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**ACCESSIBILITY FINDINGS**

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SUMMARY

This report reflects the findings of a high-level assessment of the Oxford Academic platform for its conformance with the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 (WCAG 2.1).

There are very few WCAG 2.1 compliance issues with Oxford Academic, and they are very minor overall with the most pressing issue being around color contrast with links. Below are the most critical issues to address to improve system compliance.

Top Findings

1. **Link Contrast:** The foremost problem with accessibility is the issues with link contrast, particularly on the individual results page. The links do not meet the 3:1 contrast ratio with surrounding text nor do they have any text decoration to call attention to the link. This is easily addressed by either increasing the contrast with surrounding text or adding an underline to the link. Ideally, both solutions should be put into place.

2. **Compatibility:** There is an issue with compatibility, particularly in the use of unique ids. To correct, ensure that ids across each page are unique. Additionally, elements are not contained by the proper parent.

3. **ARIA Implementation:** This is a serious issue that can be easily fixed by ensuring that all ARIA elements are correctly used. For reference, please consult the [WAI-ARIA Authoring Best Practices](#).
ACCESSIBILITY FINDINGS

This report was conducted against the Oxford Academic Platform and covers a selection of pages and features that were to be tested as a representative sample of the database’s conformance to the WCAG 2.1 AA standards.

The resource was reviewed using a combination of manual and automatic review tools and assistive technologies, including the WAVE Accessibility Assessment tool, Axe Accessibility Assessment tool, WCAG Color Contrast Checker, and NVDA screen reader. PDF content was tested against Section 508 requirements using Adobe Acrobat’s accessibility tools and manual analysis. All problems identified by automatic tools were verified manually. This evaluation was performed using Firefox on Windows 11.

Below are the errors revealed during the accessibility evaluation of the Oxford Academic platform. Each result shows a summary of accessibility issues and the reason it was flagged. Screenshots are included.
1. Initial Interface

**Test Case:** Test initial interface/landing page to ensure menus, sub-menus, search box, images, icons, etc. are accessible. [https://academic.oup.com/](https://academic.oup.com/)

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**SC 4.1.1:** ID attribute value must be unique.

**Locations(s):**
- .mobile-nav-dropdown > .at-site-menu.site-menu-lvl-0.site-menu > .at-site-menu-item.site-menu-lvl-0.site-menu-item:nth-child(1)
- .mobile-nav-dropdown > .at-site-menu.site-menu-lvl-0.site-menu > .at-site-menu-item.site-menu-lvl-0.site-menu-item:nth-child(1)
- .mobile-nav-dropdown > .at-site-menu.site-menu-lvl-0.site-menu > .at-site-menu-item.site-menu-lvl-0.site-menu-item:nth-child(3)

**Reason flagged:**
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: site-menu-item-1554360
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: site-menu-item-1554361
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: site-menu-item-1554362
2. Search Results

Test Case: From the initial landing page, conduct a search for: refugees. Test search results page, including filters/refine search: limit Availability to "Purchased" and set Format to "Journal Article". Test the sort by options/dropdown menu and select "Date - Newest First".

SC 1.3.1: Certain ARIA roles must contain particular children.
Location(s):
- `<ul class="sf-facet-list" aria-multiselectable="true" role="tree" tabindex="0">`
Reason flagged:
- Element has children which are not allowed: ul[tabindex]
- Element uses aria-busy="true" while showing a loader

SC 1.3.1: Certain ARIA roles must be contained by particular parents.
Location(s):
- `<li class="sf-facet sf-facet-child facet-access_unlocked" role="treeitem" aria-selected="false" tabindex="-1">
- `<li class="sf-facet sf-facet-child facet-access_openaccess" role="treeitem" aria-selected="false" tabindex="-1">
- `<li class="sf-facet sf-facet-child facet-access_free" role="treeitem" aria-selected="false" tabindex="-1">

Reason flagged:
- Required ARIA parents role not present: group, tree

SC 1.3.1: <ul> and <ol> must only directly contain <li>, <script>, or <template> elements.
Location(s):
- `<ul class="sf-facet-list">

Reason flagged:
- List element has direct children that are not allowed: [role=treeitem]

SC 1.4.1: Links must be distinguishable without relying on color.
Location(s):
- `<a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciad555" data-google-interstitial="false">https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciad555</a>
- `<a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/ijpor/edad035" data-google-interstitial="false">https://doi.org/10.1093/ijpor/edad035</a>
- `<a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/mj/kjad013" data-google-interstitial="false">https://doi.org/10.1093/mj/kjad013</a>
- `<a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/cjip/poad014" data-google-interstitial="false">https://doi.org/10.1093/cjip/poad014</a>
- `<a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/cdj/bsad016" data-google-interstitial="false">https://doi.org/10.1093/cdj/bsad016</a>
- `<a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/heapro/daad141" data-google-interstitial="false">https://doi.org/10.1093/heapro/daad141</a>
- `<a href="https://doi.org/10.1093/cb/cbad022" data-google-interstitial="false">https://doi.org/10.1093/cb/cbad022</a>

Reason flagged:
- The link has insufficient color contrast of 2.7:1 with the surrounding text. (Minimum contrast is 3:1, link text: #006fb7, surrounding text: #2a2a2a)
The link has no styling (such as underline) to distinguish it from the surrounding text.

**SC 1.4.3:** Certain ARIA roles must be contained by particular parents.

**Location(s):**
- `<button id="queryBuilderSubmit" class="querybuilder-submit js-custom-queryBuilder at-querybuilder-submit btn-green" data-current-url="q=refugees&sort=Date+%e2%80%93+Newest+First&f_ContentType=Journal+Article&fl_SiteID=191&access_unlocked=true&page=1" type="submit">Update</button>

**Reason flagged:**
- Element has insufficient color contrast of 4.29 (foreground color: #ffffff, background color: #2880ba, font size: 11.3pt (15px), font weight: normal). Expected contrast ratio of 4.5:1

**SC 4.1.1:** ID attribute value must be unique.

**Location(s):**
- `.mobile-nav-dropdown > .at-site-menu.site-menu-lvl-0.site-menu > .at-site-menu-item.site-menu-lvl-0.site-menu-item:nth-child(1)
- `.mobile-nav-dropdown > .at-site-menu.site-menu-lvl-0.site-menu > .at-site-menu-item.site-menu-lvl-0.site-menu-item:nth-child(1)
- `.mobile-nav-dropdown > .at-site-menu.site-menu-lvl-0.site-menu > .at-site-menu-item.site-menu-lvl-0.site-menu-item:nth-child(3)

**Reason flagged:**
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: site-menu-item-1554360
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: site-menu-item-1554361
- Document has multiple static elements with the same id attribute: site-menu-item-1554362
3. Individual Results

**Test Case:** Select the first article in the search results to test the individual search result landing page. Test the Article Contents in the left pane and test the article’s top menu bar functions (Split View, Cite, etc.).

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**SC 4.1.1:** IDs of active elements must be unique.

**Location(s):**
- `<li class="toolbar-item item-pdf js-item-pdf">
- `<li class="toolbar-item item-link item-split-view">
- `<li class="toolbar-item item-cite js-item-cite">
- `<li class="toolbar-item item-tools">
- `<li class="toolbar-item item-with-dropdown item-share">
- `<li class="toolbar-item item-pdf js-item-pdf">
- `<li class="toolbar-item item-link item-split-view">
- `<li class="toolbar-item item-cite js-item-cite>

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Reason flagged:
- Element does not have text that is visible to screen readers
- aria-label attribute does not exist or is empty
- aria-labelledby attribute does not exist, references elements that do not exist or references elements that are empty
- Element has no title attribute
- Element is in tab order and does not have accessible text

Test Case: Also test the PDF by selecting the PDF button located at the top.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PDF Area Assessed</th>
<th>Failed Issues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Page Content</td>
<td>Tagged Content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forms</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate Text</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tables</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summary (skipped)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lists</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headings</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. Advanced Search

**Test Case:** Test advanced search page.

**SC 1.3.1:** Certain ARIA roles must contain particular children.

**Location(s):**
- `<ul class="sf-facet-list" aria-multiselectable="true" role="tree" tabindex="0">

**Reason flagged:**
- Element has children which are not allowed: ul[tabindex]
- Element uses aria-busy="true" while showing a loader
SC 1.3.1: Certain ARIA roles must be contained by particular parents.

Location(s):
- `<li class="sf-facet sf-facet-child facet-access_unlocked" role="treeitem" aria-selected="false" tabindex="-1">
- `<li class="sf-facet sf-facet-child facet-access_openaccess" role="treeitem" aria-selected="false" tabindex="-1">
- `<li class="sf-facet sf-facet-child facet-access_free" role="treeitem" aria-selected="false" tabindex="-1">

Reason flagged:
- Required ARIA parents role not present: group, tree

SC 1.3.1: `<ul>` and `<ol>` must only directly contain `<li>`, `<script>`, or `<template>` elements.

Location(s):
- `<ul class="sf-facet-list">

Reason flagged:
- List element has direct children that are not allowed: [role=treeitem]

SC 4.1.1: ID attribute value must be unique.

Location(s):
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Disclaimer: This high-level evaluation was conducted for the Library Accessibility Alliance and represents a good faith effort conducted within a limited time frame. It should not be assumed to be complete or free from error. No warranties or guarantees are implied. UT is not responsible for direct, indirect, or incidental damages based on this work; its use or interpretation by any individual, group, or organization; or on conditions beyond our control.