CVL Collections Accessibility

Complying with Colorado's new accessibility laws

Babi Hammond, 23 July 2024 webinar

The Laws and the Rules

The Law:

- **HB21-1110**, passed in 2021
  Requires all "Information Communication Technology" (ICT) of "public entities" to meet WCAG 2.1 AA guidelines by July 1, 2024, or be liable to lawsuits and judicially-decided penalties of up to $3,500 per violation.

The Rules:

- **8 CCR 1501-11 Technology Accessibility Rules**, adopted Feb, 2024
  Describes how to comply with the law.

https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb21-1110

https://oit.colorado.gov/standards-policies-guides/guide-to-accessible-web-services/accessibility-law-for-colorado-state-0

Does the Law Apply to You?

HB21-1110 applies to all Colorado "public entities" :

- Any Colorado state government, or any department, agency, or other instrumentality of a state government

- Any local government, department, agency, special district, or any other instrumentality of a local government

Minimum Required for Compliance

- Make sure your website conforms to WCAG 2.1 AA to the greatest extent possible given the resources available to you

- Post on the public-facing pages of your site an Accessibility Statement

- Accessibility Statement needs to include at least two ways users can contact you about accessibility problems

- Commit to respond to accessibility problems in a timely fashion

- Good idea to have a plan in place for how you will provide more accessible accommodations if you can't fix an accessibility problem

Perfection is NOT Required

- A 100% accessible site is probably not possible

- Do your best, and be able to document a good-faith effort

- Develop a plan to steadily improve the accessibility of your site and follow your plan

- You might not have to resources necessary to fix some problems; the rules exempt fixes that would be an "undue burden" on your organization

- Respond to any accessibility complaints, and do your best to offer accommodations

Be Aware of Problems with Your Site

- Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2.1, level AA criteria: https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/

- Don't try to read the WCAG guidelines themselves (it's too much)

- Instead, familiarize yourself with digested accessibility how-to guides, like:
  - Colorado OIT's Guide to Accessible Web Services
  - Web Accessibility Initiative's Intro to Web Accessibility
  - WebAIM's Introduction to Web Accessibility

https://oit.colorado.gov/standards-policies-guides/guide-to-accessible-web-services

https://www.w3.org/WAI/fundamentals/accessibility-intro/

https://webaim.org/intro/

Check Your Site for Accessibility Problems

- Single-page checks by WebAIM's WAVE tool: https://wave.webaim.org/

- Whole-site accessibility reports from Siteimprove (access through the State Library and Colorado OIT)

- Manually review pages (especially for quality of accessibility features, not just their presence or absence)
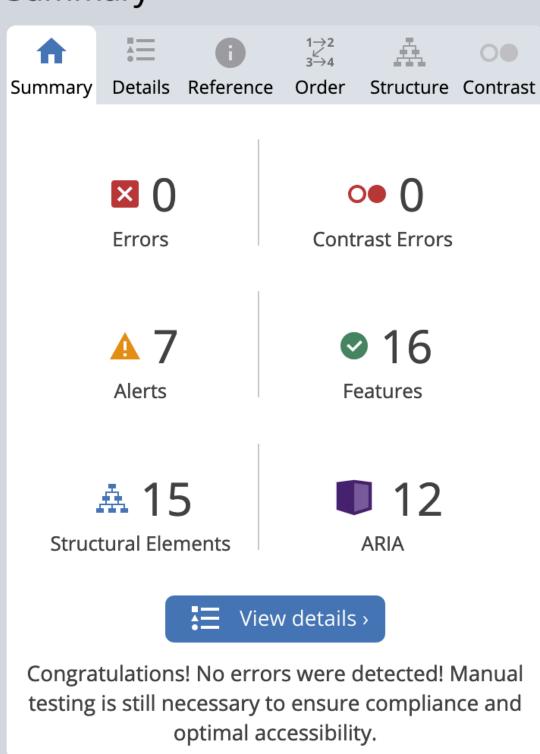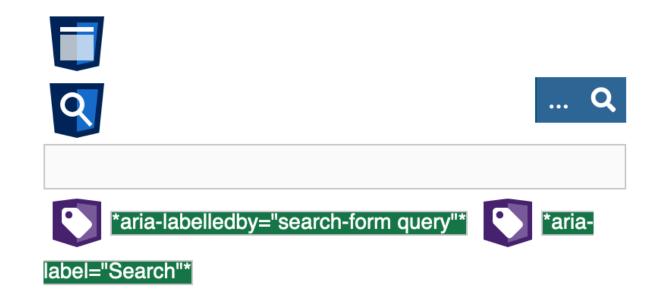
Styles: OFF ◉ ON

Summary

| Summary | Details | Reference | Order | Structure | Contrast |

✖ 0
Errors

◌● 0
Contrast Errors

⚠ 7
Alerts

✔ 16
Features

⟁ 15
Structural Elements

▮ 12
ARIA

View details ›

Congratulations! No errors were detected! Manual testing is still necessary to ensure compliance and optimal accessibility.

The following apply to the entire page:

🌐 *en-US*

STORIES of COLORADO

... 🔍

aria-labelledby="search-form query" *aria-label="Search"*

STORIES OF COLORADO

| Home | Browse Collections | Exhibits | Voices | About | Contact | Accessibility Statement |

BROWSE COLLECTIONS (3 TOTAL)

Sort by:

Title aria *role="presentation"* *aria-label="Sort ascending Title"*

Date Added aria *role="presentation"* *aria-label="Sorting descending Date Added"* ▲

```
<div id="content" role="main" tabindex="-1">
<!-- end of common/header.php-->
<!-- collections/browse.php-->
<h1>
    Browse Collections (3 total)
</h1>
<div id="sort-links">
    <span class="sort-label">
```
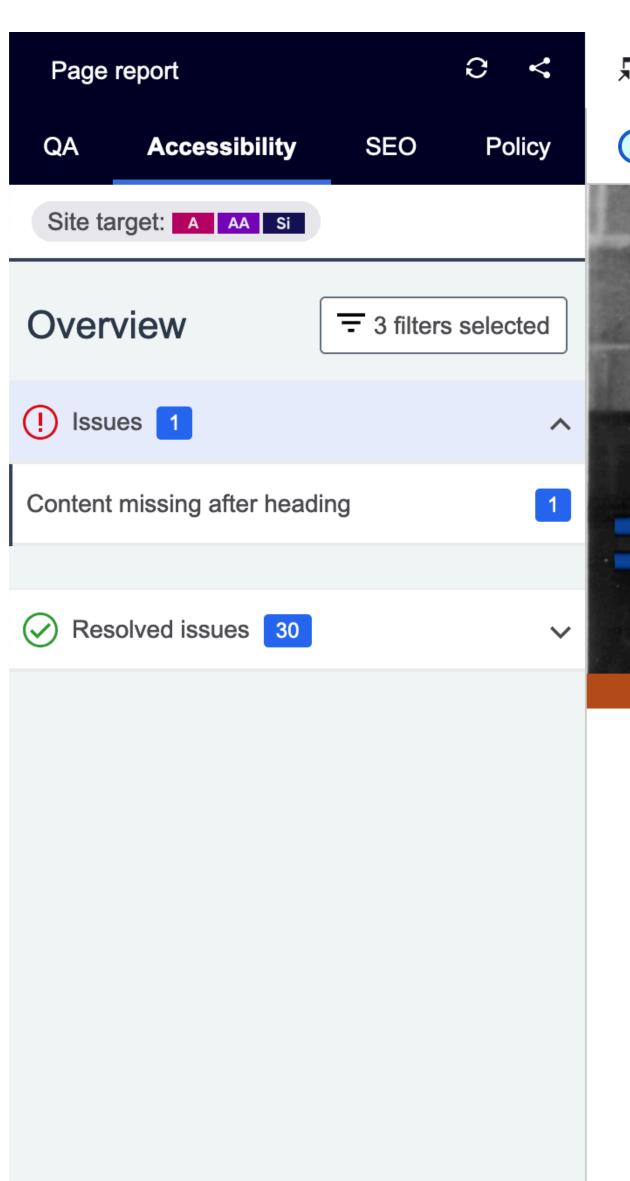
</> Code

Site target: A   AA   Si

Overview

⏷ 3 filters selected

⊘ **Issues**   1   ⌃

Content missing after heading   1

✓ Resolved issues   30   ⌄

⬒ Thornton Tribune vol. 2, no. 37, pg. 3 · Thornton Archive's Digital...
https://thorntonco.cvlcollections.org/items/show/2097653

✎ Set up a direct link to your CMS   ✓ Open Page Inspector

View page content   View HTML

⬒ About the Thornton Archive

⬒ Browse Collections

⬒ Browse Items

⬒ City of Thornton Arts and Culture

⬒ City of Thornton Website

Thornton Tribune vol. 2, no. 37, pg. 3

Item Metadata

Dublin Core

Title

Developing an Accessibility Statement

At a minimum, the accessibility statement needs to:

- Describe your commitment and response time

- Give at least two means of contacting you with any accessibility complaints (ideally one of which is accessible)

A fuller statement might also:

- Describe the level of compliance you're reaching for, how you integrate accessibility into your organization's operations

- An honest description of any areas of the site that you know do not meet accessibility requirements and your plan to fix them

Omeka Accessibility Statement

Accessibility Statement

The Omeka team is committed to making Omeka Classic an accessible option for sharing collections and exhibits online. We are working to make Omeka Classic's core code accessible, and will continue to make accessibility for persons with disabilities a priority. Omeka strives to adhere to W3C web design standards and to be compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The following statements apply to Omeka Classic versions 2.3 and higher.

Front End (Public view)

The public view of Omeka Classic has the following features to improve accessibility:

- ARIA (Accessible Rich Internet Applications) landmarks for tabbing through page content, when not using a mouse or using a screen reader;
- Ability to skip the navigation menu (SkipNav) and go straight to the page content when using a keyboard or screen reader to navigate the site (in all Omeka-produced themes);
- Semantic HTML5 markup.

These features are included in the core code as well as the plugins and themes that come bundled with Omeka Classic for download (plugins being Exhibit Builder, Coins, Simple Pages; themes being Thanks Roy, Berlin, Seasons).

There are also SkipNav and ARIA landmarks on all Omeka Classic themes produced by the Omeka team that do not come bundled with the download of Omeka Classic from Omeka.org.

Please note that although the core code for Omeka Classic and its bundled themes and plugins conform to the above standards, sites built with Omeka Classic which have been customized or which are using non-Omeka themes and plugins may lack some or all of these options. While we encourage developers to consider accessibility, we cannot ensure that their code includes ARIA landmarks and SkipNav in the themes.

https://omeka.org/classic/docs/GettingStarted/Accessibility_Statement/

CVL Collections Accessibility Statement

Accessibility Statement

Colorado State Library follows Web Accessibility Guidelines developed by the Governor's Office of Innovation and Technology (OIT). We are committed to making this site accessible to all users. If you have any suggestions for improving the accessibility of our website, please contact us.

Colorado State Library includes accessibility throughout our internal policies, and in staff trainings for Web content authors. We also check this site every month with accessibility audit software to ensure accessibility guidelines are being followed, and to fix any new accessibility problems found.

Conformance status

This site conforms to Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 level AA, and we have applied some additional AAA guidelines and other accessibility best practices.

Feedback

We welcome your feedback on the accessibility of CVL Collections. Please let us know if you encounter accessibility barriers on this site:

Phone: 303-866-6900

E-mail: csl.info@cde.state.co.us

Postal Address: 201 East Colfax Ave, Room 309, Denver, CO 80203

We try to respond to feedback within 2 business days via email; responses may take longer via post.

Conformance Status

Ways to notify us of accessibility issues

https://www.cvlcollections.org/accessibility-statement/

Accessibility Statement Tools

- The Web Accessibility Initiative has a good primer on [Developing an Accessibility Statement](#)

- Web Accessibility Initiative [Accessibility Statement Generator](#)

- Colorado OIT's [Example Accessibility Statement](#)

Post a link to the Accessibility Statement in a prominent place on your website, like the site footer

https://www.w3.org/WAI/planning/statements/

https://www.w3.org/WAI/planning/statements/generator/#create

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1VvYDwKB0WxpapDmKbrXMVfa2bXdLwjnRV7TSeahOVfg/

What About Stuff You Can't Fix?

You are still in compliance if:

- Issues doesn't prevent "substantially equivalent" access

- You provide "reasonable accommodations or modifications," have an accessibility statement, and you can show you're making progress

- You can show the tool you're using "best meets" your needs

- You can provide a "conforming alternate version"

- You can show "undue burden"

Some Basic Accessibility Guidelines

- Make sure your design has sufficient color contrast

- Make sure your links look like links, and have informative text about where the link goes

- Make sure any text you add is properly structured with headings

- Make sure files you upload have accessibility features

  - PDFs should have machine-readable text and proper tags

  - Video and audio files should have accessible equivalents, like text transcripts

  - Non-decorative images have good alt-text

Sufficient Color Contrast

- WCAG 2.1 AA requires at least 4.5 : 1 contrast ratio for body text

- Larger text can have less contrast

- Some exceptions for logos

- See this article for a round-up of useful color contrast tools: https://www.coloradovirtuallibrary.org/technology/accessibility/color-contrast-tools/

Think carefully about your links

How a screen reader might read a link

- Visual text is: "[Click here](#) to visit the Google search engine."
- Screen reader says: "Link; click here."

- Visual text is: "Visit Google at https://www.google.com/."
- Screen reader says: "Link, http://www.google.com."

Think carefully about your links

Link text should clearly describe the link destination

- Generic text like "click here" or "read more" is not very helpful
- Don't use full URLs as link text
- If you're linking to a file (PDF, Doc, etc.) the file type should be in the link

Avoid redundant links

Links with the same text should go to the same place

Links and only links should look like links

- Don't underline non-link text
- Don't apply a lot of custom styles to links

Organize your content logically

Think of headings as a table of contents to your page or post

H1 : page title (only one on the page)

H2 : content main sections

H3 : content sub-sections

Don't use too many headings—keep it simple!

Keep headings in the correct order (don't skip from H2 to H4, e.g.)

Don't just use bold text for a heading (screen readers ignore it)

Don't use headings just for large text or extra s p a c i n g

- Links and lists are also sometimes read first

Visual info should have a text alternative

Images that convey information need good alt-text

- Alt-text is dependent on context—Why are you using the image?
- Decorative images should have blank alt-text

Images used as links ALWAYS need alt-text

- Alt-text for linked images should describe the link destination, not the image

Complex images, like charts and graphs, should have a text alternative in the content or a simple data table

Alt-Text Tips (it's an art, not a science)

- Avoid "image of", "photo of", etc, unless the medium is particularly important.

- Don't repeat the same information as text near the image.

- Image links should describe the destination of the link, and not the image.

- Decorative images should have blank or empty alt text.

- Complex images, like charts or graphs, should have long description located near the image. The image's alt text should describe where the close by image is.

From Yale Accessibility Articles: https://usability.yale.edu/web-accessibility/articles/images#alt-text-long-descriptions
and WebAIM: https://webaim.org/techniques/alttext/#context

Use semantic HTML elements for their intended purpose, not just for design

Content in elements like <blockquote> and <table> should be actual block quotes or tables—don't use those elements because they look nice or for layout

Applies to Headings, too (which we've already covered)

Use in-line styles (*italics*, bold, **different colors**, <u>underlines</u>, etc.) sparingly, if at all

Example 1

What is Lorem Ipsum?

Lorem Ipsum is simply ***dummy text*** of the printing and *typesetting* industry. Lorem Ipsum has been the industry's standard dummy text ever since the 1500s, when an unknown printer took a galley of type and <u>*scrambled it to make a type specimen book*</u>.

Why do we use it?

It is a **long established** fact that a reader will be distracted by the readable content of a page when looking at its layout. The point of using Lorem Ipsum is that it has a more-or-less normal distribution of letters, as opposed to using 'Content here, content here', making it look like <u>readable English</u>.

Example 2

What is Lorem Ipsum?

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Watch out for errant HTML in pasted text

Text copied from Word, Google Docs, or an email, can bring with it lots of unnecessary HTML

You paste in:

- This is the first item in a list
- This is the second item

HTML is:

```
<ul style="font-size:14px;color:black;">
<li aria-level="1">This is the first item in a list</li>
<li aria-level="1">This is the second item</li>
</ul>
```

Watch out for errant **HTML** in pasted text

Text copied from Word, Google Docs, or an email, can bring with it lots of unnecessary HTML

You paste in:

This is a link to Colorado Virtual Library.

HTML is:

<p>This is a link to Colorado Virtual Library.</p>

Responsibility for Fixing Problems Found

- Omeka is the platform—it's responsible for the core code

- The State Library is the platform provider and developer (to some extent)

- You need to provide your own accessibility statement

- You're responsible for your own design choices and the content you add to the site

- You're responsible for supplying any requested accommodations or demonstrating why you can't do so

- You're responsible for your own accessibility plan

Omeka is not great for accessibility tools

- Adding files to an item doesn't give you an opportunity to add alt-text

- Exhibit and Simple Pages give you only rudimentary editing tools

- In many cases, fixing accessibility issues may require help from the State Library or be beyond our control

Accessibility Questions & Resources

- Email Amy or me with any questions or concerns:
  Amy Hitchner, ahitchner@coloradovirtuallibrary.org
  Babi Hammond, hammond_b@cde.state.co.us

- Colorado OIT's Guide to Accessible Web Services:
  https://oit.colorado.gov/standards-policies-guides/guide-to-accessible-web-services

- Email OIT:
  oit_accessibility@state.co.us