

# GT Accessibility Overview > Nov 2022

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## Summary

Gutenberg Technology is compliant with the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG 2.1\)](#), which is defined by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)’s Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) group, as noted in the table below. GT internally tests export formats and our Readers for accessibility with WCAG and is working with an external partner to obtain a public VPAT.

GT’s compliance is for content authored within GT’s MyEcontentFactory (MEF) platform and (exported as HTML5) distributed to end users, via GT’s WebReader and GT iOS and Android Mobile Reader Apps and to a 3rd Party LMS via LTI, as SCORM or IMS CC. Any gaps (with their planned development dates) for a specific guideline are indicated in table 1 below. Please note that natively authored content accessibility needs to be addressed/reviewed by the content author. GT has an “authoring for accessibility” program, whereby we have made significant extensions to the Theme Library Module to support deeper options for ensuring accessibility across different expired formats (such as ePub3).

GT’s Web & Mobile Apps Readers Interfaces are also compliant with content that is both authored and non-authored within GT’s MyEcontentFactory (MEF). However, for content that is NOT authored in MEF, but is imported for distribution only - as “passthrough” (PDF and ePub), the “content” compliance is limited to support provided by the initially authored content itself. For content that has been converted/enriched from PDF / ePub3 to HTML5 format, and which is readable by our WebReader and Reader Apps, we need to review these with our customers in order to ensure that content is fully compliant.

**Table 1: WCAG Success Criteria Gaps mapped to GT Reader Apps for GT VPAT**

\* Digital Assessments are under review and planned for remediation in Q1 and Q2 2023 for GT VPAT

\*\* GT Mobile Apps Accessibility is under review with our Accessibility Partner for GT VPAT

WCAG Success Criteria	WebReader	** Android	** iOS
<b>Level A</b>			
1.1.1 - Non-text Content	Partial Support on TOC & Annotations *	*	*
1.3.2 - Meaningful Sequence	*	*	*
2.1.1 - Keyboard	Partial Support on TOC *	*	*

2.1.2 - No Keyboard Trap	*	*	*
2.4.3 - Focus Order	Partial Support on Jump to page *	*	*
3.3.2 - Forms (Labels and Buttons)	Not Supported Activities	Not Supported Activities	Not Supported Activities
4.1.2: Name, Role, Value (UI with ARIA)	Partial Support *	*	*
<b>Level AA</b>			
1.2.5 - Audio Description ( For Video)	*	*	*
1.4.4 - ReSize Text	Partial Support on ToolBar *	*	*
1.4.10 Reflow	Partial Support on ToolBar *	*	*
2.4.7 - Focus Visible	*	*	*
3.2.4 - Consistent Identification	*	*	*
<b>WCAG AAA</b>			
3.3.5 - Help (Provide detailed help and instructions with icons and navigation)	*	*	*


## GT Accessibility Testing of Content Formats and Distribution

The following table indicates where GT incorporates accessibility best practices when developing and testing new functionality for authoring and exporting accessible content formats; and if applicable, for providing an accessible reading experience on GT Web and Mobile Readers.

Please note: \* Print-ready exports (from HTML5) as part of Print/Digital workflow

Table 2.

	GT Platform Distribution Channels				
	Web Reader	iiOS Reader	Android Reader	External LMS via LTI	As Download for 3rd Party Platforms
HTML5 Export	✓	✓	✓	NA	✓
ePub3 Export	✓	✓	✓	NA	✓
HTML5 to PDF Export	✓	✓	✓	NA	✓
SCORM Export	NA	NA	NA	NA	✓
LTI Export	NA	NA	NA	✓	✓
IMS CC	NA	NA	NA	NA	✓

XML Export	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Print for INDD	NA	NA	NA	NA	*
Print for PDF	NA	NA	NA	NA	*

## GT Authoring for Accessibility

The GT Platform allows authors to ensure that the content created meets accessibility standards. As such, the following are the areas we support in the platform today:

1. [Customize Content Blocks HTML tags](#) > Theme Admins can customize (add, edit, etc) the HTML tags associated with any pattern styles (pattern and elements) within a specific theme used with any project.
2. [Customize Content Blocks dPub ARIA tags](#) > Theme Admins can customize ( add, edit, etc) the dPub ARIA tags associated with any pattern and its elements, within a specific theme used with any project.
3. [Customize Content Structure \(Sections\) and Page Headers dPub ARIA tags](#) > Theme Admins can customize ( add, edit, etc) the dPub ARIA tags associated with any Project's Structure such as Part, Chapter, Section, etc), within a specific theme used with any project.
4. [Nest all headings in a section tag with an id & aria-labelledby](#) > We provide the ability for every page using a header, and every pattern using a title, to automatically get the ARIA tag “aria-labelledby” targeting their title, making the content more compliant with screen readers.
5. [Support for Landmark.nav attributes](#) > Theme Admins will be able to choose to include these attributes at the theme level for projects that include ePub3 exports for ePub3 Navigation files ( front-matter, body-matter, back-matter, glossary, list of tables, list of illustrations, etc). *(Please note that this work is in progress and targeted for release in Q2 2023., in the interim, our Post-Export Processing Script will automatically insert these for you)*
6. Support for designating [the Language of a Project, Part, Chapter, Section, and all content blocks](#), directly within the authoring interface.

## GT VPAT Audit Status

We are currently working with an external Partner to deliver a VPAT in Q2 2023. We have been focusing on remediating the most critical properties and have been conducting high-level user and expert assessments to uncover major standards barriers and roadblocks faced by students with disabilities. These in-depth audits seek to uncover the remaining WCAG standards issues that need to be remediated to meet conformance. Once a majority of the issues from the audit have been addressed, the VPAT is completed. It isn't possible to resolve every issue right out of the gate or to reach 100% conformance. We will continue to work with our VPAT partner to update our VPAT as we continue to enhance our products throughout 2023.

As an example, the following are recent findings that we are currently working to remediate.

- Revisited our use of ARIA labels in navigation items, including the "Table of Contents".
- Reviewed the misuse of aria-live versus aria-expanded=true or false
- Work to ensure that Jump-to-page is accessible, and that use sections and appropriate ARIA attributes.
- Determine how to select text for annotations with a keyboard

As such we are planning on releasing additional upgrades to the GT Web Reader to remediate the following WCAG Success Criteria for the February Release in the following two areas.

## **Level A and Level AA**

### **1.3.1: Info and Relationships**

### **4.1.2 - Name, Role, Value**

It is worth mentioning that an important aspect of accessibility is education and buy-in at all levels of an organization. We are committed to providing internal sessions geared towards training for various teams responsible for design and implementation. We model and encourage inclusive product design.

## **Striving for Conformance**

One hundred percent conformance with any level of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) is very difficult to accomplish. The most usable experiences incorporate accessibility during design and development, testing, and then remediating against WCAG success criteria with partner experts, who assist in working with users with disabilities throughout the entire process.

For some WCAG success criteria, there are gray areas where even experts disagree, and one cannot guarantee that there won't be usability issues across an audience with varied means of access. Accessibility, just like user experience, is not black and white. Meeting all of the WCAG success criteria does not necessarily make content accessible to all people with disabilities. *W3C Understanding Conformance* states that "Although content may satisfy all Success Criteria, the content may not always be usable by people with a wide variety of disabilities. Therefore, usability testing is recommended, in addition to the required functional testing."