

Cambridge University Press are thankful to the Big Ten Academic Alliance Library for taking the time to evaluate the accessibility of Cambridge Core. The evaluation is invaluable to us as we continue to develop Cambridge Core to ensure the platform meets the AA level of accessibility as set by the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0.

For more information please visit our accessibility statement -

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/accessibility>

Cambridge Core is committed to helping readers and researchers of all abilities to make fast and easy journeys to our content. As part of this commitment, accessibility is thoroughly tested in-house as part of the development process. Many of the issues raised by the accessibility review were already being worked on by the Cambridge Core development team, and we have put methods in place to ensure the additional issues raised will be investigated.

Since the review, Cambridge Core has:

Undergone an accessibility audit carried out by the [Digital Accessibility Centre](#), involving expert reviews and testing by users with various disabilities. As a result of this audit, the following improvements have been made.

- Rewritten the accessibility statement to reflect the latest guidelines and to provide advice to users with disabilities on to make best use of the available functionality.
- Added alt tags to tooltips, modals and image blocks, making these features accessible to screen readers and keyboards only users
- Made the Cambridge Core logo accessible so screen readers do not unnecessarily read out the URL of the link behind the logo
- Ensured link text describes the action of a link without the need for visual context
- Made search boxes accessible for screen readers
- Provided alt-attributes for images so a screen reader user is able to find out what the image represents
- Made icons accessible (including alt text)
- Made modals accessible (announced by the screen readers, focus locked within the modal, etc.)
- Improved the colour contrast in various areas
- Fixed keyboard only tabbing issues
- Ensured current keyboard focus is visible at all times
- Included Skip to main content link on all pages to aid users to bypass repeating navigation
- Included a keyboard-only accessibility link at the top of all pages to enable users to easily navigate to the Cambridge Core accessibility statement (in addition to the visible link in the footer)
- Dynamic content updates (e.g. applying search results filters) announced by screen readers
- Improved HTML heading structures to match visual hierarchy, enabling users relying on audio feedback to efficiently navigate the page structure.
- Provided data tables alongside content metric charts so that the data is accessible to users without the need to use a mouse.
- Made menu navigation styling consistent throughout the site.
- Provided context sensitive help on forms to ensure users are aware of format requirements prior to submitting.

Plans for the future:

- Improve semantic mark-up on all pages

- Create a proof of concept for accessible PDFs (incorporates PDF tagging, document title, descriptive alt text for images, etc.), we hope to include this in the publication process for all new titles in the near future
- Improve publication processes so that HTML full-text is accessible. For example, ensuring tables, figures and link labels are correctly marked up.
- Work with third parties to ensure their software and tools used on Cambridge Core meet our accessibility standards.
- Undergo annual accessibility audits to ensure we continue to meet the appropriate accessibility standards.
- Train the product development teams to ensure they are aware of accessibility best practice.

Given the age of some of the content we publish, some of the WCAG 2.0 standards are impossible to meet due to the variety of PDFs we need to use on the platform to allow us to digitise archive content. However, where it is possible we have produced HTML versions of a majority of our digital catalogue as an alternative format to PDF, and all forthcoming content we publish will offer the HTML alternative.

We will continue to implement improvements to Cambridge Core, and as part of these ongoing efforts we welcome any questions or suggestions regarding accessibility concerns.

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Since the review, Cambridge Core has:

- Added alt tags to tooltips, modals and image blocks, making these features accessible to screenreaders and keyboards only users
- Made the Cambridge Core logo accessible so screenreaders do not unnecessarily read out the URL of the link behind the logo
- Ensured link text describes the action of a link without the need for visual context
- Improved the colour contrast of placeholder text in search boxes and made these search boxes accessible for screenreaders
- Provided image descriptions so a screenreader user is able to find out what the image represents

Cambridge Core is currently working on:

- Making all icons accessible
- Improving heading structures and modals
- Improving semantic mark-up on all pages
- Improving the colour contrast across the platform

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