

# High-Level Accessibility Evaluation (WCAG 2.1)

Springer Nature

December 5, 2023

**Prepared for:**

BTAA-Library Accessibility Alliance

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## SUMMARY

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

There were no WCAG 2.1 AA compliance issues with Springer Nature, however there are problems with the PDF content of the site. The following issues are the most important to address to improve system compliance.

### Top Findings

1. **PDF Content:** The prevalent problem with the accessibility of Springer Nature resources are issues with the PDF content. This is a complex topic that requires specific attention to the structure and content of a given PDF. For a checklist of requirements and how to test PDF content, please refer to the [SSA Section 508 Checklist for PDFs](#).
2. **Focus Appearance:** While not a violation, there is an opportunity to enhance the usability of the site for users with visual impairments by improving the focus appearance when navigating by keyboard. The current focus indicator is a thick yellow ring, which works well against dark backgrounds, but when the focus indicator appears over white backgrounds, there is very low contrast which can be difficult for users with visual impairments.
3. **Best Practices:** Pay attention to best practices when creating web content. The content on the individual results page should have at least one main landmark.

## ACCESSIBILITY FINDINGS

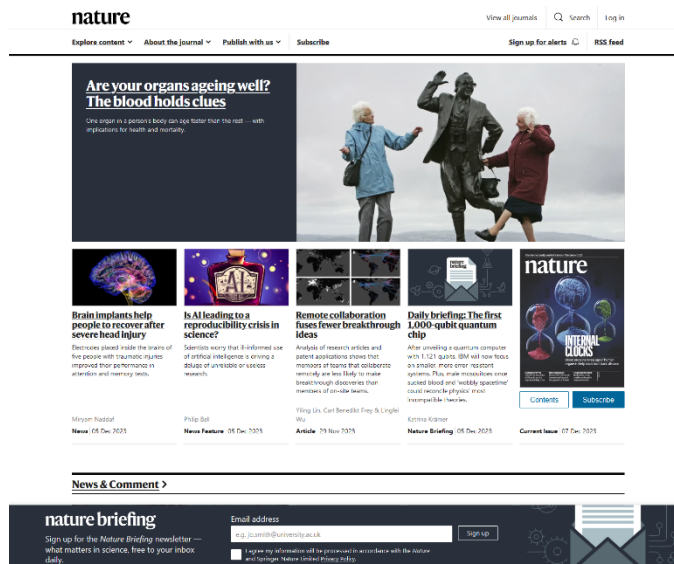
This report was conducted against the Springer Nature Platform and covers a selection of pages and features that were to be tested as a representative sample of the database's conformance to the WCAG 2.1 AA standards.

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 Springer Nature 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://www.nature.com/#content>



❖ No issues found on automatic or manual analysis.

## 2. Search Results

**Test Case:** From the initial landing page, conduct a search for: beetle. Test search results page, including filters/refine search: Filter “Journal” to Nature and “Article Type” to Research and “Date” to Last 5 years. Sort by Date published (old to new).

nature portfolio
[View all journals](#)  [Log in](#)

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nature > search

### Search

Search
Advanced search

|                                  |   |                                  |   |                                   |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Journal</b>                   | <b>Article type</b>                         | <b>Subject</b>                   | <b>Date</b>                               | <a href="#">Clear all filters</a> |
| <input type="text" value="All"/> | <input type="text" value="Research (941)"/> | <input type="text" value="All"/> | <input type="text" value="Last 5 years"/> |                                   |

**Sort by:**  Relevance  Date published (new to old)  Date published (old to new)

Showing 1–50 of 941 results

**Research**  
Open Access  
10 Dec 2018  
**Nature Communications**  
Volume: 9, P: 1-9

**Northern forest tree populations are physiologically maladapted to drought**

Northern tree populations may not benefit under climate change, with implications for assisted migration and range expansion. Here, Isaac-Renton et al. show that leading-edge lodgepole pine populations have fewer characteristics of drought-tolerance, so may not adapt to tolerate drier conditions.

Miriam Isaac-Renton, David Montwé ... Kerstin Treydt

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**Research**  
Open Access  
13 Dec 2018  
**Translational Psychiatry**  
Volume: 8, P: 1-10

**Improving pharmacogenetic prediction of extrapyramidal symptoms induced by antipsychotics**

Daniel Boloc, Anna Gortat ... Sergi Mas

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**Research**  
Open Access  
13 Dec 2018  
**Scientific Reports**  
Volume: 8, P: 1-8

**Susceptible and mCry3A resistant corn rootworm larvae killed by a non-hemolytic *Bacillus thuringiensis* Cyt1Aa mutant**

Alejandra Bravo, Jazmin A. López-Díaz ... Mario Soberón

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**Research**  
Open Access  
14 Dec 2018  
**Scientific Reports**  
Volume: 8, P: 1-13

**Identification of cytochrome P450 monooxygenase genes and their expression in response to high temperature in the alligatorweed flea beetle *Agasicles hygrophila* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae)**

Hong Zhang, Meiting Zhao ... Jianying Guo

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**Research**  
14 Dec 2018  
**Nature Sustainability**  
Volume: 1, P: 773-781

**Income growth and climate change effects on global nutrition security to mid-century**

Global environmental change complicates the goal of securing adequate nutrition for a growing world population. This study assesses the per capita availability of food nutrients for various scenarios to the year 2050. Results suggest that economic growth will expand food and macronutrient access more than climate change will suppress it, but that micronutrient inadequacies will plague some regions.

Gerald Nelson, Jessica Boqard ... Mark Rosegrant

❖ No issues found on automatic or manual analysis.

### 3. Individual Results

**Test Case:** Select the first article and test the individual search result landing page: Test the top page functions (Cite this Article); Test the Sections pane (on the right) and the “Figures” menu. Test the actual document by downloading the PDF.



❖ No issues found on automatic or manual analysis.

**PDF Document Analysis:**

| PDF Area Assessed | Failed Issues   |
|-------------------|---|
| Document          | Tagged PDF<br>Color Contrast  |
| Page Content      | Tagged Content<br>Tagged Annotations<br>Tab Order<br>Character Encoding                                       |
| Forms             | None  |
| Alternate Text    | Figures Alt Text<br>Nested Alt Text<br>Associated with Content<br>Hides Annotation<br>Other Elements Alt Text |
| Tables            | Rows<br>TH and TD   |

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
|                 | Headers<br>Regularity<br>Summary (skipped) |
| <b>Lists</b>    | List Items<br>Lbl and Lbody                |
| <b>Headings</b> | Appropriate Nesting                        |

## 4. Advanced Search

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

❖ **No issues found on automatic or manual analysis.**

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.