

PRESSBOOKS

Accessibility Standards and Commitments

Pressbooks believes that education should be available to all people regardless of abilities, and that everyone should have equal access to publishing tools that allow them to share their ideas with others. That is why accessibility is at the forefront of our minds when we build tools, create resources, and offer solutions to some of today's most urgent educational challenges.

Pressbooks' accessibility commitment

As an organization, we are committed to making our software accessible to all people. To hold ourselves accountable and to benefit from the experience of others, we partnered with several organizations to audit our work and to set goals for improvement. We've worked with the [Inclusive Design Research Centre](#), the [Centre for Accessible Post-secondary Education Resources BC \(CAPER-BC\)](#), and [Accessible Technology Services at the University of Washington](#) to ensure that our software meets the expectations of professional web accessibility experts working in higher education.

In 2019, Pressbooks hired consultants from the Inclusive Design Research Centre to perform a full accessibility audit of the Pressbooks Authoring & Editing Platform. Accessibility testing for the Platform was conducted using the following tools:

- NVDA screen readers
- VoiceOver screen reader
- WebAIM Wave Toolbar
- Nu HTML checker
- TPG Colour Contrast Analyzer
- Deque's axe—Web Accessibility Testing browser extension

After the audit was completed, we published a [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template \[VPAT®\]](#) for the Pressbooks Authoring & Editing Platform, describing how our platform 'supports' or 'partially supports' all relevant Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 success criteria at the A or AA levels.

Pressbooks ATC Evaluation

In 2019, we worked closely with one of our clients, the University of Washington Libraries, to evaluate the accessibility of Pressbooks Authoring & Editing Platform. We have resolved

the majority of the identified issues, and the entire process is nearly complete. Lauren Ray of UW Libraries describes the process:

“After investing in PressbooksEDU as a tool to support OER and open pedagogy, the University of Washington Libraries began working with UW Access Technology Center (ATC), who began an accessibility/usability evaluation on the platform. ATC tested several workflows around authoring, maintaining, and administering books on our Pressbooks network. We had regular working sessions with Pressbooks to discuss identified issues for assistive technology users and people with disabilities, and to make a plan for having them addressed. In these working sessions, we saw a demonstrated commitment to accessibility from Pressbooks staff. As of May 2020, Pressbooks has worked to resolve 17 of 21 issues identified in GitHub by ATC. We look forward to a continued partnership between ATC, Pressbooks and the Libraries in addressing and designing features that will improve accessibility in the platform.”

Future Commitments

We recognize that the work of ensuring the accessibility of our software and services is never complete. We commit to regularly reviewing and continually improving our accessibility practices. This means:

- Constantly educating ourselves about updates to accepted accessibility guidelines and making our software more inclusive to people of all abilities.
- Ensuring that all new or updated code released in Pressbooks conforms with the WCAG 2.0 at level AA.
- We will produce an updated version of our VPAT by May 2021, which will also include findings for 'Pressbooks Directory' and 'Results for LMS,' two new products we developed since our last accessibility audit.

Helping Creators Publish Accessible Content with Pressbooks

In addition to making our software accessible to all, we're deeply invested in helping users publish accessible content. Practical steps we take in this regard include the following:

- We maintain simple, easy-to-follow accessibility guidelines and inclusive practices in our [user guide](#).
- We make clean HTML output so that content is accessible by default, if basic practices are adhered to.
- We produce multiple well-formatted export formats to ensure offline access.
- Our digital PDF export files use the PDF/UA-1 profile. These digital PDFs are tagged for accessibility and are designed to be read on a screen.