)		

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