

From the entire Engineering Village (EV) team, we are proud to be part of the recent Big 10 accessibility evaluation of library electronic resources. Thank you to the Big Ten Academic Alliance Library and Deque Systems for selecting EV to be part of this important initiative.

Engineering Village strives to meet level A and AA of the WCAG 2.0 (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines). We were very pleased to learn from the review that we were already following several accessibility best practices with some features being regarded as very efficient. The minor list of actionable suggestions was greatly appreciated, and will help push us even further to the next level.

Since the Big 10 review was shared, we have fixed several items:

- Keyboard focus is now visible inside the Help navigation submenu.
- The Link to clear search results has a keyboard focusable target.
- The tablist structure of the search options have *role="tab"* to help screen reader users understand name, role, and value.
- Greyed out options in the numeric filter now meet WCAG 2.0 AA color contrast ratio of 4.5:1.
- The Remove All control has a more meaningful label of "Remove all records".
- Engineering Village logo image has better alt text which includes the text of the logo.

In addition, the following items will be fixed this year.

- Finding a more reliable replacement for the title attributes to provide contextual information on interactive elements.
- Syncing up the identification of UI components between screen readers and sighted users.
- Providing feedback in the user interface that is reliably picked up by assistive technology, such as when results numbers are updated do to a filtering action.
- Enforcing unique ID attributes across the application
- Correcting HTML semantic structure issues such as the list structures containing heading elements and divs.
- ARIA adjustments such as the menu aria role needing menuitem children.
- Identifying the selected search tab (databases, date, etc.) and tablist structure for AT.
- Fixing label markup on the checkboxes under database search options, in results, in addition to other form label issues such as on the contact page.

We greatly appreciated reviewer Denis Boudreau's responsiveness for the clarification questions we had after the review. Denis' presentation of the findings to our team was extremely helpful. Within the report, the clear categorization findings by WCAG number and automated vs. manual testing helped our teams understand the types of issues that we should be looking for in our standard development process.

We have incorporated the BTAA fix list items in our Accessibility Conformance Report ACR (or commonly referred to as VPAT). Elsevier has been providing detailed and honest VPATs around Engineering Village since 2007. Additional information about EV accessibility including a link to download the most current VPAT/ACR and an overview of accessibility features can be found on our site statement: <https://www.elsevier.com/solutions/engineering-village/features/accessibility>

### **Including User Feedback to Drive Accessibility**

In 2017, EV conducted a usability study focused on assistive technology users including users who are blind, low vision, and dexterity impaired. Additionally, Elsevier maintains a panel of external experts and people who use assistive technology as advisors. This accessibility collaboration group is open to all users, experts, and people experiencing disability. Additional comments or communications are appreciated and can be initiated through [accessibility@elsevier.com](mailto:accessibility@elsevier.com). Thank you.