

University of Chicago Press Council of Science Editors (CSE) Manual Online Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5)

Name of Product/Version: The CSE Manual Online: csemanual.org

Report Date: February 2026

Product Description: *The CSE Manual: Scientific Style and Format for Authors, Editors, and Publishers* delivers complete coverage of rules and best practices in scientific publishing. Since 1960, the esteemed Council of Science Editors has offered authoritative guidance on clearly and effectively writing scientific manuscripts. In the ninth edition of *The CSE Manual*, this leading international association offers its most comprehensive recommendations yet, continuing to guide authors and editors through the ever-evolving world of scientific publishing.

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Notes:

Evaluation Methods Used: Automated Testing; Exploratory Testing

Scope: The review conducted for this (February 2026) release of our Conformance Report for *The CSE Manual Online* is limited to material originating from “Contents” and information about *The CSE Manual* that is hosted at www.csemanual.org. It excludes e-commerce

“shopping cart” and “checkout” pages. It excludes the CSE companion website The CSE Users Forum.

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 / No) Level AA (Yes / No) Level AAA (Yes / No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	Level A (Yes / No) Level AA (Yes / No) Level AAA (Yes / No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2	Level A (Yes / No) Level AA (Yes / No) Level AAA (Yes / 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)	Supports	
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Not Applicable	
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Not Applicable	
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Not Applicable	
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Supports	
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)	Not Applicable	
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Partially Supports	Tooltips on superscript references are not keyboard accessible. However, the same info is found on the end-of-chapter citations page.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supports	
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	No keyboard shortcuts are implemented.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Not Applicable / Does Not Support	For institutional users, sessions are automatically maintained/renewed upon activity, thus eliminating required time-out warnings (WCAG 2.2.1). For individual subscribers, the session idle duration is set to 240 minutes, a period sufficient to allow task completion without premature expiration.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Supports	We have marquee announcements a couple times a year which can be paused during hover/focus.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Not Applicable	
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Supports	
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Supports	All pages have descriptive titles.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Supports	Components are focused in a meaningful sequence.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Supports	
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	
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)	Not Applicable	
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Supports	Page language can be determined programmatically. Some screen readers may detect some mathematical formulas as foreign languages. This is a known issue, and certain readers are built to better handle math equations.
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)	Not Applicable	
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Supports	
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A 2.2 only)	Not Applicable	
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)	Not Applicable	
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Content is not restricted to a single orientation.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Supports	Contrast has been tested and shown to be at least 4.5:1 for all text and 3.5:1 for large headings.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Supports	
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Some images of distinct font examples were used.
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially Supports	Some larger tables must be horizontally scrolled on smaller screens to be fully viewed.
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)	Does Not Support	Line height is at least 1.5x font size, but the paragraph spacing is not 2x font size.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	
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	Keyboard focus indicator remains visible during site operations.
2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	
2.5.7 Dragging Movements (Level AA 2.2 only)	Not Applicable	
2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Supports	Language can be programmatically determined for readers outside of math equations. Some specialized readers for equations exist that can read them.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supports	
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Supports	
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	
3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	The cognitive function test has a mechanism to assist the user in solving it in the form of a password reset.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Status messages can be determined by role and can be presented through assistive technologies.

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)		
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)		

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
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)		

Legal Disclaimer (Company)

Content reviewed for the 2026 VPAT report is limited to material originating from and information about the printed reference book The CSE Manual, 9th edition (2024) rendered digitally online at www.csemanual.org. It excludes linked content on companion websites, e-commerce, and the CSE Users Forum.