

High-Level Accessibility Evaluation (WCAG 2.1)

Taylor & Francis Journals Platform

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Prepared for:

BTAA-Library Accessibility Alliance

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
Top Findings	3
ACCESSIBILITY FINDINGS	4
1. Initial Interface	4
2. Search Results	6
3. Individual Results	7
4. Advanced Search	10
5. Journal A-Z	11

SUMMARY

This report reflects the findings of a high-level assessment of Taylor & Francis Journals 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 the platform, and the few that are present are programmatic in nature and should be relatively easy to fix. However, creating an accessible platform is a constantly moving goalpost, so it is important to keep in mind that there are continual updates to the WCAG standards that may require more work in the future. Below are the most critical issues to focus on correcting to improve access for all potential users of the system.

Top Findings

1. **Links and Buttons:** Several issues were identified in the test pages that will require attention. Note: links and buttons perform different functions for a page. Links are navigational elements that take users to and from different pages or sections of the page, therefore they need to have `role="link"` to inform the user that they will be moved to a different place. Buttons perform actions on a page, such as revealing and hiding content and should have the `role="button"` so the user knows what to expect.
2. **Color Contrast:** There were no contrast violations against the background, however in-text links must meet a 3:1 contrast with the surrounding text. Suggested solution is to not style the link. If the theme requires a style for a link, ensure it has sufficient contrast from the body text color.
3. **Keyboard Focus:** While there are very few issues with the pages that were reviewed as part of this analysis, we suggest your attention to the keyboard focus ring as WCAG 2.2 will have specific requirements for this in the future.

ACCESSIBILITY FINDINGS

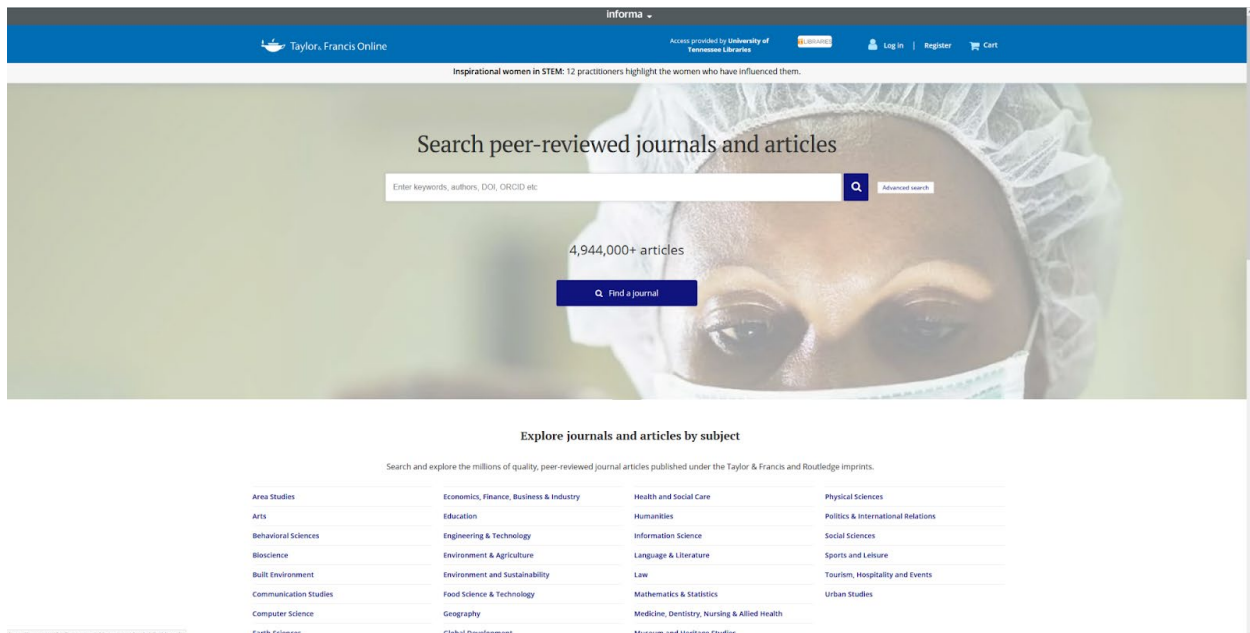
This report was conducted against the Taylor & Francis Journals platform and covers a selection of pages and features that were to be tested as a representative sample of the database's conformance to the WCAG 2.1 AA standards.

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. All problems identified by automatic tools were double checked manually. This evaluation was performed using Firefox on Windows 10.

Below are the errors revealed during the accessibility evaluation of Taylor & Francis Journals platform. Each result shows a summary of accessibility issues and 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.



SC 1.3.1: Links should have role="link".

Instances: 5

Location(s):

- ``
- `Resources for librarians`
- `Resources for authors`
- `Resources for editors`
- `Resources for societies`

Reason flagged:

- These are links that have been styled as buttons yet they are navigating the user to a new page. The role should be defined as role="link" instead of role="button" in order to accurately inform the user of the proper action.

SC 2.4.7: Keyboard focus should be visible.

Instances: 1

Location(s):

- `<input name="AllField" class="searchText main-search-field autocomplete ui-autocomplete-input" value="" type="search" id="searchText-1d85a42e-ad57-4c0d-a477-c847718bcb5d" title="Type search term here" aria-label="Search" placeholder="Enter keywords, authors, DOI, ORCID etc" autocomplete="off" data-history-items-conf="3" data-publication-titles-conf="3" data-publication-items-conf="3" data-topics-conf="3" data-contributors-conf="3" data-fuzzy-suggester="false" data-auto-complete-target="title-auto-complete">`

Reason flagged:

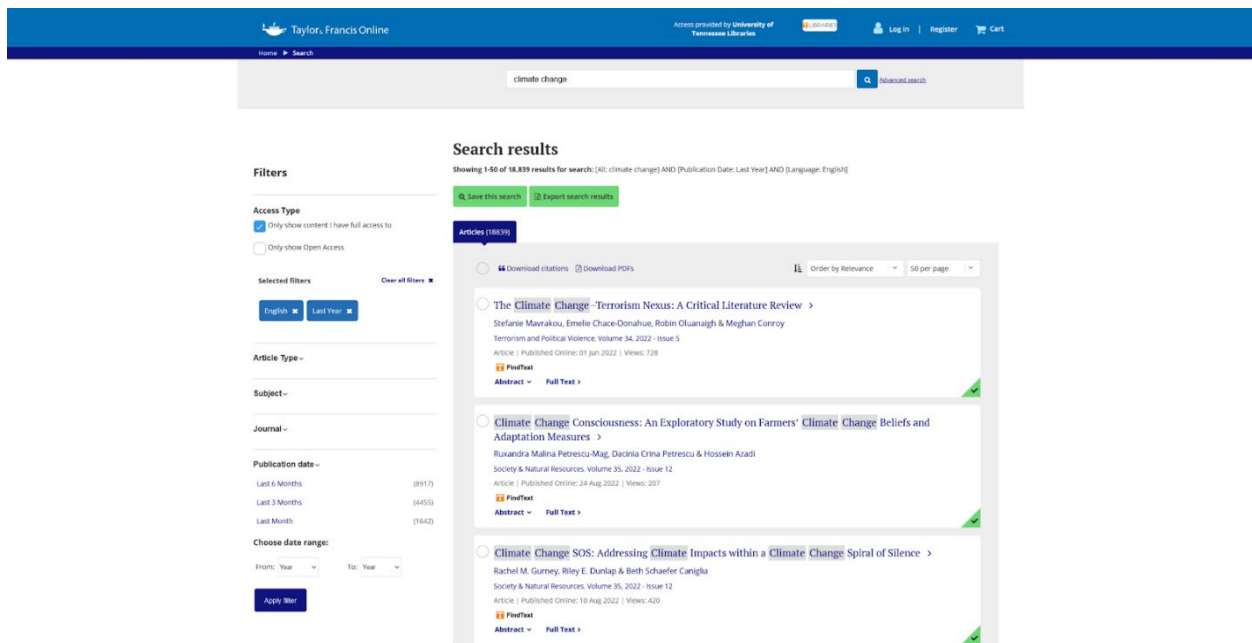
- The quick search bar does not have a visible focus indicator.

SC 2.4.11: Focus appearance should meet size and contrast requirements. [WCAG 2.2 Draft]

This is not a requirement in the current WCAG 2.1 AA standard but will be a new AA standard when WCAG 2.2 is released, along with **SC 2.4.12**. Currently, the focus states throughout the site are inconsistent and may not meet compliance for WCAG 2.2. See the success criterion for more information on how to meet this requirement. [WCAG 2.2 - SC 2.4.11: Focus Appearance](#)

2. Search Results

Test Case: From the initial landing page, conduct a search for: “climate change.” Test search results page, including filters. Under filters, select “Only content I have access to”, Last year (under Publication date), and English. Sort by Newest to oldest and change per page results from “10” to “50.”



SC 2.4.1: The page should have skip links.

Reason flagged:

- This may also be a result of the combination of tools used for this evaluation, but it appears that this page does not have skip links to the main content area.

SC 2.4.7: Keyboard focus should be visible.

Instances: 1

Location(s):

- `<input name="AllField" class="searchText main-search-field autocomplete ui-autocomplete-input" value="climate change" type="search" id="searchText-ec4198a1-8680-41d5-ac80-37eec9012262" title="Type search term here" aria-label="Search" placeholder="Enter keywords, authors, DOI, ORCID etc" autocomplete="off" data-history-items-conf="3" data-publication-titles-conf="3"`

data-publication-items-conf="3" data-topics-conf="3" data-contributors-conf="3" data-fuzzy-suggester="false" data-auto-complete-target="title-auto-complete">

Reason flagged:

- The quick search bar does not have a visible focus indicator.

SC 4.1.2: State should be correctly defined.

Instances: 1

Location(s):

- <button class="facetHeader" aria-expanded="false">

Reason flagged:

- Check for bug. When reloading the page to let the screen reader read through the page, it identified the "Publication Date" as being collapsed when it was expanded and expanded when it was collapsed.

SC 2.4.11: Focus appearance should meet size and contrast requirements. [WCAG 2.2 Draft]

See note above for, **SC 2.4.11**

Note: This may just be an issue with the combination of NVDA and Firefox, but the screen reader does not want to read this page after it is loaded. It reads the banner and the site logo and then stops.

3. Individual Results

Test Case: Click on an article to test an individual article/search result landing page. Test TOC on left, listen button, etc.



SC 1.1.1: Images must contain alt text.

Instances: 2

Location(s):

- ``
- ``

Reason flagged:

- Element does not have an alt attribute
- 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's default semantics were not overridden with role="none" or role="presentation"

SC 1.3.1: Certain aria roles must contain particular children.

Instances: 1

Location(s):

- `<ul class="tab-nav" role="tablist">`

Reason flagged:

- Element has children which are not allowed
- Element has no aria-busy="true" attribute

SC 1.4.1: Links must be distinguishable without relying on color.

Instances: 33

Location(s): *There are multiple instances of this issue on this page.*

Reason flagged:

- The link has insufficient color contrast of 1.16:1 with the surrounding text. (Minimum contrast is 3:1, link text: #10147e, surrounding text: #333333)
- The link has no styling (such as underline) to distinguish it from the surrounding text

SC 2.1.1: All functionality should be keyboard operable.

Instances: 1

Location(s):

- `<a href="//app-eu.readspeaker.com/cgi-bin/rsent?customerid=10118&lang=en_us&readclass=rs_readArea&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.tandfonline.com%2Fdoi%2Ffull%2F10.1080%2F0954655`


```
3.2022.2069445&voice=Sophie" rel="nofollow" class="rsbtn_play" title="Listen to this page using ReadSpeaker webReader" style="border-radius: 0 11.4px 11.4px 2px;" role="button" aria-label="ReadSpeaker webReader: undefined" data-rs-tooltip="." data-rs-direction="u" aria-expanded="false" data-rsshortcut="play" data-rs-lang="en_us" data-rs-voice="Sophie">
```

Reason flagged:

- The page freezes when interacting with the web reader while using the keyboard. This does not occur when using the mouse.

SC 2.4.7: Keyboard focus should be visible.

Instances: 1

Location(s):

- `<input name="AllField" class="searchText main-search-field autocomplete ui-autocomplete-input" value="" type="search" id="searchText-1d85a42e-ad57-4c0d-a477-c847718bcb5d" title="Type search term here" aria-label="Search" placeholder="Enter keywords, authors, DOI, ORCID etc" autocomplete="off" data-history-items-conf="3" data-publication-titles-conf="3" data-publication-items-conf="3" data-topics-conf="3" data-contributors-conf="3" data-fuzzy-suggester="false" data-auto-complete-target="title-auto-complete">`

Reason flagged:

- The quick search bar does not have a visible focus indicator.

SC 4.1.2: Buttons should have role="button".

Instances: 1

Location(s):

- `View more`

Reason flagged:

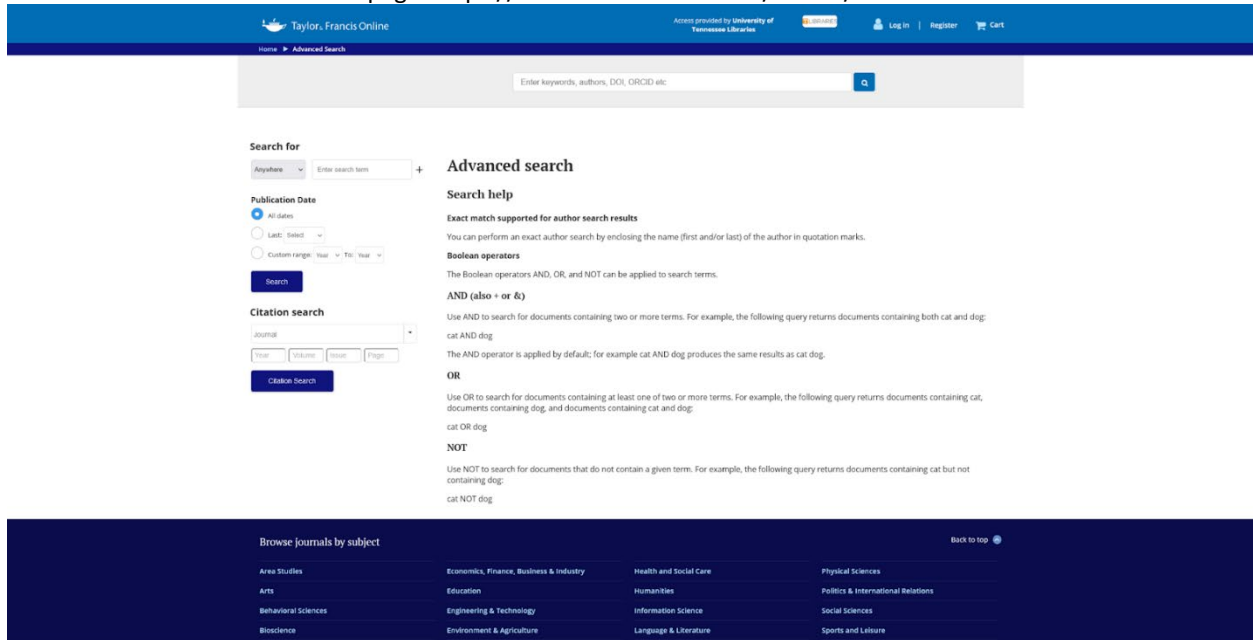
- This button should have role="button".

SC 2.4.11: Focus appearance should meet size and contrast requirements. [WCAG 2.2 Draft]

See note above for, **SC 2.4.11**

4. Advanced Search

Test Case: Test Advanced Search page: <https://www-tandfonline-com/search/advanced>.



SC 2.4.7: Keyboard focus should be visible.

Instances: 1

Location(s):

- `<input name="AllField" class="searchText main-search-field autocomplete ui-autocomplete-input" value="" type="search" id="searchText-1d85a42e-ad57-4c0d-a477-c847718bcb5d" title="Type search term here" aria-label="Search" placeholder="Enter keywords, authors, DOI, ORCID etc" autocomplete="off" data-history-items-conf="3" data-publication-titles-conf="3" data-publication-items-conf="3" data-topics-conf="3" data-contributors-conf="3" data-fuzzy-suggester="false" data-auto-complete-target="title-auto-complete">`

Reason flagged:

- The quick search bar does not have a visible focus indicator.

SC 4.1.2: Keyboard focus should be visible.

Instances: 3

Location(s):

- `<input id="anyDate" style="display:none;" type="radio" name="Ppub" value="" checked="checked" onchange="SearchUtil.clearMonthYearDropDown()" aria-label="All Dates">`
- `<input id="static-range" style="display:none;" type="radio" name="Ppub" value="" onchange="SearchUtil.clearMonthYearDropDown()" aria-label="Last published">`

- `<input id="custom-range" style="display:none;" type="radio" name="Ppub" value="" onchange="SearchUtil.clearMonthYearDropDown()" aria-label="Custom range">`

Reason flagged:

- Suggest using a radio group that is navigable using the arrow keys. See, pattern for radio groups from W3: [W3 | Radio Group Pattern](#)

SC 4.1.2: Keyboard focus should be visible.

Instances: 3

Location(s):

- `<input type="text" class="" placeholder="Journal" style="width: 269.467px;">`

Reason flagged:

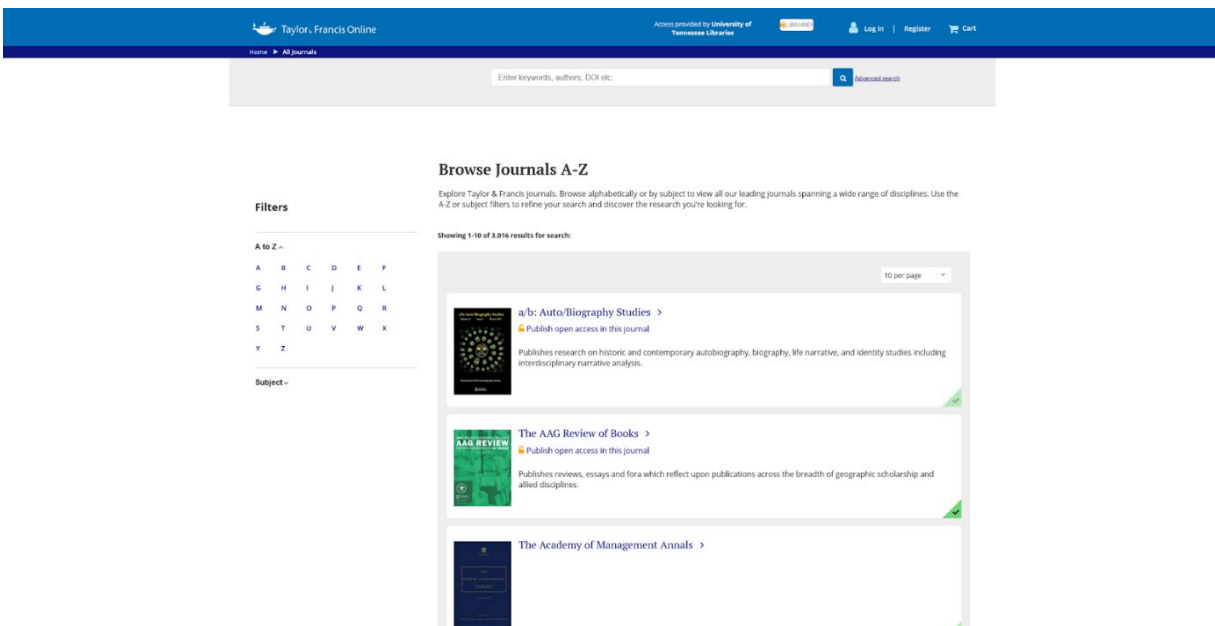
- This menu is very complicated and some of the functionality is not navigable using the keyboard (e.g., cannot remove the chips using the keyboard). Suggest using a native multiselect.

SC 2.4.11: Focus appearance should meet size and contrast requirements. [\[WCAG 2.2 Draft\]](#)

See note above for, **SC 2.4.11**

5. Journal A-Z

Test Case: Test Journal A-Z



SC 1.4.1: Links must be distinguishable without relying on color.

Instances:

Location(s): *There are multiple instances of this issue on this page.*

Reason flagged:

- The link has insufficient color contrast of 1.16:1 with the surrounding text. (Minimum contrast is 3:1, link text: #10147e, surrounding text: #333333)
- The link has no styling (such as underline) to distinguish it from the surrounding text.

SC 2.4.7: Keyboard focus should be visible.

Instances: 1

Location(s):

- `<input name="AllField" class="searchText main-search-field autocomplete ui-autocomplete-input" value="" type="search" id="searchText-1d85a42e-ad57-4c0d-a477-c847718bcb5d" title="Type search term here" aria-label="Search" placeholder="Enter keywords, authors, DOI, ORCID etc" autocomplete="off" data-history-items-conf="3" data-publication-titles-conf="3" data-publication-items-conf="3" data-topics-conf="3" data-contributors-conf="3" data-fuzzy-suggester="false" data-auto-complete-target="title-auto-complete">`

Reason flagged:

- The quick search bar does not have a visible focus indicator.

SC 2.4.11: Focus appearance should meet size and contrast requirements. [\[WCAG 2.2 Draft\]](#)

See note above for, **SC 2.4.11**

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