

SAGE Knowledge Website Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT® Version 2.3)

Presented to: SAGE Publishing

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Executive Summary: SAGE Knowledge Website VPAT® Version 2.3

TFA's evaluation of the SAGE Knowledge Website identified accessibility features and functionalities of the website. This evaluation provided the information required to assess the conformance of the SAGE Knowledge Website with the WCAG 2.1 Accessibility Standards.

TFA concludes that the SAGE Knowledge Website *Partially Supports* the WCAG 2.1 standards as there are accessibility issues that render several activities inaccessible to blind and visually impaired users and difficult to use for mobility impaired users and low vision users.

The Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC) has published recommended language to be used in completing VPAT documents that has been designed to create simplicity and uniformity/consistency in VPATs presented by a variety of suppliers. In preparing the SAGE Knowledge Website VPAT, TFA has used the ITIC-recommended *VPAT® Version 2.4 WCAG format*.

Based on this evaluation and on information published on the ITIC website (http://www.itic.org), TFA presents the VPAT® Version 2.4 WCAG document for the SAGE Knowledge Website on the following pages.

SAGE Knowledge Website Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.4)

Name of Product/Version: SAGE Knowledge Website (https://sk.sagepub.com/)

Report Date: September 4, 2020; updated October 15, 2020; updated January 26, 2021; updated February 24, 2021; updated March 31, 2021

Product Description: A cross-media website which is home to an expansive range of SAGE Book, Business Case, Reference and Video titles within the Social Sciences.

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Notes: The VPAT is based on the assessment performed on 14 representative pages of the website, listed below. The assessment did not include any content linked or downloaded from these pages.

Evaluation Methods Used:

A detailed accessibility assessment was conducted between August 24–September 3, 2020, on the following web pages.

#	Page Title	URL
1	Home	https://sk.sagepub.com/
2	Create Profile	https://sk.sagepub.com/profile
3	Advanced Search functionality	https://sk.sagepub.com/search
4	Search Results page	https://sk.sagepub.com/Search/Results
5	SAGE Business Cases product page	https://sk.sagepub.com/cases
6	SAGE Business Cases: Original and Series	https://sk.sagepub.com/business-cases-originals-series
	page	
7	SAGE Business Cases Strategic Management	https://sk.sagepub.com/Browse/?taxonomyId=1&level2id=27&fromProduc
	menu page	<u>t=sbc</u>
8	SAGE Business Case: Information	https://sk.sagepub.com/cases/information-technology-sourcing-changes-
	Technology Sourcing Changes in an SME (A)	sme-ca-va-de-soi-a
9	SAGE Business Case: eFashion Inc.	https://sk.sagepub.com/cases/efashion-inc-warehouse-a
	Warehouse(A)	
10	SAGE Video: For Faculty & Instructors page	https://sagepub.libguides.com/c.php?g=1041598&p=7555463
11	SAGE Video with supplementary materials:	https://sk.sagepub.com/video/the-value-of-voice-a-conversation-with-nick-
	The Value of Voice – A Conversation with	<u>couldry</u>
	Nick Couldry, Chapter 1	

12	SAGE Reference title: The SAGE Encyclopedia of Lifespan Human	https://sk.sagepub.com/reference/the-sage-encyclopedia-of-lifespan-human-development
	Development	•
13	SAGE Book: Women in School Leadership	https://sk.sagepub.com/books/women-in-school-leadership
14	CQ Press title: Political Handbook of the	https://sk.sagepub.com/cqpress/political-handbook-of-the-world-2018-2019
	World 2018–2019	

The evaluation followed this protocol:

- I. A sighted accessibility expert conducted an overall technical analysis in order to identify issues of technical compliance that would affect mobility impaired, deaf/hearing impaired and low vision users. The evaluator inspected each screen using Chrome with the axe and WAVE browser plugins. Code analysis was conducted using Chrome Developer Tools.
- II. Keyboard accessibility analysis (for mobility and physically impaired users) was conducted by attempting to thoroughly navigate the web application through the keyboard, without using a mouse.
- III. For deaf and hard of hearing users, any audio content was assessed for proper captioning.
- IV. The accessibility for low vision users was evaluated three ways: (1) using the screen magnification, palette, and contrast controls provided by the operating systems; (2) using the font resizing capability offered by the browser, and (3) using Colour Contrast Analyser version 1.1.1.
- V. User Testing: The screen reader testing was conducted by an expert screen reader user. The goal was to identify accessibility barriers that are likely to be experienced by users who are blind. The evaluator worked through the web application on a Windows 10 PC environment using the JAWS 2020 and NVDA 2020.2 screen readers with the Chrome browser (Version 84).
- VI. Any usability issues for users with disabilities encountered during the accessibility assessments in Steps I-V were noted for subsequent mention.

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)
·	Level AA (Yes)
	Level AAA (No)

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. This can be used only in WCAG 2.0 Level AAA.

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)	Partially Supports	Many images, image links and image buttons are not labeled for accessibility or have insufficient, missing or redundant alternative text. Several long descriptions for complex images were missing or had incorrect semantic structure. Some math content did not have consistent alternative text used. 10/15/20: Icons no longer read for Tools links.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	N/A	No audio-only content or video-only content is currently on SK.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	All videos had captions.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Partially Supports	Some videos had onscreen content not available in a transcript or audio description.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Partially Supports	Many form controls were unlabeled, insufficiently labeled, or only labeled with placeholder text or the title attribute. Several form controls had additional instructions which were not correctly associated with the field. Some fieldset and fieldset legends were missing or not set up correctly for assistive technology. Some related form controls were not in uniquely labeled groups. Several instances of tables missing row or column headers or table markup not implemented correctly. Many instances of visual headings not marked up as headings and incorrectly structured lists. A few instances of missing list markup. Most modal dialogs did not have headings. 10/15/20: Menu headers no longer read out twice to screen readers on Advanced Search page.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		10/15/20: Add to list and Sign In/Register now read as links on all content pages. 10/15/20: Disabled Download button now read by screen readers on content pages. 10/15/20: On book content pages, when "Show All" activated, focus now moves to first exposed keyword. 10/15/20: Tooltip behavior on product portal pages remediated. 10/15/20: Tabbing functionality on Search Results page filters improved and more user-friendly. 10/15/20: Screen readers now recognize the menu items in the header on the portal pages.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Partially Supports	One book/video/case listings, screen reader focus was often sent back to the top of the page when tooltips were dismissed, which may have had to do with the fact that the code for the tooltips was at the bottom of the code for the page and not adjacent to the triggering element. 10/15/20: On book content pages, when "Show All" activated, focus now moves to first exposed keyword. 10/15/20: Tooltip behavior on product portal pages remediated.
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supports	Sensory characteristics are not used as the sole means of conveying information.
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Partially Supports	Color was used as the sole means of distinguishing links on one page.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	N/A	No automatically playing audio is currently on the SK site.
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Partially Supports	Sticky headers on many pages were blocking keyboard-only users from accessing some of the page content. Some tab panel controls, content within the tab panels and expand/collapse links were not keyboard accessible. Tab panels on book/video/case pages did not have the correct keyboard support. Scrolling through video transcripts was not keyboard accessible.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
Chiena	Conformance Level	Table of contents links on book/video/case pages did not move keyboard focus. Custom dropdowns and accordion content did not have expected keyboard support implemented. Tooltips that appear and disappear on hover do not disappear when focus moves off them. 10/15/20: Tooltip behavior on product portal pages remediated. 10/15/20: Tabbing functionality on Search Results page filters improved and more user-friendly. 10/15/20: Screen readers now recognize
		the menu items in the header on the portal pages. 03/08/21: Sticky headers no longer block keyboard users from content.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Partially Supports	There was a keyboard trap in a tab panel on one of the pages tested.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 only)	Supports	Updated 01/26/21: Character key shortcuts used on the video pages do not block users from accessing four printable characters when typing in form inputs on the page.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Supports	No user timeouts were experienced during testing pages.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	N/A	No automatically updated information is present.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Supports	No flashing element is present on the platform.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Partially Supports	Skip links are present on all pages but are the third link on the page instead of the first, and do not always work, or take users past the beginning of the main content. Many pages were missing a level one heading but most had main and footer landmarks in place as an alternative to the skip link.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Partially Supports	Page titles do not always update with unique names as users navigate through the website.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		Most page titles started with the more general part of the title and ended with the more useful, specific part of the title rather than the other way around.
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Partially Supports	Many instances of focus not being returned to or sent to the correct elements when interactive elements are opened or closed, in particular with tooltips closed using the Escape key. Several non-interactive elements were in the tab order. Many instances of duplicate, empty or redundant links. 10/15/20: On book content pages, when "Show All" activated, focus now moves to first exposed keyword.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Partially Supports	Many instances of links or sets of links that were missing all of part of their link text. Two instances of multiple links with the same link text but different link destinations. Two sets of links had supplementary link text ("Opens in new window") at the beginning of the link text for each link. Many links had redundant title text so the link text was read out twice by screen readers. Similarly, many block links had images with redundant alt that was read out as part of the link text. 10/15/20: Add to list and Sign In/Register now read as links on all content pages. 10/15/20: Send button now read as a button, not a link. 10/15/20: Icons no longer read for Tools links.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 only)	Supports	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.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 only)	Supports	There were no issues with pointer cancellation.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 only)	Partially Supports	Business case information listings had logo links with link text that did not include the text in the logo. 10/15/20: Screen reader now reads Embed.y icon on content pages.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 only)	N/A	There is no functionality requiring device motion.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Supports	The language of the page was defined correctly on all pages tested.
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supports	No significant change of context occurred on focus on the pages tested.
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Partially Supports	Several instances of select dropdowns unexpectedly updating page content on input. Many instances of focus jumping unexpectedly to the top of the page or another part of the page when controls are activated or dismissed. When carousel controls are activated, screen reader users were not always informed that the page content had changed.
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Partially Supports	Several instances of form elements that require a specific format or that are required not including this information in the form elements' accessible label.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Partially Supports	Several instances of form elements that require a specific format or that are required not including this information in the form elements' accessible label. When search inputs have auto suggestions that appear, this is not made clear to screen reader users in advance as part of the input element label. 10/15/20: Screen reader now reads Embed.y icon on content pages. 10/15/20: Add to list and Sign In/Register now read as links on all content pages. 10/15/20: NVDA now reads correct button function on video player in Firefox.
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A)	Partially Supports	Many instances of duplicate id values on common template elements.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)	Partially Supports	Many form elements were unlabeled or incorrectly labelled with title or placeholder text. Many form elements or buttons were not grouped and labelled for accessibility. Several instances of invalid or missing ARIA values. Multiple instances of buttons, links and landmarks with incorrect aria-labels or missing labels. Multiple instances of buttons incorrectly coded as links and a few of links being coded as buttons. Several instances of buttons or links not being coded as buttons or links not being coded as buttons or links and read out as plain text by screen readers. Several iFrames were missing titles. Incorrect or unnecessary use of ARIA menubar, listbox, slider and tab panel patterns caused many screen reader issues accessing content, particularly when using reading commands. Secondary page header content with ariahidden="true" applied to it was still in the tab order. Carousel content that was not visible on the page was also still available to screen reader users. Several instances of current, disabled or changed state of interactive elements not indicated to screen reader users when a visual indication was available. 10/15/20: Send button no longer read as a link; read as a button. 10/15/20: Add to list and Sign In/Register now read as links on all content pages. 10/15/20: Disabled Download button now read by screen readers on content pages. 10/15/20: Disabled Download button now read by screen readers on content pages.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)		No live audio/video content is found on the SK site.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)		Some videos had onscreen content not available in a transcript or audio description.
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 only)	N/A	The website was not tested on mobile devices.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 only)	Niinhorte	Input fields have an appropriate autocomplete attribute identified.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Partially Supports	There were several instances of text within the website that did not have sufficient color contrast. 02/16/21: Color contrast updated to compliance levels for Profile error messaging, placeholder text in forms, and clickable buttons on static pages when button receives focus.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Partially Supports	On book/case/video pages in particular, sticky headers and sticky footers on desktop made it difficult to access content at 200% zoom. On video pages the video iframe takes over the page once the user scrolls past it at 200% and the rest of the page content is no longer available.
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Partially Supports	On one of the book pages tested there were multiple large tables which were only available as low-quality images of text with no text alternative available.
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 only)	Partially Supports	On book/case/video and Search pages, two sticky headers and sticky footers on desktop made it difficult to impossible to access content at 320 pixels. On other pages with two headers, the sticky headers obscured a lot of the page content, but the pages were still usable. On the video pages, the video controls were not responsive at 320 pixels which obscured other page content.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 only)		There were a few instances of author- customized focus indicators, form field borders and graphic icons with insufficient contrast throughout the website.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	No loss of content or functionality occurs when users adjusted spacing as per the requirements of this guideline.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 only)	Supports	All content in the websites that becomes available on pointer hover or keyboard focus can be dismissed or accessed correctly, as required by this guideline.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Supports	The site has navigation and search available on every page tested.
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Partially Supports	A few form field and button labels were unclear or insufficiently detailed. 10/15/20: Menu headers no longer read out twice to screen readers on Advanced Search page.
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Focus indicators were missing from some of the form controls on the Profile page and from the slides in the carousels on many pages. 10/15/20: Focus on visible on Remove Search Term on Search Results Page. 10/15/20: Radio buttons and checkboxes on Profile Creation Page now receive visible focus.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Supports	A single language was used on the audited pages.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	Navigation links that are repeated on pages do not change order when navigating through the site.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supports	Elements with the same functionality were consistently identified.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Error and success messages were available but were not always read out by screen readers.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Supports	The website does not collect legal or financial data.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 only)	Partially Supports	Form error and success messages, search autocomplete suggestions, carousel updates, detailed search result information, and changes of state on interactive elements like accordions and some video controls were not available to screen reader users.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		10/15/20: NVDA users on Firefox are now told video Quick Keys Box has opened. 10/15/20: Users now informed all filters cleared on Advanced Search Page.

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