High-Level Accessibility Evaluation (WCAG 2.1)
De Gruyter
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Prepared for:
BTAA-Library Accessibility Alliance

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SUMMARY

This report reflects the findings of a high-level assessment of De Gruyter for its conformance with the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 (WCAG 2.1).

There are very few WCAG 2.1 compliance issues with the platform, and the few that are present are programmatic in nature and should be relatively easy to fix. However, creating an accessible platform is a constantly moving goalpost, so it is important to keep in mind that there are continual updates to the WCAG standards that may require more work in the future. Below are the most critical issues to focus on correcting to improve access for all potential users of the system.

Top Findings

1. **Compatibility**: The only compliance issue that stands out is concerning the use of unique id’s. This is a relatively minor issue which is primarily programmatic and should not cause a serious problem with usability or accessibility. For an in-depth guide to ARIA implementation, please see the WAI-ARIA Authoring Best Practices Guide from W3.

2. **Information and Relationships**: There is one potentially problematic issue with the form labels on the advanced search page. These are clearly present on the screen, yet the automatic analysis flagged them. Recommendation is to investigate further to make sure everything is working correctly.

3. **Color Contrast**: While none of the colors used on the site seem to fall outside of acceptable contrast ratios, the lightest gray used for subheadings/text should be reviewed manually for accuracy. This might only be a limitation of the automatic analysis.

Best Practices

♦ Ensure landmarks are unique.
♦ Page should contain a level-one heading.
ACCESSIBILITY FINDINGS

This report was conducted against De Gruyter platform and covers a selection of pages and features that were to be tested as a representative sample of the database’s conformance to the WCAG 2.1 AA standards.

The resource was reviewed using a combination of manual and automatic review tools and assistive technologies, including the WAVE Accessibility Assessment tool, Axe Accessibility Assessment tool, WCAG Color Contrast Checker, and NVDA screen reader. All problems identified by automatic tools were double checked manually. This evaluation was performed using Firefox on Windows 10.

Below are the findings revealed during the accessibility evaluation of De Gruyter.

1. Initial Interface

**Test Case**: Test initial interface/landing page to ensure menus, sub-menus, search box, images, icons, etc. are accessible. There’s quite a bit on this initial landing page.

**SC 1.4.3**: Elements must have sufficient color contrast.

--- This issue has 107 locations throughout the page.
Flagged Issues
− Element’s background color could not be determined due to a background gradient

SC 2.4.9: Links with the same name must have a similar purpose.
− This issue has 32 locations throughout the page.

Flagged Issues
− Check that links have the same purpose, or are intentionally ambiguous.

SC 4.1.1: id attribute value must be unique.
− .flex-md-nowrap.w-100.flex-wrap > .me-md-2.me-lg-5.w-100
− .ga_language_selector.dropdown-item:nth-child(1)
− .ga_language_selector.dropdown-item:nth-child(2)
− .cartSummary.align-items-center.d-flex > .pe-2.mainNavbarOptionsBg.text-decoration-none > .badge.font-size-12[data-fc-id="minicart-quantity"]
− .dropdown-menu-end > .login-menu > .log-out[href$="logout"]

Flagged Issues
− Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: mainNavbarSearchContainer
− Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: languageSelector_en
− Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: shopping-cart-badge
− Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: logoutUser

2. Search Results

Test Case: From the initial landing page, conduct a search for: Big Data. Test search results page, including filters/refine search (Limits to Access: Licensed; Document Type: book; Date: Last 5 years;) and sort by options.
SC 1.4.3: Elements must have sufficient color contrast.
   - This issue has 61 locations throughout the page.

Flagged Issues
   - Element's background color could not be determined due to a background gradient.
   - Element's background color could not be determined due to a background image.

SC 2.4.9: Links with the same name must have a similar purpose.
   - .documentVisibility > .facetList: nth-child(2) > .filterResultLink facet.ga_search_facet
   - .searchResult.py-3.d-flex: nth-child(1) > .imageHolder.d-lg-block.pe-4 > a
   - .border-top.searchResult.py-3:nth-child(4) > .searchResultContent.w-100 > .searchResultActions.flex-wrap.mt-2 > .downloadPdf.vgwort-click[title="Download PDF"]

Flagged Issues
   - Check that links have the same purpose, or are intentionally ambiguous.

SC 4.1.1: id attribute value must be unique.
   - .flex-md-nowrap.w-100.flex-wrap > .me-md-2.me-lg-5.w-100
   - .ga_language_selector.dropdown-item:nth-child(1)
   - .ga_language_selector.dropdown-item:nth-child(2)
   - .cartSummary.align-items-center.d-flex > .pe-2.mainNavbarOptionsBg.text-decoration-none > .badge.font-size-12[data-fc-id="minicart-quantity"]
Flagged Issues

- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: mainNavbarSearchContainer
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: languageSelector_en
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: shopping-cart-badge
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: logoutUser
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: main-content

3. Individual Results

Test Case: Select individual Book & test result landing page & test book download.

*Note: There shouldn’t be horizontal and vertical scrolling on a page unless the horizontal scroll is on a table. This may just be due to the screen resolution tested at, so it was not flagged.

SC 1.4.3: Elements must have sufficient color contrast.
- This issue has multiple locations throughout the page.

Flagged Issues
- Element’s background color could not be determined due to a background gradient.
SC 4.1.1: id attribute value must be unique.

Flagged Issues
- Element's background color could not be determined due to a background image.

SC 4.1.1: Frames must have an accessible name

Flagged Issues
- Element has no title attribute
- aria-label attribute does not exist or is empty
− aria-labelledby attribute does not exist, references elements that do not exist or references elements that are empty
− Element’s default semantics were not overridden with role="none" or role="presentation"

4. Advanced Search

Test Case: Test advanced search page.

*Note: There shouldn’t be horizontal and vertical scrolling on a page unless the horizontal scroll is on a table. This may just be due to the screen resolution tested at, so it was not flagged.

SC 1.3.1: Form elements must have labels.
− #title
− #familyName
− #reference

Flagged Issues
− Form element does not have an implicit (wrapped) <label>
− Form element does not have an explicit <label>
− aria-label attribute does not exist or is empty
− aria-labelledby attribute does not exist, references elements that do not exist or references elements that are empty
− Element has no title attribute
− Element has no placeholder attribute
− Element's default semantics were not overridden with role="none" or role="presentation"
**SC 1.4.3:** Elements must have sufficient color contrast.
- This issue has 59 locations throughout the page.

**Flagged Issues**
- Element's background color could not be determined due to a background gradient.
- Element's background color could not be determined due to a background image.

**SC 4.1.1:** id attribute value must be unique.
- .flex-md-nowrap.w-100.flex-wrap > .me-md-2.me-lg-5.w-100
- .ga_language_selector.dropdown-item:nth-child(1)
- .ga_language_selector.dropdown-item:nth-child(2)
- .cartSummary.align-items-center.d-flex > .pe-2.mainNavbarOptionsBg.text-decoration-none > .badge.font-size-12[data-fc-id="minicart-quantity"]
- .dropdown-menu-end > .login-menu > .log-out[href$="logout"]

**Flagged Issues**
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: `mainNavbarSearchContainer`
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: `languageSelector_en`
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: `shopping-cart-badge`
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: `logoutUser`

**SC 4.1.1:** Frames must have an accessible name
- `#seamlessAccessButton`

**Flagged Issues**
- Element has no title attribute
- aria-label attribute does not exist or is empty
- aria-labelledby attribute does not exist, references elements that do not exist or references elements that are empty
- Element's default semantics were not overridden with role="none" or role="presentation"

Disclaimer: This high-level evaluation was conducted for the Library Accessibility Alliance, and represents a good faith effort conducted within a limited time frame. It should not be assumed to be complete or free from error. No warranties or guarantees are implied. UT is not responsible for direct, indirect, or incidental damages based on this work; its use or interpretation by any individual, group, or organization; or on conditions beyond our control.