VPAT Accessibility Conformance Report

(Based on ITI VPAT©)

Name of Product	**eBooks+**
Date Last Updated	October 15, 2025
Completed by	Nicholas Seow (Elsevier Digital Accessibility Team)
Applicable Standards/Guidelines	This document rates eBooks+ according to the W3C WCAG 2.1 A and AA requirements.
Contact for More Information	Elsevier Digital Accessibility Team accessibility@elsevier.com
Testing Tools and Methods	- Hands-on keyboard operation - DevTools/Code inspection - Mozilla Firefox 143 and Chrome 141 on Windows 11 24H2 - NVDA screen reader 2025.1 - WAVE Browser Extension - Color Contrast Analyzer - W3C Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) Pages - Elsevier Accessibility Checklist
Document Sections	This review document includes all WCAG 2.1 A and AA checkpoints, organized into 7 logical sections: - Visuals - Keyboard - Headings and Structure - Labeling - Multimedia - Usability - Mobile User Experience
Pages Covered	**eBooks+ library portal:** Home, Videos page, PDF Files page, Documents page, (migrated) Chapter Notes **Interactive Exercises**: Image, Video, Audio; Slideshow, Slide-Line, Test Yourself, Show-Hide, Pop Tip, Quizzes (various), Hotspot, Guided Tour, Accordion (various), Short Answer, Fill-in-the-Blank, Dropdowns
Terms	**Supports**: The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criteria without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation. **Partially supports**: Some functionality of the product does not meet the criteria. **Does not support**: Majority of functionality of the product does not meet the criteria. **Supports (N/A):** According to W3C on conformance, "If there is no content to which a success criterion applies, the success criterion is satisfied."
Notes/Terminology	"AT" stands for Assistive Technology such as screen readers, voice input, etc. - This ACR covers the eBooks+ library portal website (ebooks.health.elsevier.com) & the Interactive Exercises found within some eBooks. **Related ACRs**: Elsevier Identity (NeoID – Elsevier registration, authentication, and account management); VitalSource Bookshelf (3rd party reading platform); Elsevier EPUB format books (typical eBook content)

Conformance Summary

WCAG 2.1 Success Criterion	Level	Evaluation
1.1.1: Non-text Content	A	Partially supports
1.2.1: Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)	A	Partially supports
1.2.2: Captions (Prerecorded)	A	Supports
1.2.3: Audio Description or Full Text Alternative	A	Does not support
1.2.4: Captions (Live)	AA	Supports (N/A)
1.2.5: Audio Description	AA	Does not support
1.3.1: Info and Relationships	A	Partially supports
1.3.2: Meaningful Sequence	A	Supports
1.3.3: Sensory Characteristics	A	Supports
1.3.4: Orientation (2.1)	AA	Supports
1.3.5: Identify Input Purpose (2.1)	AA	Supports (N/A)
1.4.1: Use of Color	A	Supports
1.4.2: Audio Control	A	Supports (N/A)
1.4.3: Contrast (Minimum)	AA	Supports
1.4.4: Resize text	AA	Supports
1.4.5: Images of Text	AA	Supports
1.4.10: Reflow (2.1)	AA	Partially supports
1.4.11: Non-Text Contrast (2.1)	AA	Supports
1.4.12: Text Spacing (2.1)	AA	Supports
1.4.13: Content on Hover or Focus (2.1)	AA	Supports (N/A)
2.1.1: Keyboard	A	Partially supports
2.1.2: No Keyboard Trap	A	Partially supports
2.1.4: Character Key Shortcuts (2.1)	A	Supports (N/A)
2.2.1: Timing Adjustable	A	Partially supports
2.2.2: Pause, Stop, Hide	A	Supports (N/A)
2.3.1: Three Flashes or Below Threshold	A	Supports (N/A)
2.4.1: Bypass Blocks	A	Partially supports
2.4.2: Page Titled	A	Supports
2.4.3: Focus Order	A	Supports
2.4.4: Link Purpose (In Context)	A	Partially supports
2.4.5: Multiple Ways	AA	Supports
2.4.6: Headings and Labels	AA	Supports
2.4.7: Focus Visible	AA	Partially supports
2.5.1: Pointer Gestures (2.1)	A	Supports
2.5.2: Pointer Cancellation (2.1)	A	Supports
2.5.3: Label in Name (2.1)	A	Supports
2.5.4: Motion Actuation (2.1)	A	Supports (N/A)
3.1.1: Language of Page	A	Supports
3.1.2: Language of Parts	AA	Supports
3.2.1: On Focus	A	Supports

WCAG 2.1 Success Criterion	Level	Evaluation
3.2.2: On Input	A	Supports
3.2.3: Consistent Navigation	AA	Supports
3.2.4: Consistent Identification	AA	Supports
3.3.1: Error Identification	A	Supports
3.3.2: Labels or Instructions	A	Supports
3.3.3: Error Suggestion	AA	Supports
3.3.4: Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)	AA	Supports (N/A)
4.1.1: Parsing	A	Supports
4.1.2: Name, Role, Value	A	Partially supports
4.1.3: Status Messages (2.1)	AA	Partially supports

WCAG 2.1 A and AA Success Criteria

Visuals

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
1.1.1: Non-Text Content (A) Provide text alternatives for non-text content (e.g. images)	Partially supports	Most images and icons have appropriate text equivalents. In Interactive Exercises, description is provided for diagrams but may not provide sufficient information to pass various tests (e.g. based on visual identification). **Exceptions:** • PDF Files page, Documents page: Download/Opens in new window icons – SVG icons presented visually as part of link/button labels lack appropriate text alternatives and are rendered unavailable to AT (aria-hidden="true" attribute) • Exercises: Flashcard: Interactive labeling – While toggle button labels/names and pressed states are programmatically determinable, there is a lack of description of how these components manipulate the presented figure (via highlighting) • Exercises: Slide-Line with Scroll: Tall image figure – Complex labelled figures representing stages in a process may lack appropriate text alternatives, although some figures may be accompanied by reasonably descriptive short (for stages) or extended (for whole figure) captions
1.3.3: Sensory Characteristics (A) Do not rely on sensory characteristics of components such as shape, size, visual location, orientation, or sound	Supports	There are no instructions or areas of content which rely solely on sensory characteristics.
1.4.1: Use of Color (A) Color is not used as the only visual means of conveying info	Supports	Color is typically not used as the only visual method of conveying information.
1.4.3: Color Contrast (Minimum) (AA) Text has enough contrast with the background (4.5:1 for small text and 3:1 for large text)	Supports	Across eBooks+, text & corresponding background colors typically have sufficient contrast.
1.4.4: Resize Text (AA) Text can be enlarged up to 200% without loss of functionality.	Supports	Text may typically be enlarged to 200% while preserving functionality of content.
1.4.5: Images of Text (AA) Text is used rather than images of text,	Supports	No images of text are used other than for logos or essential presentation.

except where the presentation of text is essential, such as logos		
1.4.10: Reflow (AA) Content can be presented without loss of information or functionality, and without requiring scrolling in two dimensions for: • Vertical scrolling content at a width equivalent to 320 CSS pixels; • Horizontal scrolling content at a height equivalent to 256 CSS pixels..	Partially supports	Most pages utilize a responsive view where content reflows into a single column. In most instances page may be zoomed to 400% without necessitating horizontal scrolling, nor loss of functionality/content. **Exceptions:** • Exercises: Test Yourself: Image & labels – Interactive labelled figure and associated components may get truncated during very high zoom states –while content may require two-dimensional layout for meaning, horizontal scrolling may not be permitted • Exercises: Flashcard: Flashcard headings – Longer headings may get truncated during very high zoom states – although the "Commentary" button may reiterate the heading in a responsive modal
1.4.11: Non-Text Contrast (AA) User interface components and graphical objects have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1 against adjacent color(s).	Supports	Non-text UI components and graphical objects have at least a 3:1 contrast ratio against surrounding colors.
1.4.12: Text Spacing (AA) In content implemented using markup languages that support the following text style properties, no loss of content or functionality occurs by setting all the following and by changing no other style property: • Line height (line spacing) to at least 1.5 times the font size; • Spacing following paragraphs to at least 2 times the font size; • Letter spacing (tracking) to at	Supports	Users may adjust the text spacing of content on pages to the minimum baseline properties without causing loss of content or functionality. For Interactive Exercises, VitalSource Bookshelf's text appearance options are available via "Reader Preferences".

least 0.12 times the font size; • Word spacing to at least 0.16 times the font size.		
1.4.13: Content on Hover or Focus (AA) Where receiving and then removing pointer hover or keyboard focus triggers additional content to become visible and then hidden, the following are true: • Dismissible • Hoverable • Persistent	Supports (N/A)	No applicable instances of content that may appear on hover or focus.
2.3.1: Three Flashes or Below Threshold (A) No more than three flashes in a 1-second period, or the flashes are below the defined thresholds	Supports (N/A)	No flashing content exists.

Keyboard

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
1.3.2: Meaningful Sequence (A) The correct reading sequence can be programmatically determined	Supports	The correct reading sequence is logical and programmatically determinable, with the DOM order typically according with the visual order.
2.1.1: Keyboard (A) All functionality is available from a keyboard, except for tasks such as drawing	Partially supports	Most standard web page content and functionality is keyboard operable across eBooks+. **Exceptions**: • Exercises: Hotspot: Interactive components – Interactive functionality may not be entirely keyboard operable – e.g. some buttons in Hotspot are not focusable
2.1.2: No Keyboard Trap (A) The user can use the keyboard to move through page elements and is not trapped on a particular element	Partially supports	eBooks+ is generally devoid of keyboard traps, save one exception. **Exceptions**: • Exercises: Guided Tour: Interactive diagram – Focus may get trapped within the components of the figure, with no mechanism to escape or advance via keyboard-only operation
2.1.4: Character Key Shortcuts (A)	Supports (N/A)	The site does not use any character key shortcuts.

If a keyboard shortcut is implemented in content using only letter (including upper- and lower-case letters), punctuation, number, or symbol characters, then at least one of the following is true: • Turn off • Remap • Active only on focus		
2.4.3: Focus Order (A) Users can tab through the elements of a page in a logical order	Supports	Tab order is typically logical (left-to-right, top-to-bottom) across eBooks+ and preserves the meaning and operability of content.
2.4.7: Focus Visible (AA) The page element with the current keyboard focus has a visible focus indicator	Partially supports	Almost all elements in eBooks+ have decent visible indications of focus – the focus indicator is typically a prominent orange outline. **Exceptions**: • Exercises: Slide-Line with Scroll: Stage selection – Buttons lack visible indications of focus
3.2.1: On Focus (A) When a UI component receives focus, this does not trigger unexpected actions.	Supports	Focusable elements do not cause unexpected actions/changes of context when receiving focus.

Headings and Structure

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
1.3.1: Information and Relationships (A) Info, structure, and relationships can be programmatically determined	Partially supports	Most content is distinguishable via semantic structure and relationships. A logical heading order reflecting page organization and content is programmatically determinable on most pages. HTML sectioning elements/landmark roles demarcate content regions across the eBooks+ library platform. Input elements typically have programmatically determinable labels. In Interactive Exercises, while <select> dropdown inputs bear accessible names, they may be generic ("Select the Procedures") and are not labelled by adjacent text. Note: Older supplementary PDFs made available for German and Spanish print book titles are untagged. **Exceptions:** • Home: "Download apps…" heading – Section heading defined as <h3> is inconsistent with the logical heading order
2.4.1: Bypass Blocks (A) Users can bypass repeated blocks of content.	Partially supports	Pages typically feature a logical heading order and landmarks demarcating various content regions, permitting AT users to conveniently jump to different areas.

		Exceptions: • Global: Skip navigation link – Pages lack skip links to main content (as a method to skip global navigation)
2.4.6: Headings and Labels (AA) Headings and labels are clear and consistent.	Supports	Headings and labels used are typically clear and descriptive. For example, most pages feature visually distinct and programmatically determinable main and secondary headings to help distinguish content.
3.1.1: Language of Page (A) The language of the page is specified	Supports	Page language is defined appropriately and corresponds to the user-selected language. Languages currently available: English (en), Spanish (es), German (de), or Japanese(ja).
3.1.2: Language of Parts (AA) Specify the language of text passages that are in a different language than the default language of the page.	Supports	Sections of text that do not match the language of the page (depending on user-selected language) may be present across various pages. These typically originate from book or chapter titles published in their respective languages. The language of such sections are defined appropriately and programmatically determinable.
4.1.1: Parsing (A) Use valid, error-free HTML	Supports	HTML and CSS typically pass concerning these 4 specific criteria: (i) elements have complete start and end tags, (ii) elements are nested according to their specifications (iii) elements do not contain duplicate attributes (iv) any IDs are unique, except where the specifications allow these features. Note: There may be other general HTML validation errors outside the scope of this criterion. WCAG 2.1 Errata notes: "This Success Criterion should be considered as always satisfied for any content using HTML or XML."

Labeling

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
1.3.5: Identify Input Purpose (AA) The purpose of each input field collecting information about the user can be programmatically determined when: • The input field serves a purpose identified in the Input Purposes for User Interface Components section; and • The content is implemented using technologies with	Supports (N/A)	No pages feature applicable form elements that collect such information about the user. Any relevant functionality is handled via Elsevier Identity (NeoID) registration, authentication, and account management.

support for identifying the expected meaning for form input data.		
2.4.2: Page Titled (A) The page has a title describing its topic or purpose	Supports	A descriptive and succint page title that identifies content/purpose is present for each page. For instance: the page title for Home is "Home | Elsevier eBooks+", and that for a specific video page is e.g. "Apoptosis | Robbins & Kumar Basic Pathology".
2.4.4: Link Purpose (In Context) (A) The purpose of each link can be determined from the link text or surrounding context.	Partially supports	An identifiable link purpose may typically be deduced from the link text or surrounding context. **Exceptions:** • Videos page, PDF Files page, Documents page, Chapters page, Chapter Notes: Breadcrumb links – Book title link in breadcrumb has the same destination as the parent/root, i.e. Home page
2.5.3: Label in Name (A) For user interface components with labels that include text or images of text, the name contains the text that is presented visually.	Supports	User interface components that have visible text contain that text consistently within the accessible name.
3.2.4: Consistent Identification (AA) UI components used across the web site are identified consistently on every page.	Supports	Components are typically consistent across the site, and identified consistently where they perform the same function across pages.
3.3.1: Error Identification (A) Input errors are clearly marked and described to the user.	Supports	In the primary instance (form to redeem Access Code), errors are identified and presented well visually. The error is validated after form submission, although there is a minimum character input before the "Redeem" button is enabled. Feedback takes the form of a field border decoration change and an error message presented adjacently – visually distinguished via color change (red). However, the error state is not programmatically determinable, and focus management is not utilized for convenient error indication (nor is the error message announced to AT). While not validating errors per se, in Interactive Exercises, "Check Answer" (e.g. in various Quiz types) indicates correct or incorrect answers through various methods, including colors, icons, and text.
3.3.2: Labels or Instructions (A) Items requiring user input are clearly labeled or have clear instructions.	Supports	Labels or instructions are typically for most form elements and programmatically associated with their inputs. Note: see SC 1.3.1 for instances where visible labels may not be programmatically associated with inputs.
3.3.3: Error Suggestion (AA)	Supports	The nature of content would largely not give rise to opportunities for error suggestions, but helpful suggestions are provided in text –

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
When the user makes an input error, give suggestions for valid input.		including direction to Customer Support if an Access Code is not recognized. While not validating errors per se, in Interactive Exercises, "Check Answer" (e.g. in various Quiz types) hints at and guides toward the correct answer(s).
4.1.2: Name, Role, Value (A) For all UI components, the name, value, and role can be programmatically determined.	Partially supports	Most UI components communicate their state programmatically and have accessible names that are appropriately defined. In Interactive Exercises, buttons and other components generally bear appropriate accessible names, and in many instances indicate the appropriate (e.g. selected/expanded) states. **Exceptions:** ● Global: Language selection button – Button's accessible name matches the visible text label, e.g. "EN", but is not sufficiently descriptive (doesn't address meaning of globe icon). A "Choose a language" label is implemented incorrectly and may be incompatible with various user agents. ● Home: Redeem – Error state of invalid input is not programmatically determinable (e.g. via aria-invalid="true") ● Videos page: Chapter navigation – Current page state is not defined (via aria-current="page: attribute) for the relevant link within the sidebar nav list of videos within chapters ● Videos page: Chapters modal (when reflowed) – Container lacks an accessible name ● Exercises: Slide-Line with Scroll: Tall image figure & Stage selection – Figure and related components are encapsulated by container with inappropriate role="application" ● Exercises: Slide-Line, Slide-Line with Scroll: Stage selection – Buttons bear aria-pressed attributes, but are not properly toggle buttons (aria-current attribute on the active button in the stage sequence would be more appropriate)
4.1.3: Status Messages (AA) In content implemented using markup languages, status messages can be programmatically determined through role or properties such that they can be presented to the user by assistive technologies without receiving focus.	Partially supports	Status messages are very uncommonly encountered in the eBooks+ library portal but are not announced by assistive technology. In Interactive Exercises, "Check Answer" correct/incorrect messages (e.g. in various Quiz types) are conveniently announced to AT. **Exceptions:** ● Home: Redeem – Error messages for invalid redemption codes are not announced to AT – to identify the error, screen reader users may have to put the field with erroneous field in focus or otherwise read the message ● Home: "Cannot verify access" message – Error message is presented within the Book modal upon selecting an option, but not announced to AT (authentication error is uncommonly encountered)

Multimedia

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
1.2.1: Audio-only or Video-only (Prerecorded) (A)	Partially supports	Videos in eBooks+ may feature audio as primary content, and such audio may be accompanied by several content alternatives of varying detail. For instance, the waveform from a heartbeat monitor is presented as the video's visual content during a recording of "Aortic

Provide alternatives for pre-recorded audio-only or video-only content.		Regurgitation", and text following the video player is descriptive of the sound: "…high pitched decrescendo (progressive decrease in intensity) murmur of aortic regurgitation…". Audio-only clips may occasionally be encountered in select book content. There are typically text descriptions of the audio in the adjacent book content. Some audio clips provide a transcript next to the audio clip itself.
1.2.2: Captions (Prerecorded) (A) Provide captions for pre-recorded audio	Supports	Captions are typically provided for videos with narration. For example, synchronized closed captions are available for videos that depict procedures accompanied by descriptive narration. Some video content in languages other than English may provide open captions or text in the video corresponding to narration/speech.
1.2.3: Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (A) Provide alternatives for pre-recorded synchronized audio/video	Does not support	Neither audio descriptions nor suitable textual alternatives are currently provided as alternatives for video in audiovisual content. Note: A research project is in place to explore this for newer Elsevier-published titles.
1.2.4: Captions (Live) (AA) Provide captions for live audio in synchronized audio/video.	Supports (N/A)	There is no live audio content in synchronized media.
1.2.5: Audio Description (Prerecorded) (AA) Provide an audio description of pre-recorded video.	Does not support	Audio description is not currently available for video in audiovisual content. Note: A research project is in place to explore this for newer Elsevier-published titles.
1.4.2: Audio Control (A) Audio can be paused and stopped, or the audio volume can be changed.	Supports (N/A)	No pages feature audio that plays automatically.
2.2.2: Pause, Stop, Hide (A) Users can stop, pause, or hide moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating information.	Supports (N/A)	There is no moving, scrolling, or auto-updating information for which the criterion is applicable.

Usability

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks

2.2.1: Timing Adjustable (A) Users are warned of time limits shorter than 20 hours and time limits can be turned off or extended	Partially supports	There is no mechanism to turn off, adjust, or extend the general user session timeout, which may be less than 20 hours of inactivity. However, users with automatically terminated sessions may still be able to interact with page content that does not require authentication. For instance, browsing library item options on Home remains functional until the activation of an option that requires authentication (an error message is displayed; the user will have to log in). Time limits on Interactive Exercise content within eBooks depend on the VitalSource Bookshelf platform.
2.4.5: Multiple Ways (AA) More than one way is available to navigate to other web pages.	Supports	The set of webpages constituting the eBooks+ library portal is relatively simple, and relevant pages may typically be located and accessed in straightforward ways. For example, main navigation is consistently available across pages, and secondary navigation is present where relevant in the form of Chapter accordions with lists of options (i.e. in Video pages). There is no search functionality for specific e.g. Video pages – nor is a sitemap available. Users are expected to first select a relevant book item from Home to proceed either to the Reader platform, or the title's related/supplementary content as available on eBooks+.
3.2.2: On Input (A) Changing the setting of a checkbox, radio button, or other UI component does not trigger unexpected changes in context.	Supports	User input, such as changing the values of form elements, does not initiate unexpected actions or changes in context.
3.2.3: Consistent Navigation (AA) Navigation menus are in the same location and order on every web page.	Supports	Navigation menus are consistent across the eBooks+ library portal. For example, global navigation links in the header are consistent across pages, occurring in the same order; secondary navigation (e.g. breadcrumbs) is consistently positioned across appropriate sets of pages.
3.3.4: Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (AA) For web pages with legal or financial commitments, input can be reviewed and corrected before final submission, and submissions can be reverted.	Supports (N/A)	There are no submissions which require legal or financial commitments.

Mobile User Experience

WCAG 2.1 Checkpoint	Conformance Level	Remarks
1.3.4: Orientation (AA) Content does not restrict its view and operation to a single display orientation,	Supports	Pages do not restrict view and operation of content to a single orientation.

such as portrait or landscape, unless a specific display orientation is essential.		
2.5.1: Pointer Gestures (A) All functionality that uses multipoint or path-based gestures for operation can be operated with a single pointer without a path-based gesture, unless a multipoint or path-based gesture is essential.	Supports	Pages do not utilize or require multipoint or path-based gestures for any functionality.
2.5.2: Pointer Cancellation (A) For functionality that can be operated using a single pointer, at least one of the following is true: • No Down-Event • Abort or Undo • Up Reversal • Essential	Supports	All interactive content functions through the Up-Event, allowing users to potentially move their pointer off the component to cancel.
2.5.4: Motion Actuation (A) Functionality that can be operated by device motion or user motion can also be operated by user interface components and responding to the motion can be disabled to prevent accidental actuation, except when: • Supported Interface • Essential	Supports (N/A)	There is no content that utilizes device or user motion.