

OpenScholar Accessibility Conformance Report

Revised Section 508 Edition

(Based on VPAT[®] Version 2.5)

Name of Product:

OpenScholar

Report Date:

January 2025

Product Description:

OpenScholar is a comprehensive, Drupal-based SaaS platform designed specifically for academic, faculty, and research collaboration. It streamlines the creation and management of scholarly websites, enabling users to efficiently market their research and academic achievements. With a focus on ease of use, OpenScholar offers a wide range of customizable templates, integrations, and features tailored to the needs of the academic community. The platform emphasizes accessibility, ensuring that all users, including those with disabilities, can access and benefit from its offerings, in compliance with global web accessibility standards, including WCAG and Section 508 requirements, to facilitate inclusive academic collaboration and communication.

Contact Information:

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Notes:

N/A

Evaluation Methods Used:

OpenScholar was evaluated using Chrome v. 120 on a computer running macOS 14. Assistive technologies used in this evaluation included mac VoiceOver, NVDA (screen reader), exclusive use of the keyboard to navigate and operate the site content and functionality, as well as automated accessibility testing tools (WAVE) .

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) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	Level A (Yes / No) Level AA (Yes / No) Level AAA (Yes / No)
Revised Section 508 standards published January 18, 2017 and corrected January 22, 2018	(Yes)

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.

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	OpenScholar ensures all non-text content on the platform, such as images, is accessible to all users, including those with visual impairments. This is achieved by requiring text alternatives (alt texts) for every piece of (non-decorative) non-text content, allowing screen readers to accurately convey the content's purpose and meaning.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	OpenScholar leverages YouTube and Vimeo for video and media embedding, utilizing their features to address WCAG 2.1 guidelines for audio-only, video-only, and synchronized media. Content creators are encouraged to ensure that audio-only content has text transcripts, video-only content is accompanied by transcripts or audio descriptions, and all prerecorded audio content in videos includes captions via help text and the Editoria11y accessible content auditing feature.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Supports	OpenScholar utilizes semantic HTML and ARIA (Accessible Rich Internet Applications) landmarks to ensure that information, structure, and relationships are programmatically determinable.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Supports	OpenScholar ensures that default content is structured in a logical order, maintaining a meaningful sequence that is reflected in the code. Potentially inaccessible content authored by editors is flagged by the Editoria11y accessible content auditing feature.
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supports	OpenScholar employs clear, text-based instructions alongside any sensory cues for operating and understanding content, ensuring accessibility for users who may not perceive visual or auditory cues.
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Supports	The content authoring experience of OpenScholar does not rely on the use of color nor audio to convey information.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Supports	
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Supports	OpenScholar enables all content and content author functionality to be operable through a keyboard interface without being stuck in any part of the page.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supports	
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	OpenScholar does not provide character key shortcuts.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Not Applicable	OpenScholar does not include time limits.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Not Applicable	OpenScholar does not include elements that move, blink, scroll, or auto-update.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Not Applicable	OpenScholar does not include elements that contain flashing content.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Supports	OpenScholar provides mechanisms, such as skip links, that allow users to bypass blocks of content that are repeated across multiple web pages.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Supports	Each page title is unique and descriptive in the format of "Title of page Name of site"
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Supports	OpenScholar ensures sequential navigation with focus order that aligns with page content structure

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Supports	Links automatically generated are descriptive of their destination. Common non-descriptive links (such as “click here”) provided by content authors are flagged by the Editoria11y accessible content auditing feature.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	OpenScholar does not rely on multipoint or path-based gestures.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Content author functions that use a single pointer are completed when the user releases the pointer.
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	OpenScholar aligns UI component labels with their accessible names, ensuring visual text matches programmatically determined names for accessibility.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	OpenScholar does not have functionality operated by device or user motion.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Supports	OpenScholar’s default language is identified using the lang attribute in the html element.
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supports	OpenScholar’s components do not initiate a change of context when focused.
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Supports	Changes of context do not occur automatically on user input.
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Support	When OpenScholar detects an error, it is provided as text in a consistent location on each page.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Support	OpenScholar provides descriptive labels for each input field.
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	OpenScholar uses semantic HTML and ARIA roles to ensure UI components’ names, roles, and values are programmatically determinable

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	OpenScholar does not contain live synchronized media.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Supports	OpenScholar leverages YouTube and Vimeo for video and media embedding, utilizing their features to address WCAG 2.1 guidelines for audio-only, video-only, and synchronized media. Content creators are encouraged to ensure that audio-only content has text transcripts, video-only content is accompanied by transcripts or audio descriptions, and all prerecorded audio content in videos includes captions via help text and the Editoria11y accessible content auditing feature.
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	OpenScholar's responsive design ensures content adapts to any display orientation, supporting both portrait and landscape modes
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Support	OpenScholar supports semantic HTML5 and ARIA labels to programmatically determine the purpose of input fields, aligning with technologies that define expected meanings for form inputs.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Default themes and content have been tested to provide adequate color contrast. The ability of content authors to adjust color is limited but can be changed. The Editoria11y content auditing feature can not flag this.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Supports	OpenScholar's responsive designs ensure no content is lost when text is resized or zoomed.
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Partially Supports	OpenScholar discourages content authors from using images that contain text but cannot prevent it. The Editoria11y content auditing feature can not flag this.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially Supports	OpenScholar’s responsive design ensures content reflows. However, content authors may include content that does not. Some admin-area functionality may not reflow.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially Supports	Most themes available to OpenScholar clients provide sufficient non-text contrast but not all have been evaluated. Content authoring admin functionality provides non-text contrast.
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially Supports	Adjustments to line height, paragraph spacing, letter spacing, and word spacing do not result in loss of content or functionality in most client-selected themes. Some may have default navigation that “clips” menu items when CSS is adjusted by a web visitor.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Menus and pop-up dialogs are dismissible, hoverable, and/or persistent.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Supports	Links, site maps, search, and menus are provided
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Default content has been reviewed for accessibility. Content produced by content authors is reviewed by the Editoria11y content auditing feature which flags many common issues, but not every possible issue.
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Supports	Focusable elements in OpenScholar have a visible keyboard focus indicator.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Supports	OpenScholar offers content authors a button in CKEditor that allows them to specify the language of a block of text.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	OpenScholar provides consistent and repeatable navigation.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supports	OpenScholar provides consistent and repeatable identification.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Supports	When an error is automatically detected within a data entry form in the site, the resulting error message provides suggestions for correction.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Supports	OpenScholar implements form validation, revisioning for most content, and requires confirmation for delete actions., Legal and financial data are not applicable.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	OpenScholar implements ARIA roles and properties that can be used to define status messages. For example, using the role="status" or role="alert" attributes.

Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA

Notes: Not applicable. OpenScholar was not evaluated for WCAG 2.1 Level AAA conformance.

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Notes:

Chapter 3: [Functional Performance Criteria \(FPC\)](#)

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
302.1 Without Vision	Supports	OpenScholar supports screen readers and keyboard navigation, allowing users to interact with the platform without relying on vision.
302.2 With Limited Vision	Supports	The platform is compatible with zoom and magnification tools, and employs high-contrast themes to assist users with limited vision.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
302.3 Without Perception of Color	Supports	Information conveyed through color is also available via text or other indicators, ensuring usability without color perception.
302.4 Without Hearing	Supports	OpenScholar does not rely solely on audio for information delivery, ensuring content is accessible through visual means as well.
302.5 With Limited Hearing	Supports	Any audio content provided by OpenScholar can be accompanied by captions or transcripts, aiding users with limited hearing.
302.6 Without Speech	Supports	OpenScholar does not require speech input for navigation or content interaction, ensuring accessibility for users who cannot use speech.
302.7 With Limited Manipulation	Supports	The platform can be navigated and used without requiring fine motor skills, compatible with keyboard navigation and assistive technologies.
302.8 With Limited Reach and Strength	Supports	OpenScholar's interface and functionalities are operable with minimal physical effort, accommodating users with limited reach and strength.
302.9 With Limited Language, Cognitive, and Learning Abilities	Supports	OpenScholar aims to provide a clear, intuitive user interface and alternative text explanations to support users with limited language, cognitive, and learning abilities.

Chapter 4: [Hardware](#)

Notes: Given OpenScholar is a web-based platform, primarily delivering content and services through software rather than hardware, the specific requirements of Chapter 4: Hardware from the Section 508 standards typically do not apply directly to OpenScholar. These standards are more relevant to physical ICT (Information and Communication Technology) hardware products and devices.

Chapter 5: [Software](#)

Notes

OpenScholar is compliant with WCAG 2.0 and 2.1 to Levels A and AA across all web content and functionalities. This compliance ensures adherence to the core principles of accessibility required under Chapter 5 of Section 508, specifically regarding software applications' accessibility (Section 503) and interoperability with assistive technology (Section 502)s, obviating the need for separate documentation under this chapter.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
501.1 Scope – Incorporation of WCAG 2.0 AA	See WCAG 2.x section	See information in WCAG 2.x section
502 Interoperability with Assistive Technology	See WCAG 2.x section	See WCAG 2.x section
503 Applications	See WCAG 2.x section	See WCAG 2.x section
504 Authoring Tools	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
504.2 Content Creation or Editing (if not authoring tool, enter “not applicable”)	See WCAG 2.x section	See WCAG 2.x section
504.2.1 Preservation of Information Provided for Accessibility in Format Conversion	Supports	When converting content from one format to another, OpenScholar preserves accessibility information to the extent supported by the destination format, ensuring continued accessibility across content transformations.
504.2.2 PDF Export	Not Applicable	OpenScholar does not support PDF Export
504.3 Prompts	Supports	OpenScholar’s structured format (and Editorially content auditing feature) allows content authors to create content aligned with WCAG 2.0 Level A and AA requirements.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
504.4 Templates	Supports	OpenScholar provides templates (or themes) that facilitate the creation of content conforming to WCAG 2.0 Level A and AA, offering a variety of accessible templates for different content types.

Chapter 6: [Support Documentation and Services](#)

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
601.1 Scope	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
602 Support Documentation	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
602.2 Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Supports	OpenScholar's documentation, provided through an accessible online platform, adheres to web accessibility standards, ensuring users of all abilities can utilize ICT effectively.
602.3 Electronic Support Documentation	See WCAG 2.x section	See information in WCAG 2.x section
602.4 Alternate Formats for Non-Electronic Support Documentation	Supports	OpenScholar commits to providing alternate formats for any non-electronic support documentation upon request, ensuring accessibility for individuals with disabilities.
603 Support Services	Heading cell – no response required	Heading cell – no response required
603.2 Information on Accessibility and Compatibility Features	Supports	Support services for OpenScholar include detailed information on accessibility and compatibility features, assisting users in leveraging these functionalities for enhanced accessibility.
603.3 Accommodation of Communication Needs	Supports	OpenScholar ensures its support services accommodate the communication needs of

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		individuals with disabilities, offering direct assistance or referral as necessary to provide comprehensive support.