



Web Accessibility Evaluation: www.Unidescription.org

December, 2023

Background

The following is a Section 508 and WCAG 2.1 AA comprehensive accessibility evaluation conducted by the American Council of the Blind for the site www.Unidescription.org using the WebAIM's WCAG 2 Checklist <https://webaim.org/standards/wcag/checklist>. This checklist was designed as a tool “for implementing accessibility principles and techniques for those seeking WCAG conformance.” It was specifically designed to identify accessibility issues related to web pages and mobile apps and as such is not inclusive of all aspects of the WCAG 2.1 broad applicability.

The evaluation includes consideration of four broad elements, whether the site is: perceivable; Operable; Understandable; and Robust.

Tools used to evaluate the site included: Wave Accessibility Evaluation Tool: <http://wave.webaim.org/>; WebAim Contrast Checker: <https://webaim.org/resources/contrastchecker>; WCAG 2 Checklist: <https://webaim.org/standards/wcag/checklist>. The site was also fully user tested using a variety of industry standard browsers and assistive technologies including software for screen reading and magnification on the Windows and Mac operating systems.

The most recent evaluation of this site was completed by the American council of the blind in August, 2020. This is a follow-up to that evaluation. Elements that are present and which meet the criteria required for Level AA are marked with “Pass.” Elements that are not relevant based on the design and content of the site, or are simply not present to evaluate are marked as “N/A.”

Perceivable

Definition: Web content is made available to the senses - sight, hearing, and/or touch

Guideline 1.1 Text Alternatives: Provide text alternatives for any non-text content *Pass

1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)

- All images, form image buttons, and image map hot spots have appropriate, equivalent alternative text.
- Images that do not convey content, are decorative, or contain content that is already conveyed in text are given null alt text (alt="") or implemented as CSS backgrounds.
- All linked images have descriptive alternative text.
- Equivalent alternatives to complex images are provided in context or on a separate linked page.
- Form buttons have a descriptive value.
- Form inputs have associated text labels.

- Embedded multimedia is identified via accessible text.
- Frames and iframes are appropriately titled.

Observations: Consistent text for all graphical images are present throughout the site meeting the requirement. Evaluators and evaluation tools note that some photo descriptions are long. Users will encounter these graphics every time they hit the page so both brevity and clarity are important to consider.

Guideline 1.2 Time-based Media: Provide alternatives for time-based media *Pass

NOTE: If the audio or video is designated as an alternative to web content (e.g., an audio or sign language version of a web page, for example), then the web content itself serves as the alternative.

1.2.1 Prerecorded Audio-only and Video-only (Level A)

- A descriptive text transcript that includes relevant auditory content is provided for non-live audio-only (audio podcasts, MP3 files, etc.).
- A descriptive text transcript or audio description is provided for non-live video-only (e.g., video that has no audio track), unless the video is decorative.

Observations: Presentation of audio content is in fact the primary aim of this site which supports the development and dissemination of audio described content. Each audio file includes a supporting written transcription of the text. This is significant in accommodating users who have hearing loss and also users who may have difficulty comprehending the synthetic speech quality. It is integral to the site's mission and is done well.

1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A) (N/A)

1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A) (N/A)

1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA) (N/A)

1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA) (N/A)

1.2.6 Sign Language (Prerecorded) (Level AAA)

- A sign language video is provided for all media content that contains audio.

Observations: This level AAA recommendation is not required for this site but would be encouraged when resources permit. Adding an ASL track to the descriptions would increase access to the text of the brochures for deaf individuals whose primary language is not English.

Guideline 1.3 Adaptable: Create content that can be presented in different ways (for example simpler layout) without losing information or structure *Pass

1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)

- Semantic markup is used to designate headings (<h1>), regions/landmarks, lists (, , and <dl>), emphasized or special text (, <code>, <abbr>, <blockquote>, for example), etc. Semantic markup is used appropriately.

- Tables are used for tabular data and data cells are associated with their headers. Data table captions, if present, are associated to data tables.
- Text labels are associated with form input elements. Related form elements are grouped with fieldset/legend. ARIA labelling may be used when standard HTML is insufficient.

Observations: Generally, the site exhibits good use of all markup and creates a logical infrastructure for the pages.

1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)

- The reading and navigation order (determined by code order) is logical and intuitive.

Observations: The sequence is easy to navigate and is both predictable and logical.

1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)

- Instructions do not rely upon shape, size, or visual location (e.g., "Click the square icon to continue" or "Instructions are in the right-hand column").
- Instructions do not rely upon sound (e.g., "A beeping sound indicates you may continue.").

Observations: All instructions are given in text with no visual or auditory descriptors.

1.3.4 Orientation (WCAG 2.1 Level AA)

- Orientation of web content is not restricted to only portrait or landscape, unless a specific orientation is necessary.

Observations: This is particularly important for the associated iOS and Android apps. The site makes no restriction on how content is displayed regardless of orientation or screen resolution.

1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (WCAG 2.1 Level AA)

- Input fields that collect certain types of user information have an appropriate autocomplete attribute defined.

Observations: This site has a registration form which correctly supports autocomplete for fields such as email.

1.3.6 Identify Purpose (WCAG 2.1 Level AAA)

- HTML5 regions or ARIA landmarks are used to identify page regions.
- ARIA is used, where appropriate, to enhance HTML semantics to better identify the purpose of interface components.

Observations: This AAA requirement is implemented in a limited and adequate way on this site.

Guideline 1.4 Distinguishable: Make it easier for users to see and hear content including separating foreground from background *Pass

1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)

- Color is not used as the sole method of conveying content or distinguishing visual elements.

- Color alone is not used to distinguish links from surrounding text unless the contrast ratio between the link and the surrounding text is at least 3:1 and an additional distinction (e.g., it becomes underlined) is provided when the link is hovered over and receives focus.

Observation: The purpose of this site is delivery of audio content. Color is not significant to the presentation.

1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A) (N/A)

- A mechanism is provided to stop, pause, mute, or adjust volume for audio that automatically plays on a page for more than 3 seconds.

1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)

- Text and images of text have a contrast ratio of at least 4.5:1.
- Large text - at least 18 point (typically 24px) or 14 point (typically 18.66px) and bold - has a contrast ratio of at least 3:1.

Observations: Adequate contrast is necessary for all users, especially users with low vision. This was identified as an issue to watch during the 2019 evaluation and appears to be in conformance at this time.

1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)

- The page is readable and functional when the page is zoomed to 200%. NOTE: 1.4.10 (below) introduces a much higher requirement for zoomed content.

Observations: All pages responded appropriately when rotated or zoomed.

1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA) (N/A)

1.4.7 Low or No Background Audio (Level AAA)

- Audio with speech has no or very low background noise so the speech is easily distinguished.

Observations: There are no background sounds associated with any of the audio clips on this site.

1.4.8 Visual Presentation (Level AAA) (N/A)

1.4.9 Images of Text (No Exception) (Level AAA)

- Text is used within an image only for decoration (image does not convey content) OR when the information cannot be presented with text alone.

Observations: Some images contain text content. All images are described or include alt text as appropriate.

1.4.10 Reflow (WCAG 2.1 Level AA)

- No loss of content or functionality occurs and horizontal scrolling is avoided when content is presented at a width of 320 pixels. This requires responsive design for most web sites. This is best tested by setting the browser window to 1280 pixels wide and then zooming the page content to 400%.

- Content that requires horizontal scrolling, such as data tables, complex images (such as maps and charts), toolbars, etc. are exempted.

Observations: The site reflows properly.

1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (WCAG 2.1 Level AA) (N/A)

1.4.12 Text Spacing (WCAG 2.1 Level AA)

- No loss of content or functionality occurs when the user adapts text line height/spacing to 1.5 times the font size, paragraph spacing to 2 times the font size, word spacing to .16 times the font size, and letter spacing to .12 times the font size. This is best supported by avoiding pixel height definitions for elements that contain text.

Observations: Spacing and font adjustments were successful.

1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (WCAG 2.1 Level AA) (N/A)

Operable

Definition: Interface forms, controls, and navigation are operable

Guideline 2.1 Keyboard Accessible: Make all functionality available from a keyboard *Pass

Observations: The site is fully keyboard navigable and meets all applicable requirements for all applicable subsections.

2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)

- All page functionality is available using the keyboard, unless the functionality cannot be accomplished in any known way using a keyboard (e.g., free hand drawing).
- Page-specified shortcut keys and accesskeys (accesskey should typically be avoided) do not conflict with existing browser and screen reader shortcuts.

2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)

- Keyboard focus is never locked or trapped at one particular page element. The user can navigate to and from all navigable page elements using only a keyboard.

2.1.3 Keyboard (No Exception) (Level AAA)

- All page functionality is available using the keyboard.

2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (WCAG 2.1 Level A) (N/A)

Guideline 2.2 Enough Time: Provide users enough time to read and use content *Pass

2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A) (N/A)

2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A) (N/A)

2.2.3 No Timing (Level AAA)

- The content and functionality have no time limits or constraints.

Observations: There are no timing requirements on the site.

Guideline 2.3 Seizures and Physical Reactions: Do not design content in a way that is known to cause seizures or physical reactions. *Pass

2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A) (N/A)

2.3.2 Three Flashes (Level AAA) (N/A)

Guideline 2.4 Navigable: Provide ways to help users navigate, find content, and determine where they are. *Pass

2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)

- A link is provided to skip navigation and other page elements that are repeated across web pages.
- A proper heading structure and/or identification of page regions/landmarks may be considered a sufficient technique. Because navigating by headings or regions is not supported in most browsers, WebAIM recommends a "skip" link (in addition to headings and regions) to best support sighted keyboard users.

Observations: Skip Nav links should be implemented. The structure is visually apparent using the Table of Contents, but sighted keyboard users would benefit from consistent skip nav links to bypass the TOC as desired. Screen reader users achieve this through the heading structure which is much improved and through the navigation menu at the top. But technically, there should be a skip Nav to bypass absolutely all of it because other keyboard users have no way to move by headings etc.

2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)

- The web page has a descriptive and informative page title.

Observations: All pages have titles that are consistent with their content.

2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)

- The navigation order of links, form elements, etc. is logical and intuitive.

Observations: All links are in logical order.

2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)

- The purpose of each link (or form image button or image map hotspot) can be determined from the link text alone, or from the link text and its context (e.g., surrounding text, list item, table cell, or table headers).

- Links (or form image buttons) with the same text that go to different locations are readily distinguishable.

Observations: The purpose of links and other elements is obvious from the labels and from the context.

2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)

- Multiple ways are available to find other web pages on the site - at least two of: a list of related pages, table of contents, site map, site search, or list of all available web pages.

Observations: This is vastly improved for this evaluation by the addition of the Table of contents.

2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)

- Page headings and labels for form and interactive controls are informative. Avoid duplicating heading (e.g., "More Details") or label text (e.g., "First Name") unless the structure provides adequate differentiation between them.

Observations: Form and interactive controls are consistent and intuitive.

2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)

- It is visually apparent which page element has the current keyboard focus (i.e., as you tab through the page, you can see where you are).

Observations: Tabbing consistently indicates visual focus.

2.4.8 Location (Level AAA)

- If a web page is part of a sequence of pages or within a complex site structure, an indication of the current page location is provided, for example, through breadcrumbs or specifying the current step in a sequence (e.g., "Step 2 of 5 - Shipping Address").

Observations: As the site becomes more complex over time, doing this would be advisable even as an AAA requirement but it is currently not required.

2.4.9 Link Purpose (Link Only) (Level AAA)

- The purpose of each link (or form image button or image map hotspot) can be determined from the link text alone.
- There are no links (or form image buttons) with the same text that go to different locations.

Observations: All link and interactive element text is intuitive.

2.4.10 Section Headings (Level AAA)

- Beyond providing an overall document structure, individual sections of content are designated using headings, where appropriate.

Observations: Section headings are significantly improved in this version of the site. There is also a table of contents which significantly improves navigability of this site.

Guideline 2.5 Input Modalities: Make it easier for users to operate functionality through various inputs beyond keyboard. *Pass

2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (WCAG 2.1 Level A) (N/A)

2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (WCAG 2.1 Level A) (N/A)

2.5.3 Label in Name (WCAG 2.1 Level A)

- If an interface component (link, button, etc.) presents text (or images of text), the accessible name (label, alternative text, aria-label, etc.) for that component must include the visible text.

Observations: All elements contain visible text.

2.5.4 Motion Actuation (WCAG 2.1 Level A) (N/A)

2.5.5 Target Size (WCAG 2.1 Level AAA)

- Clickable targets are at least 44 by 44 pixels in size unless an alternative target of that size is provided, the target is inline (such as a link within a sentence), the target is not author-modified (such as a default checkbox), or the small target size is essential to the functionality.

Observations: All elements are easily activated and are standard size and design.

2.5.6 Concurrent Input Mechanisms (WCAG 2.1 Level AAA)

- Content does not restrict input to a specific modality, such as touch-only or keyboard-only, but must support alternative inputs (such as using a keyboard on a mobile device).

Observations: No restrictions are placed on alternative input devices on the web site or in the apps.

Understandable

Definition: Information and the operation of user interface must be understandable.

Guideline 3.1 Readable: Make text content readable and understandable *Pass

3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)

- The language of the page is identified using the HTML lang attribute (e.g., <html lang="en">).

Observations: Page language is identified.

3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA) (N/A)

3.1.3 Unusual Words (Level AAA) (N/A)

3.1.4 Abbreviations (Level AAA) (N/A)

3.1.5 Reading Level (Level AAA)

- A more understandable alternative is provided for content that is more advanced than can be reasonably read by a person with roughly 9 years of primary education.

Observations: The reading level throughout the site is appropriate.

3.1.6 Pronunciation (Level AAA) (N/A)

Guideline 3.2 Predictable: Make Web pages appear and operate in predictable ways *Pass

3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)

- When a page element receives focus, it does not result in a substantial change to the page, the spawning of a pop-up window, an additional change of keyboard focus, or any other change that could confuse or disorient the user.

Observations: There are no popup windows or unusual interactions.

3.2.2 On Input (Level A)

- When a user inputs information or interacts with a control, it does not result in a substantial change to the page, the spawning of a pop-up window, an additional change of keyboard focus, or any other change that could confuse or disorient the user unless the user is informed of the change ahead of time.

Observations: There are no popup windows.

3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)

- Navigation links that are repeated on web pages do not change order when navigating through the site.

Observations: To the extent feasible, links stay in the same order throughout the site.

3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)

- Elements that have the same functionality across multiple web pages are consistently identified. For example, a search box at the top of the site should always be labeled the same way.

Observations: This is probably most applicable on the pages with examples of audio described content. The player is consistently used and is intuitive.

3.2.5 Change on Request (Level AAA) (N/A)

Guideline 3.3 Input Assistance: Help users avoid and correct mistakes *Pass

3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)

- Required form elements or form elements that require a specific format, value, or length provide this information within the element's label.

- Form validation errors are efficient, intuitive, and accessible. The error is clearly identified, quick access to the problematic element is provided, and the user can easily fix the error and resubmit the form.

Observations: There is adequate syntax indication on all forms.

3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)

- Sufficient labels, cues, and instructions for required interactive elements are provided via instructions, examples, properly positioned form labels, and/or fieldsets/legends.

Observations: All form labels are associated with the corresponding fields.

3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)

- If an input error is detected (via client-side or server-side validation), suggestions are provided for fixing the input in a timely and accessible manner.

Observations: Form provides syntax error indication such as a malformed email address.

3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA) (N/A)

3.3.5 Help (Level AAA)

- Instructions and cues are provided in context to help in form completion and submission.

Observations: The field labels provide sufficient help for accurate form completion.

3.3.6 Error Prevention (All) (Level AAA)

- If the user can submit information, the submission is reversible, verified, or confirmed.

Observations: This site has only one form for registration. It does not appear to do any significant error checking and probably doesn't need to.

Robust

Definition: Content must be robust enough that it can be interpreted by a wide variety of user agents, including assistive technologies

Guideline 4.1 Compatible: Maximize compatibility with current and future user agents, including assistive technologies *Pass

4.1.1 Parsing (Level A)

- Significant HTML/XHTML validation/parsing errors are avoided. Check at <http://validator.w3.org/>

Observations: No parsing errors were found.

4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)

- Markup is used in a way that facilitates accessibility. This includes following the HTML/XHTML specifications and using forms, form labels, frame titles, etc. appropriately.
- ARIA is used appropriately to enhance accessibility when HTML is not sufficient.

Observations: No HTML errors were identified.

4.1.3 Status Messages (WCAG 2.1 Level AA) (N/A)