High-level accessibility review – LAA (IEEE Xplore)

Primary Point of Contact
John Truong
Project Manager
Deque Systems, Inc.
Web: www.deque.com
Email: john.truong@deque.com

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Summary

Top 3 problems for the IEEE Xplore

This high-level assessment covers limited portions and functionality of the IEEE Xplore. The assessment revealed issues with assistive technology compatibility, resulting in some users missing information required to perceive and understand content, and to operate functions. It is important to keep in mind that the findings represent a high-level assessment, and do not reflect the results of a Deque Comprehensive Web Assessment.

1. **Keyboard Navigation** – Many elements in the left panel are not accessible by the keyboard. This issues of this type affect many types of users, not just screen reader users.
2. **Contrast** – A handful of key controls and icon controls are low in contrast.
3. **Links** - Many links on the site are missing discernible text, which leads to Assistive Technology users potentially being unaware of the purpose of the affected links.

Accessibility findings

### Project wide issues

The issues presented in this section were identified in multiple pages and are recorded here to avoid repetition. These are applicable to each screen. Due to particularities, similar issues are still reported on a page per page basis, where applicable.

### Automated findings using Axe

Issues found through automated testing come from the Axe plugin, an open-source accessibility testing tool that is available for Chrome, Firefox, and Edge. Details here: [https://www.deque.com/products/axe/](https://www.deque.com/products/axe/).

1. **SC 1.3.1 A** – Form elements must have Labels for “From” and “to” for years setting in left navigation panel
2. **SC 2.1.1 A** – href value is missing for all download PDF links in page

### Additional manual findings using NVDA screen reader

1. **SC 1.4.4 AA** – The left side panel content is missing at a 200% zoom level
2. **SC 1.4.10 AA** – The left side panel content is missing, and content is not functional on a reflow viewport that is 320 CSS px wide
3. **SC 2.1.1 A** – “Open Access” tooltip besides every page link is not keyboard accessible
4. **SC 1.1.1 A** – Image under funding agency is missing Alt text.
1. **Initial interface**

**Source:** [https://ieeexplore-ieee-org.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/Xplore/home.jsp](https://ieeexplore-ieee-org.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/Xplore/home.jsp)

**Test case:** Test initial interface/landing page to ensure menus & submenus, search box and “All” drop-down menu, etc. are accessible.

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**Automated findings using Axe**

No unique automated issues were found.

**Additional manual findings using NVDA screen reader**

1. **SC 2.4.1 A** – Navigation land landmark and Banner landmark is not provided in the page
2. **SC 1.3.1 A** – Un-necessary list mark up is provided for “Cart link” in header section
3. **SC 1.1.1 A** – In accurate alt text is provided for the “IEEE Image”
4. **SC 1.4.11 AA** – The ‘Expand/collapse’ Icon is low in contrast for “all” drop down icon is low in contrast.
1. **Search Results: Renewable Energy**


**Test case:** From the initial interface, perform a search. Choose “Renewable Energy” Test results page, including Filter – Source Type, Sort by Relevance and Sort by Page Options.

![Search Results: Renewable Energy](image)

**Automated findings using Axe**

1. **SC 4.1.2 A** – Aria input field must have accessible name for “year” slider in left navigation panel
2. **SC 4.1.2 A** – Button must have discernible text for “set search alerts” below advance search
3. **SC 1.3.1 A** – Form elements must have labels for “Year” Input text box in the left navigation panel

**Additional manual findings using NVDA screen reader**

1. **SC 2.4.7 AA** – Focus indicator not visible on “Single year” and “Range slider” in left nav panel
2. **SC 2.1.1 A** - Keyboard support is missing for “X” icon next to renewable energy. Below the search results input text box
3. **SC 2.1.1 A** – Keyboard support missing for “Hide related publication” dropdown
3. Result Details: **Filter to Journals**

**Source:** [https://ieeexplore.ieee.org.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/search/searchresult.jsp?queryText=renewable%20energy&highlight=true&returnType=SEARCH&matchPubs=true&sortType=newest&subscribed=true&refinements=ContentType:Journals&refinements=ControlledTerms:power%20grids&ranges=2020_2023_Year&returnFacets=ALL](https://ieeexplore.ieee.org.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/search/searchresult.jsp?queryText=renewable%20energy&highlight=true&returnType=SEARCH&matchPubs=true&sortType=newest&subscribed=true&refinements=ContentType:Journals&refinements=ControlledTerms:power%20grids&ranges=2020_2023_Year&returnFacets=ALL)

**Test case:** Filter to Journals in the upper pane of the search results and click Apply. Test the Sort By dropdown menu to Newest First. Test the filters on the left-hand side of the screen, by clicking on Subscribed Content and then limiting the years to 2020-2023. Limit the Publication Topics to “power grids.” Click Apply and Test the results page including expanding the Abstract for an article.

Automated findings using Axe

1. **SC 4.1.2 A** – “Request permission for reuse” (C) link must have discernible text
2. **SC 1.1.1 A** – All the Images in the page are missing Alt text.

Additional manual findings using NVDA screen reader.

1. **SC 2.1.1 A** – Tooltip next to subscribed radio button in left navigation panel is not keyboard accessible
2. **SC 4.1.2 A** – Selected state is not defined by screen reader for the “Single year” and “Range” Buttons in left Navigation panel
3. **SC 4.1.2 A** – Expand/Collapse state is missing for all the “Abstract” links in the page
4. **SC 1.4.11 AA** – “Search icon” and “Text re-size Icon” is low in contrast.
4. Advanced Search by clicking on title: Blockchain-Based Intelligent Charging Station Management System Platform

Source: https://ieeexplore-ieee-org.offcampus.lib.washington.edu/document/9900304

Test case: Click on the title “Blockchain-Based Intelligent Charging Station Management System Platform.” Test the article page including the Abstract, Document Sections, and PDF. Test References and Share by clicking on the icons near the top of the page. Scroll down to SECTION I and test the search function and text size tools on the right side of the page. Scroll down to “FIGURE 1” and click on Image.

Automated findings using Axe
No unique automated issues were found.

Additional manual findings using NVDA screen reader

1. SC 2.4.4 A – Links must have discernible text for – “View References”, “Share”, “IEEE is not copy right holder of this material”, “Alerts” icons.
2. SC 1.3.1 A – Heading mark up is missing for “Abstract” and “Section 1”
3. SC 1.4.11 AA – “IEEE is not copy right holder of this material “icon is low in contrast.