# High-Level Accessibility Evaluation (WCAG 2.1)

New York Times Database

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**Prepared for:**

BTAA-Library Accessibility Alliance

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## SUMMARY

This report reflects the findings of a high-level assessment of the New York Times Database 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 New York Times Database and they are very minor overall with the most pressing issue being with information and relationships and ARIA implementation. Below are the most critical issues to address to improve system compliance.

## Top Findings

1. **Information and Relationships:** The main problem with the accessibility is the proper nesting of HTML elements and the use of ARIA roles. These issues can lead to significant issues with screen readers and can make navigation of the site difficult for users that require the use of screen readers.

2. **Name, Role, Value:** Another major issue involves compliance and the implementation of ARIA. There are a variety of issues including invalid ARIA values, inputs lacking an accessible name, and nested controls. All of these can lead to significant issues with navigation and screen reader output.

3. **Color Contrast:** A few minor color contrast issue were identified on the search results page. The date text is too light and does not meet 4.5:1 contrast with the background. This can be easily solved by darkening this repeated text.

### Best Practices
♦ Ensure landmarks are unique.
♦ Page should contain a level-one heading.
♦ ARIA role should be appropriate for the element.

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# ACCESSIBILITY FINDINGS

This report was conducted against the New York Times Database 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 New York Times Database. 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. URL: https://www.nytimes.com/section/todayspaper



**SC 1.3.1:** <ul> and <ol> must only directly contain <li>, <script>, or <template> elements.
**Location(s):**
- – <ol class="css-19getja e1evmsrw1" style="overflow: visible;">

**Reason flagged:**
- List element has direct children that are not allowed: div.

# 2. Search Results

**Test Case:** From the initial landing page, conduct a search for: wildfires. Test search results page, including filters/refine search. Filter to Date Range: Past Month, Section: U.S., and Type: Article. Sort by Newest.



**SC 1.4.3:** Elements must meet minimum color contrast ratio thresholds.
   **Location(s):**
   – <div class="css-1mean60">Date:</div>
   – <div class="css-1mean60">Section:</div>
   – <div class="css-1mean60">Type<!-- -->:</div>

–   <span class="css-17ubb9w" data-testid="todays-date" aria-label="March 1">March 1</span>
–   <span class="css-17ubb9w" data-testid="todays-date" aria-label="March 1">March 1</span>

**Reason flagged:**
*   Element has insufficient color contrast of 2.84 (foreground color: #999999, background color: #ffffff, font size: 8.3pt (11px), font weight: normal). Expected contrast ratio of 4.5:1

**SC 4.1.2:** ARIA attributes must conform to valid values.
   **Location(s):**
–   <input id="searchTextField" data-testid="search-page-text-field" type="text" placeholder="Search The New York Times" class="css-1gpakt1" aria-activedescendant="searchSuggestion-null" aria-autocomplete="both" aria-describedby="searchInstructions" aria-owns="searchSuggestions" value="wildfires">

**Reason flagged:**
*   List element has direct children that are not allowed: div.

**SC 4.1.2:** Select elements must have an accessible name.
   **Location(s):**
–   <input id="searchTextField" data-testid="search-page-text-field" type="text" placeholder="Search The New York Times" class="css-1gpakt1" aria-activedescendant="searchSuggestion-null" aria-autocomplete="both" aria-describedby="searchInstructions" aria-owns="searchSuggestions" value="wildfires">

**Reason flagged:**
*   Form element does not have an implicit (wrapped) <label>
*   Form element does not have an explicit <label>
*   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"

# 3. Individual Results

**Test Case**: Select the first article in the results page. Test the "Share full article" link as well as the "share" and "bookmark" icons.



**SC 1.3.1:** &lt;ul&gt; and &lt;ol&gt; must only directly contain &lt;li&gt;, &lt;script&gt;, or &lt;template&gt; elements.
   **Location(s):**
   – &lt;ul class="css-15692k6"&gt;

   **Reason flagged:**
   • List element has direct children that are not allowed: div.

**SC 4.1.2:** Elements must only use supported ARIA attributes.
   **Location(s):**
   – &lt;div class="css-q9xz6g" aria-orientation="horizontal"&gt;

**Reason flagged:**
- ARIA attribute is not allowed: aria-orientation="horizontal"

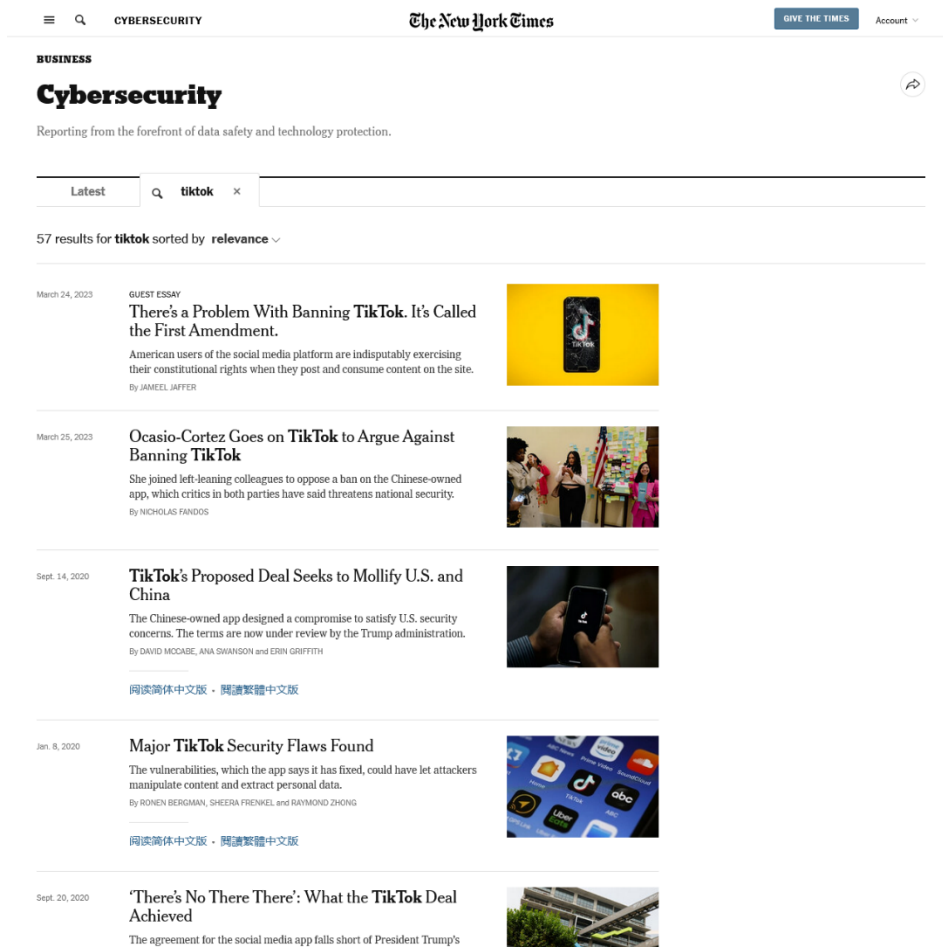**SC 4.1.2:** Interactive controls must not be nested.
### Location(s):
- <header style="height: 140px;" class="css-j62ipt" role="button" tabindex="-1" aria-label="Discovery space with three recent article suggestions, expand to see more" aria-expanded="false" aria-controls="subscriber-recirculation-bottom-sheet">

**Reason flagged:**
- Element has focusable descendants

# 4.Full eBook

**Test Case**: Test the browsing feature by clicking on the three lines in the upper-left corner of the screen, selecting "Tech," then "Cybersecurity." Search within the topic by typing "tiktok" into the search tab.

**SC 1.3.1:** Certain ARIA roles must contain particular children.
   **Location(s):**
   – <ul role="tablist" class="css-e1btbg e5qpt130">

   **Reason flagged:**
   - Element has children which are not allowed: h2[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):**
   – <a href="#stream-panel" aria-controls="stream-panel" aria-selected="false" data-id="latest" role="tab">Latest</a>

   **Reason flagged:**
   - Required ARIA parent role not present: tablist

**SC 1.3.1:** <ul> and <ol> must only directly contain <li>, <script>, or <template> elements.
   **Location(s):**
   – <ol aria-live="off" data-testid="asset-stream">

   **Reason flagged:**
   - List element has direct children that are not allowed: div.

**SC 4.1.2:** Interactive controls must not be nested.
   **Location(s):**
   – <a role="tab" href="#stream-panel" aria-controls="stream-panel" data-id="search" aria-selected="true">

   **Reason flagged:**
   - Element has focusable descendants

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