

Voluntary Product Accessibility Template® (VPAT®)

WCAG Edition

Version 2.5Rev

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Women Writers Project Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5Rev)

Name of Product/Version:

Women Writers Online (WWO)

Report Date:

June 23, 2025

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 a browsable and searchable collection of documents. Each document is able to be opened in a Reader page. The main components of each page are these:

- A sidebar for user controls, including basic and advanced search of the WWO corpus.
- On the search page:
 - Filters for selecting subsets of interesting documents;

- The “Results” pane, which links to every document in WWO that matches any standing search or filter request; and
- The Timeline visualization, which dynamically shows the original publication dates of all WWO documents listed in the Results pane.
- On each document’s page:
 - Preferences for modifying the display of the document content;
 - The “Context” pane, which includes a sample citation for the work, metadata about the original publication, and any keywords-in-context from performing a search; and
 - The “Reader” pane, which displays an HTML representation of a transcribed document.
- Dialogs can be opened for “Feedback”, “Advanced Search”, and to access notes within WWO documents.

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

- icons for several user controls; and
- the Timeline, rendered as SVG with text descriptions.

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

Contact Information:

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Notes:

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 Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR), we include a note when we support a success criterion in this way.

This ACR was filled out on the occasion of a new version of Women Writers Online, which includes a number of fixes to inaccessible content. This report supercedes the ACR published in August 2024. It will likely be updated again as more fixes are completed.

To see our latest accessibility statement and evaluations, please visit the WWP’s [Accessibility page](#).

Evaluation Methods Used:

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

1. mouse for interaction,
2. keyboard for interaction, and
3. Firefox developer tools to replicate CSS customization, as well as 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 3.2.7.1.

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.

WCAG 2.2 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)	Supports	
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.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Partially supports	The WWO interface uses semantic HTML markup and tries to clearly mark relationships between elements. However, WWO documents sometimes make use of visual styling without semantic HTML., such as text that looks like headings but is not marked as such.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Supports	
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supports	
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Supports	
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Supports	
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.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Supports	A “skip to main content” link is available. Within the main content region, useful but nonessential sections can be folded away to ease programmatic navigation.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Supports	
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Supports	
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	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially supports	The basic search field may be confusing, since “Keyword” is used as a visual placeholder but not part of the text field’s name.
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	
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	No input is treated as erroneous. However, some inputs do not behave as one might expect if the “wrong” input is put in. Introducing error identification on some fields (e.g. “years” in the Advanced Search) would help.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Supports	
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A 2.2 only)	Does not support	If a user starts filling out the basic search field, then opens the Advanced Search dialog, they will have to re-type their search into the Keywords field. A fix is in progress.
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

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		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.
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)	Supports	
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Supports	The lowest contrast ratio is 6.23 to 1. Most text meets the Enhanced (AAA) ratio.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Supports	
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially supports	Adjusting the spacing of letters to 0.12x the font size may cause the Timeline axis labels to appear cut off.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	WWO does not contain content to which this criterion applies.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Supports	
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 points represented in the Timeline are tiny (about 2px) and they may overlap with one another. Keyboard access works for precision, but accessing an alternate format (not constrained by window height) would be better.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Supports	
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Partially supports	The labels for the basic and advanced search keyword fields are different.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Does not support	No input is treated as erroneous. However, some inputs do not behave as one might expect if the “wrong” input is put in. Introducing error identification on some fields (e.g. “years” in the Advanced Search) would help.
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.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	An ARIA live region describes changes to content that might be apparent to a sighted user but not one using assistive technology. For example, toggling the original typography of a WWO document is politely announced.