The GeoScienceWorld staff would like to thank the Library Accessibility Alliance for providing us with the results of its recent accessibility audit of our platform. It is our shared goal that the world of academic publishing be truly accessible and audits such as this provide useful feedback as we work to deliver an accessible site for the users, librarians, and society publishing partners who rely on us to do so.

We wanted to provide an update on our activities in the area of accessibility following receipt of the audit results. Our progress can largely be divided into two distinct areas: (1) changes that GeoScienceWorld can make on its own and (2) updates that require changes in the functionality of the Silverchair platform on which GeoScienceWorld operates. The majority of the accessibility issues raised by the audit fall into the latter category of platform issues. Accordingly, GeoScienceWorld has been working with Silverchair to address these accessibility issues and develop a roadmap towards a WCAG-compliant GeoScienceWorld website.

Silverchair has a robust team working to increase accessibility on the Silverchair platform and publishes regular accessibility updates, which are available on [their accessibility page](#). This page details their methodology for identifying WCAG violations as well as their plans for remediation. GeoScienceWorld anticipates incorporating the accessibility remediations, updates and features developed by Silverchair as they become available to GeoScienceWorld on the Silverchair platform.

With regard to updates and changes that GeoScienceWorld can make on its own, our product team has gone through the audit line by line and addressed the highest-order errors and started projects to address the items below.

Completed:

- SC 1.1.1 A – The "OpenGeoSci screenshot" image is decorative but is not ignored by Assistive Technology
- SC 3.1.2 AA – The GSW Publishers section contains content that is not in the primary language of the page, and the affected content does not have its language programmatically defined.
- SC 1.3.1 A – The 'Explore', 'Connect', 'Resources' and 'About' section headings in the footer are not semantically identified as headings.
- SC 2.4.4 A – Several header links share the same link text as links in the footer, but perform a different task or function. Affected links include: GeoScienceWorld, Journals, GeoRef, OpenGeoSci, Help.
- SC 1.3.1 A – When the Abstract for a search result is expanded, the newly expanded content is inappropriately hidden from Assistive Technology with aria-hidden.
- SC 2.4.3 A – When the Abstract for a search result is expanded, keyboard user focus is set to the PDF and Add to Citation Manager controls, except the controls are not visible and are hidden due to the expanded content.

In Progress:

- SC 1.4.3 AA – The "Standard View", "PDF", "Cite", "Share" and "Tools" text content is low in contrast. A 3.37:1 contrast ratio was detected where a 4.5:1 ratio is expected.
- SC 3.2.2 A – When a user uses any filter option, the page is automatically refreshed without the user having applied or confirmed their filter choice.
- SC 1.3.2 A – The date picker functionality is included at the very end of the page when exposed, therefore a keyboard only and Assistive Technology user is unable to ever encounter the functionality before it disappears
- SC 4.1.2 A – The 'Apply' link is missing an href attribute.
- SC 4.1.2 A – When the Abstract for a search result is expanded, the expanded/collapsed programmatic state is not updated.
- SC 4.1.2 A – The 'Prev' and 'Next' links in the date picker are missing an href attribute.

We have also spoken to Deque to better understand the items in the LAA audit and prioritize the items on our own roadmap.

To this end, we have created a special view of our feature roadmap that will allow users to follow our progress in real time. You can view [that roadmap here](#). The roadmap not only tracks projects GeoScienceWorld is undertaking in response to the LAA audit but also other independent investigations we're taking on as we become more educated on accessibility standards and expectations. We look forward to sharing our progress there.

Thank you again for bringing these critical issues to our attention and for the great service you provide to the academic community.

GeoScienceWorld