

Accessibility Evaluation Report:

# Taylor and Francis

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**Conducted by:** Accessiblü, LLC

**For:** Library Accessibility Network (LAA)

**Prepared by:**

Accessiblü, LLC

882 Pompton Ave, STE A-2

Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

[hey@accessiblu.com](mailto:hey@accessiblu.com)

**Primary Contact:**

Jeff Rodgers, MS Ed

Director of Digital Accessibility

Accessiblü

[jeff@accessiblu.com](mailto:jeff@accessiblu.com)

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## Summary of Accessibility Findings

Accessiblü conducted a **high-level accessibility evaluation** of the Taylor & Francis eBooks platform to assess its usability for individuals with disabilities. The review was conducted using the JAWS screen reader, keyboard-only navigation, and manual inspection for conformance to select WCAG 2.2 AA success criteria.

### Key Findings

The Taylor & Francis platform demonstrates a mixed accessibility profile with several commendable features alongside significant barriers that impact users with disabilities. During our evaluation, we identified both positive implementations and critical issues that prevent effective platform usage for screen reader users and keyboard-only users.

#### Positive Aspects:

- Well-implemented heading structure throughout most pages
- Properly coded tab interface with appropriate ARIA states
- Functional advanced search form with properly labeled fields
- Clear announcement of search result counts

**Critical Issues:** The platform presents several notable accessibility barriers including keyboard traps in search functionality, missing alternative text for images (particularly in carousel elements), improperly implemented filter controls, and substantial PDF accessibility issues. These problems collectively create an experience that ranges from frustrating to completely inaccessible for some users with disabilities.

Addressing these concerns would significantly improve the platform's usability for persons with disabilities, particularly those using screen readers and keyboard-only navigation methods.

### Top 3 Issues Identified

#### 1. Keyboard Traps in Search Interface

- Brief description: Search combo boxes and filter elements create keyboard traps, preventing users from navigating away without using the Escape key, which is not communicated to users.

- Impact: Keyboard-only users and screen reader users become stuck in interface elements, unable to proceed with normal navigation.
- WCAG Success Criteria: 2.1.1 Keyboard (A), 2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (A)

## 2. **Missing Alternative Text for Images**

- Brief description: Carousel images, book covers, and graphics lack meaningful alternative text, with some appearing as unlabeled "link graphic" elements.
- Impact: Screen reader users cannot access visual information, missing crucial context about books, navigation elements, and promotional content.
- WCAG Success Criteria: 1.1.1 Non-text Content (A)

## 3. **Improper Filter Implementation**

- Brief description: Filter controls are coded as links instead of checkboxes, preventing users from making multiple selections and causing unexpected page refreshes.
- Impact: Users cannot effectively filter search results, as each selection triggers a page reload rather than allowing cumulative filtering.
- WCAG Success Criteria: 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A), 1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)

## **Disabilities Impacted**

### **Blind and Low-Vision Users**

- **Issues:** Missing alternative text for images, keyboard traps in search interface, inaccessible carousel without pause functionality, unlabeled filter controls, and poorly structured PDF content.
- **Impact:** Screen reader users face significant barriers in discovering and accessing academic content, with many platform features being partially or completely inaccessible.

### **Users with Motor Disabilities**

- **Issues:** Keyboard traps requiring Escape key usage, non-functional back-to-top button, auto-playing carousel without pause controls, and unpredictable focus management.
- **Impact:** Keyboard-only users experience navigation difficulties and may become trapped in certain interface elements, preventing efficient platform usage.

Neurodiverse Users

- **Issues:** Auto-playing carousel content, inconsistent interface behaviors, lack of clear feedback when filters are applied, and complex navigation patterns.
- **Impact:** Users with cognitive disabilities may struggle with the unpredictable interface behaviors and lack of clear status updates when interacting with search and filter functions.

Page-Specific Findings and Impact Analysis

Homepage (Landing Page)

Issue	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
Missing Alternative Text	1.1.1 Non-text Content (A)	Carousel images and promotional graphics lack meaningful alt text	Carousel elements announced as "link graphic" with no descriptive content
Keyboard Traps	2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (A)	Search combo box traps keyboard focus	Users cannot navigate away from search suggestions without pressing Escape
Inaccessible Carousel	2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (A)	Auto-playing carousel has no pause mechanism	Moving content cannot be paused by keyboard users
Improper Landmarks	1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)	ARIA landmarks are not properly labeled	Regions announce as generic sections rather than meaningful landmarks
Non-functional Controls	4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)	Back-to-top button does not function properly	Button activates but focus remains at bottom of page

**Impact Summary:** The homepage presents some immediate accessibility barriers that may prevent users from effectively navigating and searching the platform. The keyboard trap in the search interface is particularly problematic, as it's one of the first interactive elements users encounter. The auto-playing carousel without pause functionality violates WCAG guidelines and may be a distraction for users with cognitive disabilities.

Homepage Screenshot

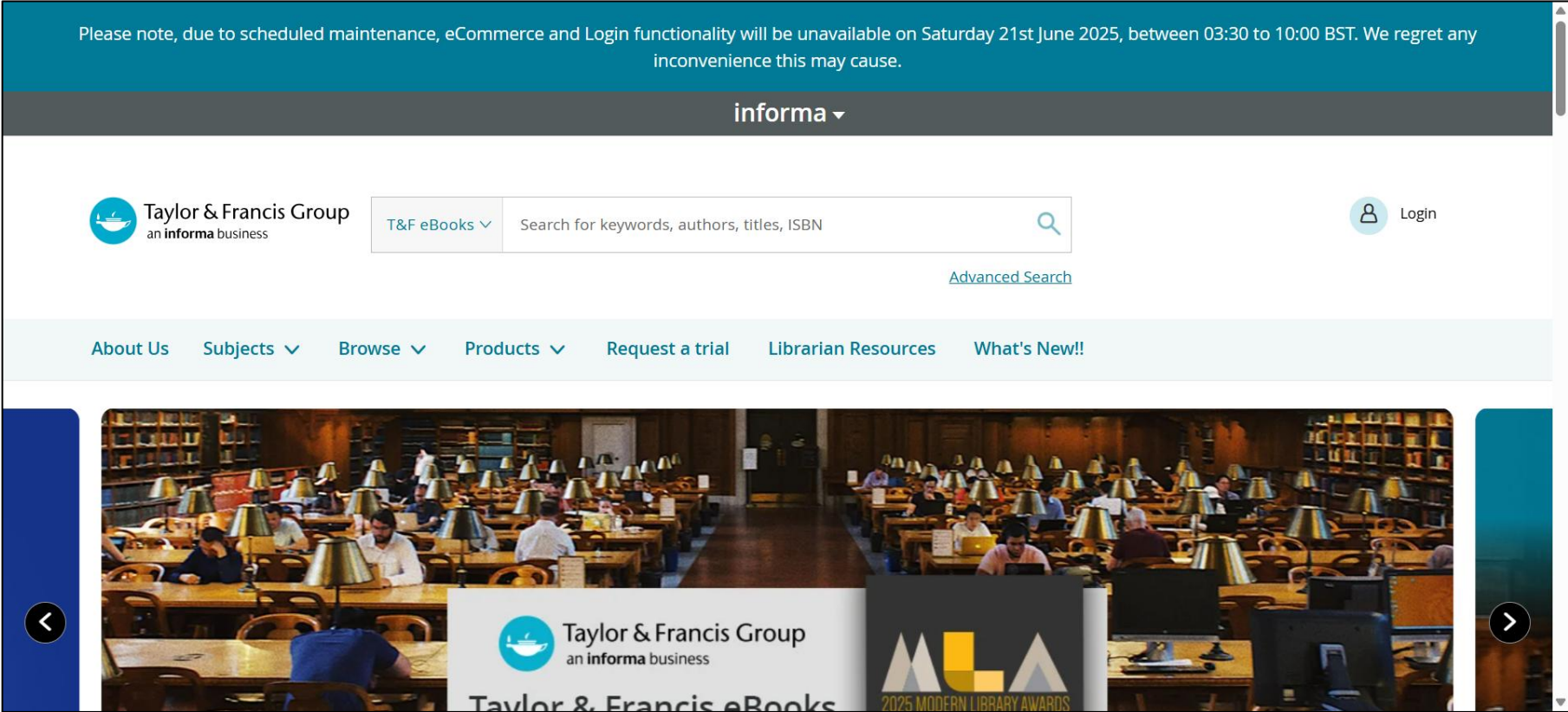


Figure 1. The homepage carousel displaying promotional content without pause controls.

**Search Results Page**

Issue	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
Improper Filter Controls	<b>4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)</b>	Filter options coded as links instead of checkboxes	"Licensed Content" filter behaves as link, causing page refresh
Missing State Information	<b>4.1.3 Status Messages (AA)</b>	Filter changes not announced to screen readers	No feedback when filters are applied or search results update
Unlabeled Book Links	<b>2.4.4 Link Purpose (A)</b>	Book titles not clearly linked or accessible	Users cannot determine which elements lead to book details
Improper Form Controls	<b>1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)</b>	Date range inputs announced as spin boxes rather than edit fields	Year selection fields confusing for screen reader users

**Impact Summary:** The search results page contains critical functionality issues that prevent users from effectively filtering and accessing content. The improper implementation of filter controls as links rather than checkboxes creates a fundamentally broken user experience for assistive technology users.

Search Results Page Screenshot

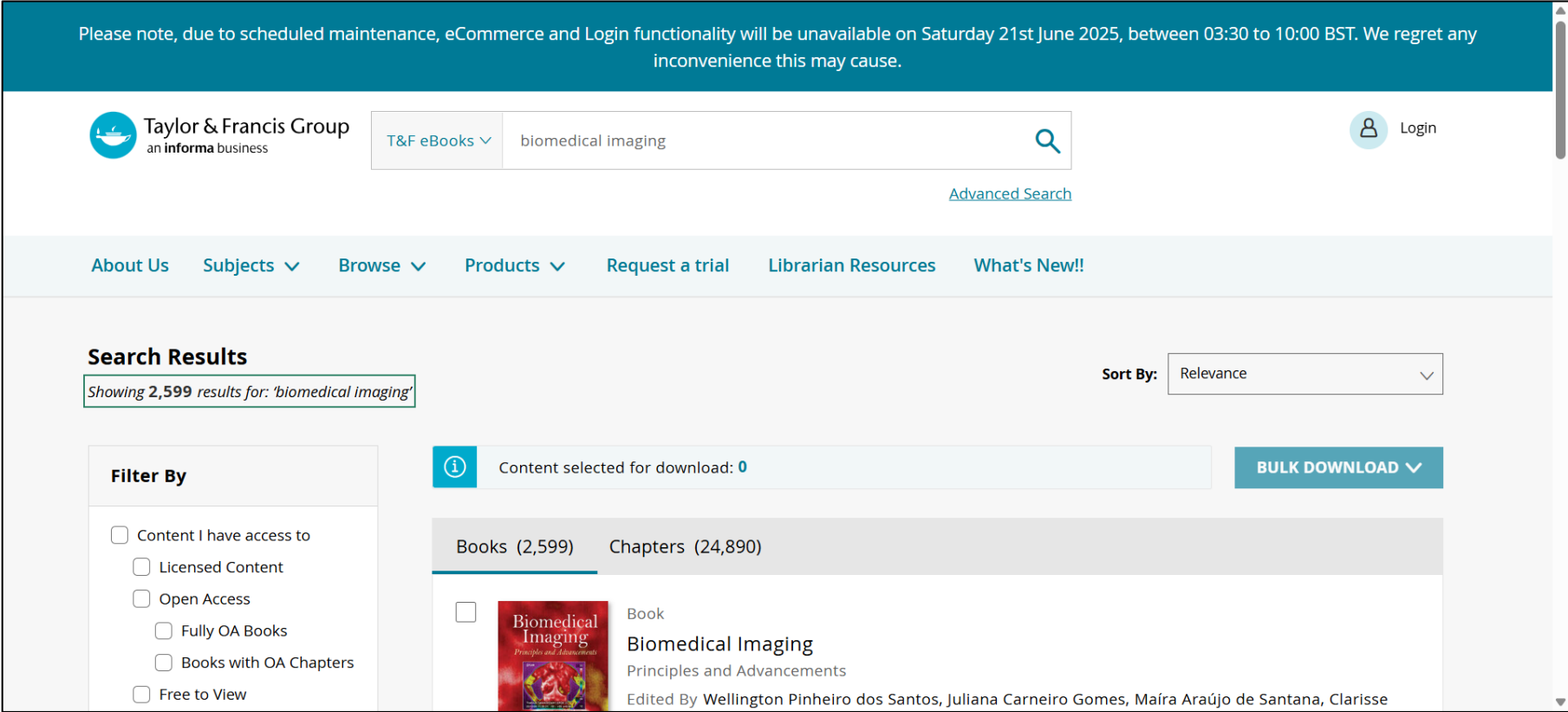


Figure 2. Initial search results page showing the filter interface and search result count announcement for “biomedical imaging.”



Advanced Search Page

Issue	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
Missing State Announcements	4.1.3 Status Messages (AA)	Add/remove field buttons don't announce state changes	Users unaware when new search fields are added
Unlabeled Remove Buttons	4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (A)	Remove buttons lack descriptive labels	Generic "remove" without context of what's being removed

**Impact Summary:** The advanced search page shows better accessibility implementation overall, with properly labeled form fields and functional buttons. However, the dynamic add/remove functionality lacks proper state announcements, creating confusion about interface changes.

Advanced Search Page Screenshot

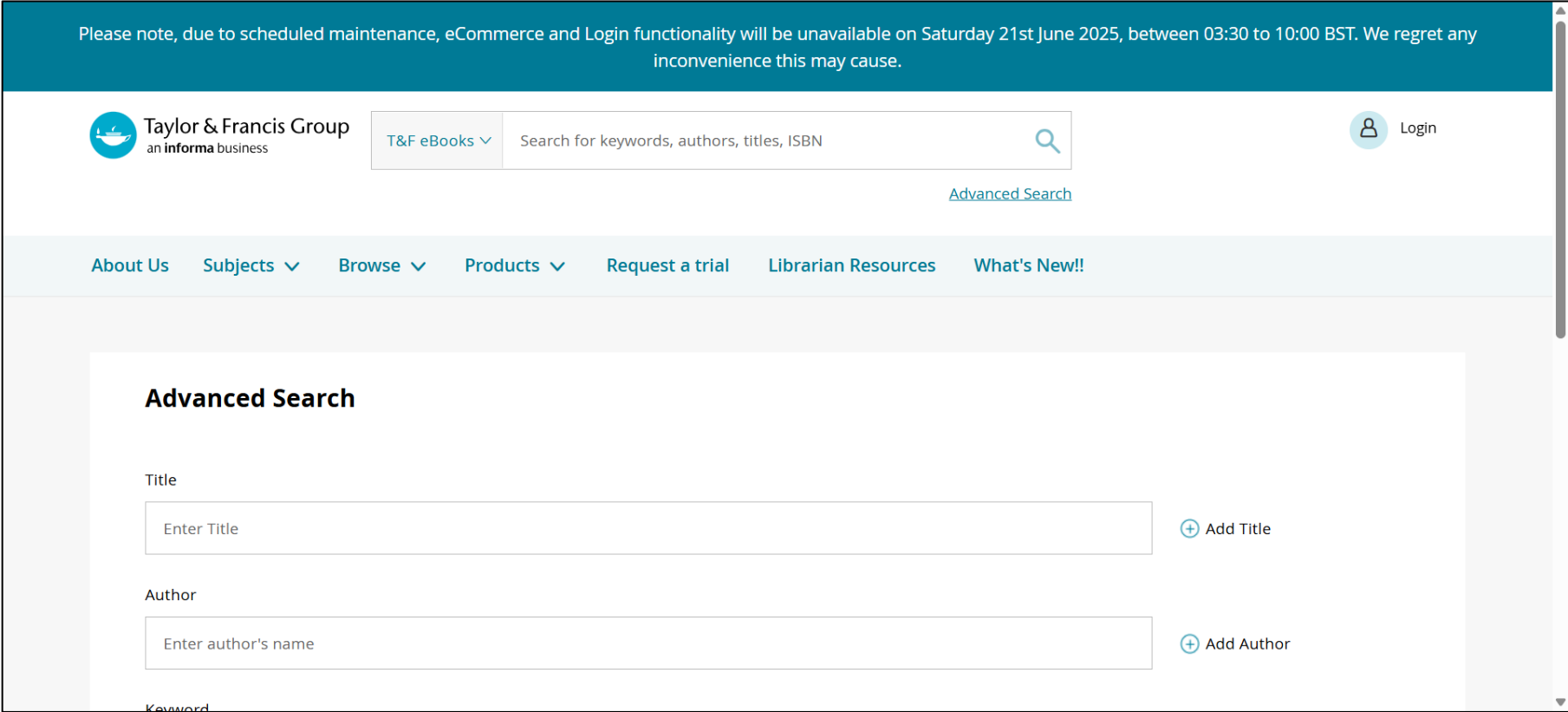


Figure 3. The Taylor & Francis Advanced Search page showing properly labeled form fields with add/remove functionality for multiple search criteria.

**Book Detail Pages**

Issue	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
Missing Alternative Text	<b>1.1.1 Non-text Content (A)</b>	Book cover images lack descriptive alt text	Cover images announced as generic "link graphic"
Inaccessible Chapter Links	<b>2.4.4 Link Purpose (A)</b>	Chapter access methods not clearly communicated	Users cannot determine how to access individual chapters
Poor Content Structure	<b>1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)</b>	Book metadata not properly structured	Information hierarchy unclear for screen reader users

**Impact Summary:** Book detail pages present barriers to understanding book content and structure. The lack of accessible chapter navigation particularly impacts users' ability to access specific academic content efficiently.

Book Details Screenshot

Search Results

Showing 876 results for: 'biomedical imaging'

Filters:

Subject: Engineering & Technology X

Filter By

Clear

☐ Content I have access to

☐ Licensed Content

☐ Open Access

☐ Fully OA Books

☐ Books with OA Chapters

☐ Free to View

AVAILABILITY

☐ Include Forthcoming

SUBJECT

Engineering & Technology X

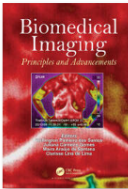
Sort By: Relevance

Content selected for download: 0

BULK DOWNLOAD

Books (876) Chapters (7,519)

☐



Book

Biomedical Imaging

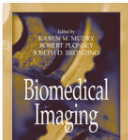
Principles and Advancements

Edited By Wellington Pinheiro dos Santos, Juliana Carneiro Gomes, Maira Araújo de Santana, Clarisse Lins de Lima

1st Edition | 13 November 2024 | CRC Press | 230 pages

Abstract

☐



Book

Biomedical Imaging

Edited By Karen M. Mudry, Robert Plonsey, Joseph D. Bronzino

1st Edition | 25 March 2003 | CRC Press | 360 pages

Abstract

Figure 4. Subject-filtered search results displaying the standard layout with filter controls and book listings.

**Document Reader**

Issue	WCAG Success Criteria	Description	Example
Missing Alternative Text	<b>1.1.1 Non-text Content (A)</b>	Figures and diagrams lack descriptive alt text	"Figure 16.1" referenced with no description
Inaccessible Links	<b>2.4.4 Link Purpose (A)</b>	Links have meaningless accessible names	Links announced as "reader/slash/number/percent"
Poor List Structure	<b>1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)</b>	Author lists not properly coded	Information presented as static text rather than structured lists
Missing Table Structure	<b>1.3.1 Info and Relationships (A)</b>	Tables referenced but not accessible	"Table 16.1" mentioned but not accessible to screen readers

**Impact Summary:** The document reader presents the most significant accessibility barriers, with academic content being largely inaccessible to screen reader users. The lack of alternative text for figures and tables severely impacts comprehension of technical and scientific material.

Document Reader Screenshot



Figure 5. The integrated document reader displaying a page in PDF format.

## Code Snippets

### Keyboard Trap Fix (2.1.2)

html

```
<!-- Current problematic implementation -->  
<div class="search-combo" role="combobox" aria-expanded="false">  
  <input type="text" />  
  <div class="suggestions">  
    <!-- Suggestions without proper keyboard handling -->  
  </div>  
</div>
```

```
<!-- Recommended fix -->  
<div class="search-combo" role="combobox" aria-expanded="false"  
  aria-owns="suggestions-list">  
  <input type="text" aria-autocomplete="list"  
    aria-controls="suggestions-list" />  
  <ul id="suggestions-list" role="listbox">  
    <li role="option" tabindex="-1">Suggestion 1</li>  
    <li role="option" tabindex="-1">Suggestion 2</li>  
  </ul>  
</div>
```

### Missing Alternative Text (1.1.1)

html

```
<!-- Current problematic implementation -->  

```

```
<!-- Recommended fix -->  

```

## Proper Filter Implementation (4.1.2)

html

```
<!-- Current problematic implementation -->  
<a href="/search?filter=licensed">Licensed Content</a>  
  
<!-- Recommended fix -->  
<div class="filter-group">  
  <fieldset>  
    <legend>Content Type</legend>  
    <input type="checkbox" id="licensed" name="content-type" value="licensed">  
    <label for="licensed">Licensed Content</label>  
  </fieldset>  
</div>
```

## Carousel Accessibility (2.2.2)

html

```
<!-- Current problematic implementation -->  
<div class="carousel">  
  <div class="slide">  
      
  </div>  
</div>  
  
<!-- Recommended fix -->
```



```
<div class="carousel" role="region" aria-label="Featured Resources">
  <button class="pause-btn" aria-label="Pause carousel">Pause</button>
  <div class="slide">
    
  </div>
</div>
```

### Proper Tab Panel Implementation (1.3.1)

html

*<!-- Current implementation (missing tab panel labels) -->*

```
<div class="tabpanel">
  <h3>Featured</h3>
  <!-- Content -->
</div>
```

*<!-- Recommended fix -->*

```
<div class="tabpanel" role="tabpanel" aria-labelledby="humanities-tab"
  id="humanities-panel">
  <h3>Featured</h3>
  <!-- Content -->
</div>
```

## Final Thoughts and Recommendations

The Taylor & Francis eBooks platform demonstrates a mixed accessibility profile with both commendable features and significant barriers. The platform shows good implementation of heading structures and basic form labeling, indicating awareness of accessibility principles. However, critical issues in search functionality, image accessibility, and PDF content create substantial barriers for users with disabilities.

### Recommended Fixes

- **Implement proper keyboard navigation patterns:** Fix keyboard traps in search interfaces and ensure all interactive elements are keyboard accessible with clear focus management.
- **Add comprehensive alternative text:** Provide meaningful alt text for all images, particularly book covers, carousel graphics, and navigational elements.
- **Redesign filter interface:** Replace link-based filters with proper checkbox/radio button controls that allow multiple selections without page refreshes.
- **Add carousel controls:** Implement pause functionality for auto-playing carousels and provide proper alternative text for all carousel images.
- **Improve PDF accessibility:** Ensure all PDF documents include proper alternative text for figures, accessible table structures, and meaningful link labels.
- **Enhance form feedback:** Add proper status announcements for dynamic form changes and filter applications.
- **Fix landmark navigation:** Implement proper ARIA landmarks with meaningful labels to support screen reader navigation.

The platform's strong foundation in heading structure and basic form implementation provides a solid base for accessibility improvements. Addressing the identified issues would significantly enhance the platform's usability for the academic community members who rely on assistive technologies.

## Disclaimer

Accessiblü prepared this report as a high-level accessibility evaluation of the Taylor & Francis eBooks platform. The evaluation utilized industry-standard testing methodologies, including screen reader testing (JAWS 2025), keyboard-only navigation, and manual inspection for select WCAG 2.2 AA success criteria.

This report does not represent a comprehensive WCAG compliance audit and should not be seen as a certification of accessibility compliance. While we have identified significant accessibility concerns and usability barriers, this evaluation was limited in scope and may not encompass all accessibility issues on the platform.

**No Legal Liability:** Accessiblü offers this report for informational purposes only. It assumes no legal responsibility for accessibility violations or compliance failures resulting from its use. Organizations seeking formal certification should conduct a comprehensive audit and user testing with individuals with disabilities.

**Limitations of Testing:** This evaluation was conducted at a specific time, and platform updates may have occurred after testing was completed. Additionally, while automated tools and expert reviews were utilized, real-world users with disabilities determine the true measure of accessibility.