

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:

December 16, 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 supersedes the ACR published in July 2025. It will likely be updated again in 2026.

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	<p>The WWO interface uses semantic HTML markup and marks relationships between elements. WWO documents also make use of semantic HTML such as headings. Where it is not possible to use a native HTML element, ARIA is used to convey the equivalent role.</p> <p>One document, the Almanacks of Mary Moody Emerson, relies heavily on visual formatting to convey complex meaning. An accessible alternative is not yet available.</p>
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Supports	
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supports	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
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.
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	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
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	
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	When a request cannot be fulfilled due to an input error, the user is given an explanation.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Supports	
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	
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 .

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
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.
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
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)	Supports	
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)	Supports	The Timeline shown on the Results page has link targets of about 2px, which are difficult to interact with through mouse or touch. An alternative Timeline with targets meeting the size requirements (24 by 24px) can be accessed by clicking the “Open in dialog” button.
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	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Supports	If an error is detected from a form, the user is given information about how to correct the mistake. For example, entering a word into the “From year” field in the Advanced Search dialog will cause a message to appear: “The year fields must contain four numbers. For example: 1600.”
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.