

High-level accessibility review – BTAA (APA PsycNet Platform)

Primary Point of Contact

John Truong
Project Manager

Deque Systems, Inc.

Web: www.deque.com

Email: john.truong@deque.com

August 9, 2021



High-level accessibility review – BTAA (APA PsycNet Platform)

Contents

Summary.....	3
Top 3 problems for the APA PsycNet Platform.....	3
Accessibility findings.....	3
Project wide issues.....	3
1. APA PsycNet Landing Page.....	4
2. APA PsycNet Search Results.....	5
3. APA PsycNet Advanced Search Page.....	7
4. APA PsycNet Article Landing Page	8

APA PsycNet Platform Summary

Top 3 problems for the APA PsycNet Platform

This assessment covers portions of the APA PsycNet Platform. The assessment revealed serious problems with screen reader compatibility, resulting in screen reader users missing critical information needed to understand content and operate features.

1. **Label in Name** – The ARIA attribute aria-label is used in many instances to override a visible text label that would provide a descriptive name if it were not overridden.
2. **Content on Hover or Focus** – Wherever tooltip functions are used, a mouse user is unable to hover over the tooltip content and the tooltip content cannot be dismissed without moving focus.
3. **Name, Role, Value** – Custom widgets such as tab widgets are not properly defined with all required roles and states.

Accessibility findings

Project wide issues

The issues presented in this section were identified in multiple pages and are recorded here to avoid repetition. These are applicable to each screen. Due to particularities, similar issues are still reported on a page per page basis, where applicable.

Automated findings using Axe

Issues found through automated testing come from the Axe plugin, an open source accessibility testing tool that is available for Chrome, Firefox and Edge. Details here: <https://www.deque.com/products/axe/>.

1. **SC 1.3.1 A** – The top level navigation contains an unordered list which has nested elements that are improperly nested.
2. **SC 1.3.1 A** – The top level navigation contains list item elements that are not properly nested within a list.
3. **SC 4.1.2 A** – The ‘APA Thesaurus’ navigation item uses aria-describedby which references an element that does not exist.

Additional manual findings using NVDA screen reader

1. **SC 1.4.1 A** – The ‘Adobe Acrobat Reader’ link text only uses color to identify the link as a link, and the contrast between the link and non-link text is insufficient, with no additional visual indicator to distinguish the link, such as an underline.
2. **SC 2.5.3 A** – The “Contact Us” link has a programmatic name that reads “Contact APA”, which does not include the visible label in its name.
3. **SC 1.3.2 A** – The “Cart (0)” link reads as “Cart”, which does not include the full text of the link.
4. **SC 1.4.13 AA** – The tooltip content that appears when hovering over ‘APA Thesaurus’ cannot be dismissed without moving keyboard or mouse focus.
5. **SC 1.4.13 AA** – The tooltip content that appears when hovering over ‘APA Thesaurus’ does not remain visible as a mouse user attempts to hover over the same content.
6. **SC 2.2.1 A** – The application times out without any warning to the user or a method to extend the session, before the time out occurs.

1. APA PsycNet Landing Page

Source: <https://psycnet.apa.org/home>

Test case: Initial interface – menus & submenus, search boxes, images, etc.

English Deque Systems User Cart (0) Help Contact Us

APA PsycNet® AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

SEARCH BROWSE APA THESAURUS Recent Searches My List My PsycNet

Search 5,438,371 Journal Articles, Book Chapters, And More

Advanced Search

TRENDING: Assisted Living Facilities Motivation Psychological Assessment Social Support Parenting

Most Popular

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology Development and validation of brief measures of positive and negative affect: The	Psychological Bulletin A power primer. Cohen, Jacob	Journal of Applied Psychology Common method biases in behavioral research: A critical review of the literature and recommended remedies.	Psychological Review Self-efficacy: Toward a unifying theory of behavioral change. Bandura, Albert
---	---	---	--

Automated findings using Axe

1. No Automated Issues Found.

Additional manual findings using NVDA screen reader

1. **SC 2.4.4 A** – The “More Articles” links have the exact same link text but have different destinations and are missing additional link context to differentiate.
2. **SC 1.4.1 A** – The ‘Assisted Living Facilities’, ‘Motivation’, ‘Psychological Assessment’, ‘Social Support’, ‘Parenting’ link text only uses color to identify the link as a link, and the contrast between the link and non-link text is insufficient, with no additional visual indicator to distinguish the link, such as an underline.

2. APA PsycNet Search Results

Source: <https://psycnet.apa.org/search/results?id=742f4f67-5c37-be97-4a98-1f4f6e4ba511>

Test case: Search for "vaccination" in the Basic Search box on the initial landing page/interface. Test search result page:

o "Sort By" options – change to "relevance".

o Test "Filter Results" option on left-hand side of search results page. Limit to 2020.

The screenshot displays the APA PsycNet search results interface. At the top, the header includes the APA PsycNet logo and the American Psychological Association name. Below the header, there are navigation tabs for 'SEARCH', 'BROWSE', and 'APA THESAURUS'. The search results are displayed for the query 'vaccination' with a filter for 'Year: 2020', resulting in 267 total results. The results are sorted by 'Relevance' and shown in a list format. The first result is a dissertation titled 'Barriers to zoster vaccination in adults ages 60+: The effect of demographic and clinical characteristics, cost sharing, and state vaccination laws on zoster vaccination rates.' by Casey Ryan. The second result is a journal article titled 'The social characteristics of Americans opposed to vaccination: Beliefs about vaccine safety versus views of U.S. vaccination policy.' by Charles Allan McCoy. The page includes a search bar, navigation tabs, and a filter sidebar on the left.

Automated findings using Axe

1. **SC 4.1.2 A** – The 'Open Access' element is assigned an ARIA role of "label", which is not a valid ARIA role.
2. **SC 4.1.2 A** – Several controls on the page use aria-controls and aria-describedby which reference an element that does not exist on page load.
3. **SC 4.1.1 A** – The page contains several instances of the ID 'page-1', 'page-2', 'page-3', 'page-4', 'page-5', 'toTopNav', 'toHelpText', 'subjectTopNav', 'messageTopNav', 'email-displayTopNav', 'searchHistoryID', 'print-displayTopNav', 'sortOptionTopNav', 'toBottomNav', 'subjectBottomNav', 'messageBottomNav', 'email-displayBottomNav', 'print-displayBottomNav', 'sortOptionBottomNav', 'exportToTopNav', 'types-button', 'abstract', 'promo-close', 'psynet-check-access-close', 'psynet-check-access-yes', 'psynet-purchase-access-yes', 'references', 'exportToBottomNav'

Additional manual findings using NVDA screen reader

1. **SC 1.4.13 AA** – The tooltip content that appears when hovering over all controls that contain a tooltip (such as, the 'Save Search' control) cannot be dismissed without moving keyboard or mouse focus.
2. **SC 1.4.13 AA** – The tooltip content that appears when hovering over all controls that contain a tooltip (such as, the 'Save Search' control) does not remain visible as a mouse user attempts to hover over the same content.
3. **SC 1.3.2 A** – All links that contain a number, e.g. "All (267)", do not announce their full text label. In

the provided example, the link is announced as “All, link”.

4. **SC 1.4.10 AA** – When a Reflow viewport is applied the “All”, “PsycInfo”, “PsycArticles”, etc. tab navigation is cut-off with a horizontal scroll bar.
5. **SC 2.4.7 AA** – The “All” tab navigation item does not receive a visible focus indicator.
6. **SC 4.1.2 A** – The “All” tab navigation item does not programmatically indicate its selected state.
7. **SC 4.1.2 A** – The Filter Type items in the ‘Filter Results’ section (e.g. “Publication Type”, “Year”, etc.) are all missing an href value.
8. **SC 4.1.2 A** – The Filter Type items in the ‘Filter Results’ section (e.g. “Publication Type”, “Year” etc.) are all missing their expanded/collapsed state.
9. **SC 2.4.4 A** – When a filter is applied, its related ‘Remove’ link is missing link text that completely describes its action.
10. **SC 4.1.2 A** – The ‘Show All Abstracts and Test Descriptions’ link reports as expanded when the element does not necessarily support being in an expanded or collapsed state.
11. **SC 4.1.2 A** – The current pagination page (e.g. “1”) does not programmatically indicate its current / selected state.
12. **SC 4.1.2 A** – The “Abstract” and “References” links are missing an href attribute.
13. **SC 2.1.1 A** – The “Abstract” and “References” links contain device-specific event listeners that exclude keyboard users.
14. **SC 4.1.2 A** – The “Abstract” and “References” links do not programmatically indicate their expanded / collapsed state.
15. **SC 2.5.3 A** – All the “doi.org..” links announce as “DOI link, open in new window” without the full visible label from each link name.
16. **SC 2.4.4 A** – All the “doi.org..” links contain the same programmatic name “DOI link, open in new window” and are missing additional programmatic context to differentiate the unique destination of each unique link.

3. APA PsycNet Advanced Search Page

Source: <https://psycnet.apa.org/search/advanced>

Test case: Advanced Search page – to ensure menus, search boxes, links, icons/images, etc. are accessible

The screenshot shows the APA PsycNet Advanced Search page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'SEARCH', 'BROWSE', and 'APA THESAURUS'. Below this, the main search area includes a search bar with the placeholder 'Enter Search Terms', a dropdown menu for 'Any Field', and a 'SEARCH' button. There are also checkboxes for filters like 'APA Full Text', 'Peer-Reviewed', 'Impact Statement', 'Open Access', and 'Test Available'. On the right side, there are sections for 'Search Tools' (Author Lookup, Journal Lookup, Test Lookup), 'Recent Searches' (Any Field: vaccination AND Year: 2020), and 'Trending' (Assisted Living Facilities, Motivation, Psychological Assessment, Social Support, Parenting).

Automated findings using Axe

1. **SC 4.1.1 A** – The page contains several instances of the ID ‘authorLookup’, ‘journalLookup’, ‘testLookup’, ‘searchForBtn’

Additional manual findings using NVDA screen reader

1. **SC 1.4.3 AA** – The “Enter Search Terms” and “yyyy” placeholder text is low in contrast. Primary text color #999999 against a background of #FFFFFF results in a 2.8:1 contrast ratio.
2. **SC 1.4.4 AA** – At 200% zoom, the links / functionality from the ‘Search Tools’, ‘Recent Searches’, ‘Trending’ sections is not available.
3. **SC 1.4.10 AA** – When a Reflow viewport is applied the links / functionality from the ‘Search Tools’, ‘Recent Searches’, ‘Trending’ sections is not available.
4. **SC 3.3.2 A** – The “Enter Search Terms” label is not persistent. When a user enters data into the field, the label is no longer visible.
5. **SC 1.4.11 AA** – The visible focus indicator for all select / combobox drop-downs is low in contrast.
6. **SC 3.3.2 A** – the ‘Recent Years Options’ and ‘Years Range Option’ radio inputs as well as the ‘Search Terms 1’, ‘Starting Year’ and ‘Ending Year’ text inputs are missing a visible label.

4. APA PsycNet Article Landing Page

Source: <https://psycnet.apa.org/search/display?id=ae009ea9-e011-74f4-df3d-b7b437e91009&recordId=1&tab=all&page=1&display=25&sort=score%20desc,PublicationYearMSSort%20desc&sr=1>

Test case: Article landing page (ex: Age-related framing effects: Why vaccination against COVID-19 should be promoted differently in younger and older adults)

- Test PDF by selecting the PDF icon.
- Test Full Text HTML

The screenshot shows the APA PsycNet article landing page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'English', 'Doque Systems User', 'Cart (0)', 'Help', and 'Contact Us'. Below this is a blue header with 'SEARCH', 'BROWSE', and 'APA THESAURUS' on the left, and 'Recent Searches', 'My List', and 'My PsycNet' on the right. The main content area features the article title 'Age-related framing effects: Why vaccination against COVID-19 should be promoted differently in younger and older adults.' with a 'Back to Results' link and '1 of 21' page indicator. Below the title are icons for 'EXPORT', 'Add To My List', 'Request Permissions', and 'Database: APA PsycArticles First Posting'. The authors 'Reinhardt, Anne' and 'Rossmann, Constanze' are listed. A 'Citation' section provides the full citation: 'Reinhardt, A., & Rossmann, C. (2021). Age-related framing effects: Why vaccination against COVID-19 should be promoted differently in younger and older adults. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1037/xap0000378>'. An 'Abstract' section follows, starting with 'The COVID-19 pandemic is challenging healthcare systems worldwide...'. On the right side, there is a 'Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied' section with a 'Journal TOC' link and a prominent blue 'PDF' button with a document icon. Below that is a 'Full Text HTML' link. A 'Related Content' section is also visible, featuring a snippet about 'No psychological vaccination: Vaccine hesitancy is associated with negative psychiatric outcomes among Israelis who received COVID-19 vaccination.'

Automated findings using Axe

1. **SC 4.1.1 A** – The page contains several instances of the ID ‘searchHistoryID’, ‘promo-close’, ‘psycnet-check-access-close’, ‘psycnet-check-access-yes’, ‘psycnet-purchase-access-yes’.
2. **SC 4.1.2 A** – Several controls on the page use aria-describedby which reference an element that does not exist on page load.
3. **SC 1.4.3 AA** – The text “of” in the “1 of 21” is low in contrast. Text color #777777 against a background of #FFFFFF results in a 4.47:1 contrast ratio.
4. **SC 1.4.3 AA** – The text “Reinhart, Anne”, “Rossmann, Constanze”, “Full Record”, “References” is low in contrast. Text color #2196F3 against a background of #FFFFFF results in a 3.12:1 contrast ratio.
5. **SC 1.4.3 AA** – The text “1” in “1 of 21” is low in contrast. Text color #FFFFFF against a background of #00BCD4 results in a 2.3:1 contrast ratio.

Additional manual findings using NVDA screen reader

Insufficient time for manual test.

Home Page Screenshot

English ▾ Deque Systems User ▾ Cart (0) Help Contact Us

APA PsycNet® AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

SEARCH ▾ BROWSE ▾ APA THESAURUS Recent Searches My List My PsycNet

Search 5,438,371 Journal Articles, Book Chapters, And More

Advanced Search

TRENDING: Assisted Living Facilities Motivation Psychological Assessment Social Support Parenting

Most Popular

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology Development and validation of brief measures of positive and negative affect: The PANAS scales. Watson, David; Clark, Lee Anna; Tellegen, Auke	Psychological Bulletin A power primer. Cohen, Jacob	Journal of Applied Psychology Common method biases in behavioral research: A critical review of the literature and recommended remedies. Podsakoff, Philip M.; MacKenzie, Scott B.; Lee, Jeong-Yeon; Podsakoff, Nathan P.	Psychological Review Self-efficacy: Toward a unifying theory of behavioral change. Bandura, Albert
---	---	---	--

MORE ARTICLES

Most Downloaded

Archives of Scientific Psychology Can physical warmth (or coldness) predict trait loneliness? A replication of Bargh and Shalev (2012). Wortman, Jessica; Donnellan, M. Brent; Lucas, Richard E.	Archives of Scientific Psychology A moral developmental perspective on children's eyewitness identification: Does intent matter? Spring, Toni; Saltzstein, Herbert D.; Vidal, Bianca	Professional Psychology: Research and Practice Religiously sensitive rational emotive behavior therapy: Elegant solutions and ethical risks. Johnson, W. Brad; Ridley, Charles R.; Nielsen, Stevan Lars	Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology The effects of forgiveness therapy on depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress for women after spousal emotional abuse. Reed, Gayle L.; Enright, Robert D.
--	--	---	---

MORE ARTICLES

© 2021 American Psychological Association.
750 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20002-4242

Privacy Statement Terms of Service Disclaimer

Contact APA | Give Feedback | Help

PDF documents require Adobe Acrobat Reader