

Women Writers Project Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5)

Name of Product/Version:

Women Writers Online (WWO)

Report Date:

August 1, 2024

Product Description:

Women Writers Online is a full-text collection of early women's writing in English, published on the internet by the Women Writers Project at Northeastern University. It includes full transcriptions of texts published between 1526 and 1850, focusing on materials that are rare or difficult to obtain.

The WWO interface is currently a single webpage, consisting of a header navigation bar and three primary panes:

- A sidebar for user controls, including
 - basic and advanced search of the WWO corpus,
 - filters for selecting subsets of interesting documents, and
 - preferences for the display of each document in the reader pane.

- The “Results” pane, which links to every document in WWO that matches any standing search or filter request. When a keyword search is performed, the results include up to three keywords-in-context for each document.
- The “Reader” pane, which displays an HTML representation of a transcribed document chosen from the Results pane. When not in use, the Reader pane is hidden.

WWO also includes a “Timeline” visualization, which dynamically shows the original publication dates of all WWO documents listed in the Results pane. A person using a mouse can interact with the Timeline such that the Results pane reflects only the documents published in the year(s) selected.

WWO does not include audio or video content. The platform contains few images, limited to:

- icons for several user controls;
- a spinner indicating the loading of page content; and
- the Timeline.

Where images appeared in the original documents, those images are represented *only* by textual descriptions, written in modern language by the transcribers.

Contact Information:

wwp@northeastern.edu

Notes:

The Timeline is generally inaccessible except by sighted people using a mouse. The content and functionality of the Timeline can be replicated through Advanced Search and the “Date” filters, which allow a user to narrow results to one or more years of publication. To determine the temporal range of publication for a set of results, users can sort those results by publication date. However, these methods require blind users to put in more work to discover the same information readily available to a sighted user. Removing or replacing this version of the Timeline with one that can be described by screen readers and interacted with by keyboard is a high priority for the Women Writers Project.

Several WCAG criteria are marked “Supports,” following VPAT instructions and the [WCAG 2.0 Guidelines](#), which indicate that “if there is no content to which a success criterion applies, the success criterion is satisfied.” In this VPAT, we include a note when we support a success criterion in this way.

Our latest accessibility statement and evaluations can be found on our [Accessibility page](#).

Evaluation Methods Used:

Most criteria were evaluated through a manual review of the WWO interface, using:

- mouse for interaction,
- keyboard for interaction, and
- Firefox developer tools to replicate CSS customization, and to check contrast, component roles, and labels.

In addition, Women Writers Online was checked for errors using the [WAVE Evaluation Tool for Firefox](#) at version 3.2.4.1.

Applicable Standards/Guidelines

This report covers the degree of conformance for the following accessibility standard/guidelines:

Standard/Guideline	Level	Included in Report
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0	A	Yes
	AA	Yes
	AAA	No
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	A	Yes
	AA	Yes
	AAA	No
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2	A	Yes
	AA	Yes
	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.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	The Timeline visualization does not have a text alternative at this time. Controls represented by icons have ARIA labels or visually-hidden text labels. The WWO interface does not include other non-text content.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Partially supports	A few document features are conveyed with CSS styling rather than through text content. For example, “Figure”, “Printed caption”, and transcribed handwriting are described with CSS “content” rules.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Supports	
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supports	
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Partially supports	Links in the sidebar and header are not visually differentiated from non-link text until they are hovered over or in focus. Links to individual documents are bolded.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Partially supports	The Timeline visualization cannot be interacted with by keyboard, only by mouse. Otherwise, keyboard interactions are supported for the entire interface.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supports	
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Does Not Support	When the full text of a document is loading, an animation is shown which cannot be controlled by the user. There is no other automatically-moving content.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Supports	The loading animation has low contrast with the surrounding page, and is unlikely to trigger seizures.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Supports	Skip navigation to the WWO results list is available. Headings and page landmarks/regions are also used.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Supports	
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Partially supports	The tab order of the “Feedback” link may be confusing for people expecting to access it after the contents of the left-most sidebar.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Supports	
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Supports	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supports	
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Supports	
3.2.6 Consistent Help (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Supports	
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A 2.2 only)	Partially supports	The search term in the basic search input is not replicated when “Advanced search” is selected.
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)	Supports	

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Does not support	Portrait orientation is not currently supported.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Supports	WWO currently aims for a text contrast ratio of at least 5:1.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Supports	
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Supports	
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially supports	While use of the horizontal scrollbar is avoided, and content does re-flow to fit the window, WWO loses some functionality at smaller screen sizes.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially supports	Icon images currently have a contrast of only about 2.5:1. A majority of interaction state indicators have contrasts of 4.06:1 and higher.
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially supports	Several buttons with icons include a “title” attribute, which displays as a tooltip on hover. While these tooltips are dismissible without moving the focus, the content of the tooltips is not persistent when a user attempts to move their mouse over to the tooltip content.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Supports	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Supports	
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Supports	
2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	
2.5.7 Dragging Movements (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Partially supports	The Timeline visualization can include a large number of very small circles in close proximity to one another. Clicking on a specific circle can be difficult. However, the same functionality can be reproduced with precision by using the Advanced Search to specify one or more years of publication.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Supports	
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supports	
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Does not support	When a document is loading in the WWO reader pane, a spinner animation appears to indicate the in-progress status of the pane. This status should also be conveyed through programmatically-available status messages.