High-Level Accessibility Evaluation (WCAG 2.1)
Sage Research Methods

June 25, 2024

Prepared for:

BTAA-Library Accessibility Alliance

Prepared by:

Emily Mason, UX Researcher
User-Experience Lab
CCI Research & Innovation Center (RIC)
University of Tennessee
uxlab@utk.edu

Primary Point of Contact:

Amy Forrester, RIC Assistant Director
aforres4@utk.edu

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SUMMARY

This report reflects the findings of a high-level assessment of the Sage Research Methods Platform for its conformance with the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines version 2.1 (WCAG 2.1).

Overall, there are very few issues with the Sage Research Methods platform. There are, however, are some essential WCAG 2.1 A and AA level requirements that need to be met for compliance, in particular, issues around information and relationships and color contrast. Additionally, there are a few other issues that may help with the general usability of the site that are not direct violations of any Success Criterion (SC). Below are the most critical issues to address to improve system compliance.

Top Findings

1. **Information and Relationships:** This success criterion addresses the programmatic information structure and relationships and is currently the most pressing issue to address with the site. Screen readers rely on the ability to programmatically determine these relationships to properly function. The issues outlined in this report can cause significant issues with screen reader support unless addressed. Please refer to the WAI-ARIA Authoring Best Practices guide for standard patterns and behaviors for screen reader support.

2. **Color Contrast:** While a minor issue, this is important to address. On the search page there are two select inputs at the top of the page used for filtering/sorting results. The background color of these fields does not meet the minimum 3:1 contrast required for interactive elements and should be corrected.

3. **Best Practices:** Below are several best practices that can help users with accessibility needs to navigate the web more easily. While not essential for compliance, these are simple to address and will help with the usability and navigability of the site.

   - All page content should be contained by landmarks
   - Contentinfo landmark should not be contained in another landmark
   - Document should not have more than one content info landmark
   - Ensure landmarks are unique
   - Headings should not be empty
   - ARIA roles should be appropriate for the element
   - Form elements should have a visible label
   - The skip-link target should exist and be focusable

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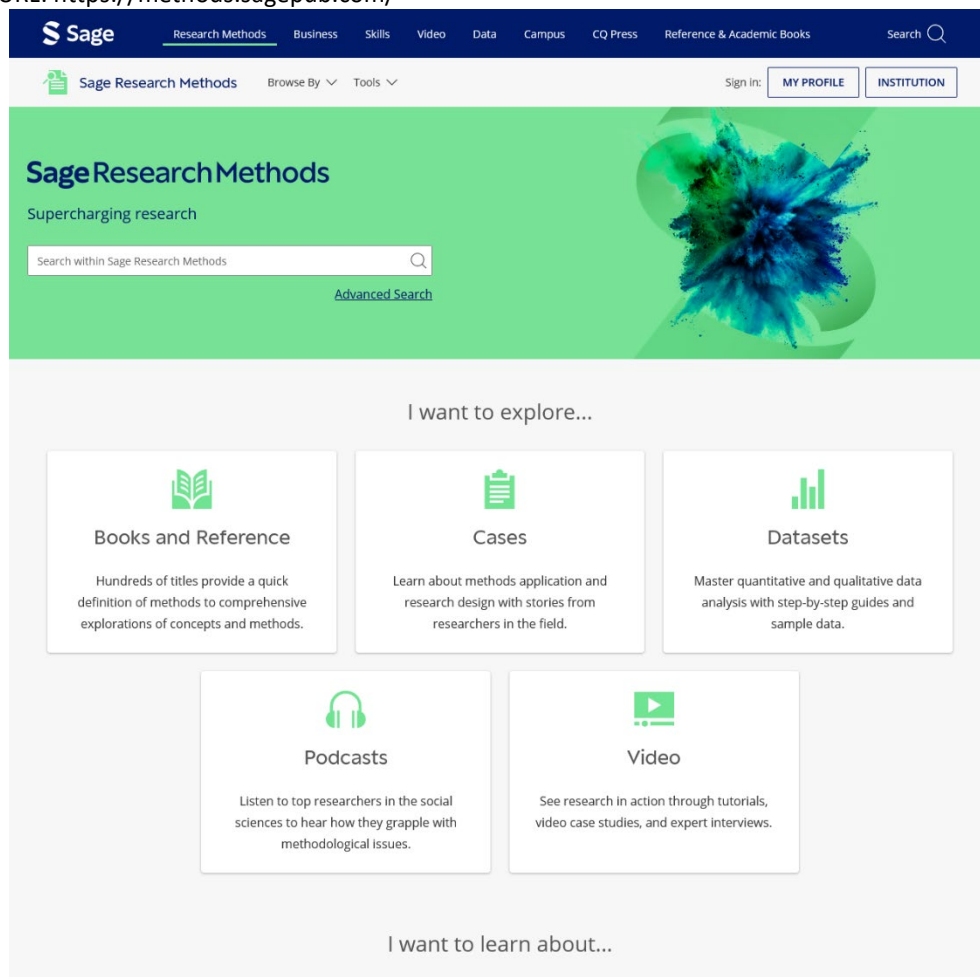THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

ACCESSIBILITY FINDINGS

This report was conducted against the Sage Research Methods 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 Sage Research Methods 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. URL: https://methods.sagepub.com/

SC 1.3.1: Certain ARIA roles must contain particular children.
Location(s):

1. *<ul data-v-a6c9d6a3="" role="menubar" class="sage-navbar-group">*

Reason flagged:
- Element has children which are not allowed: [role=none]
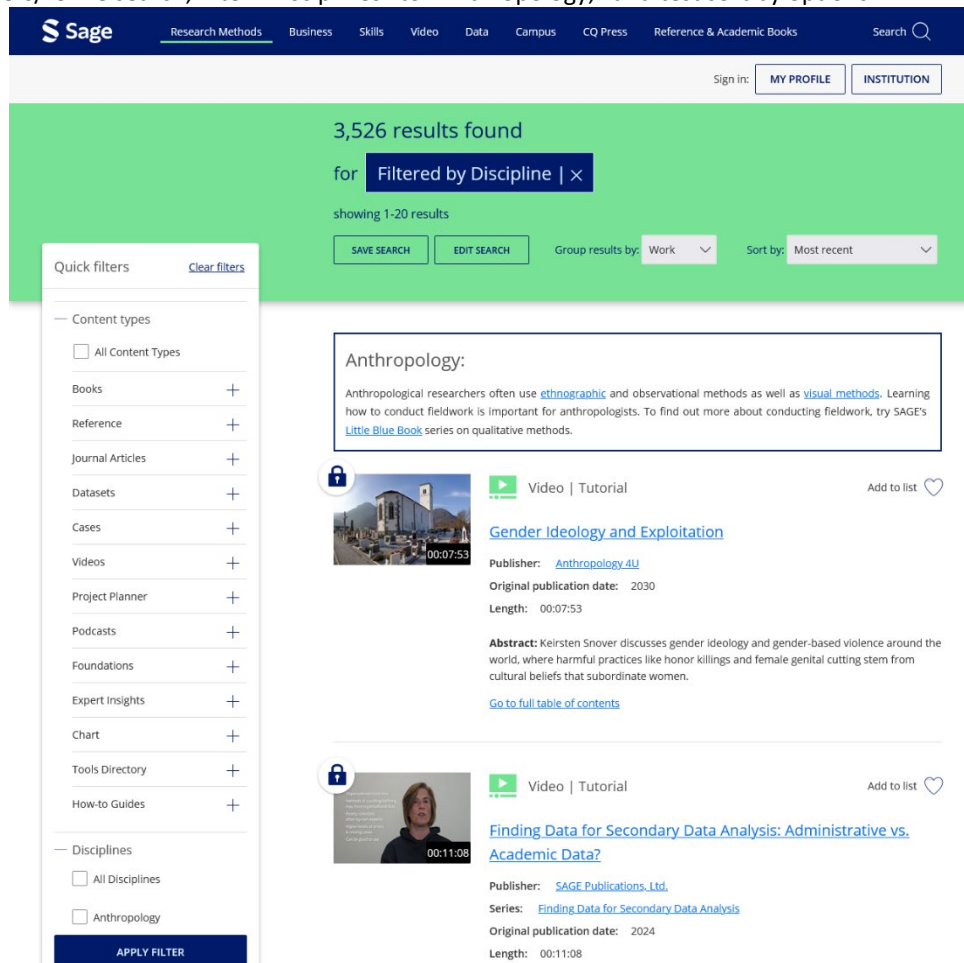
SC 1.3.1: elements must be contained in a <ul> or <ol>.
Location(s):

1. *<li class="sage-footer-section__link footer__methodspace-link" target="_blank">*

Reason flagged:
- List item does not have a <ul>, <ol> parent element

2. Search Results

Test Case: From the initial landing page, conduct a search for: virtual ethnography. Test search results page, including filters/refine search, filter "Disciplines" to "Anthropology," and test sort by options.

SC 1.3.1: Certain ARIA roles must contain particular children.
Location(s):

　　　1. *<ul data-v-a6c9d6a3="" role="menubar" class="sage-navbar-group">*

Reason flagged:
- Element has children which are not allowed: [role=none]

SC 1.3.1: elements must be contained in a <ul> or <ol>.
Location(s):

　　　1. *<li class="sage-footer-section__link footer__methodspace-link" target="_blank">*

Reason flagged:
- List item does not have a <ul>, <ol> parent element

SC 1.4.3: Elements must meet minimum color contrast ratio thresholds.
Location(s):

1. *<select data-v-8e15daf7="" class="sage-select__select" aria-disabled="false" id="groupBy"><option value="true">Work</option><option value="false">Section</option></select>*

2. *<select data-v-8e15daf7="" class="sage-select__select" aria-disabled="false" aria-label="Sort by. search results will update on selection" id="sortBy"><option value="relevance">Most relevant</option><option value="title">Alphabetical</option><option value="pubdate">Most recent</option><option value="mostpop12months">Most popular (last 12 months)</option><option value="mostpop">Most popular (all time)</option></select>*

Reason flagged:
- Element has insufficient color contrast of 1.2 (foreground color: #E3E3E3, background color: #77E296). Expected contrast ratio of 3:1 for interactive elements.

3. Individual Results

Test Case: Test individual search result (ie - Was I not a little blade of grass…) landing page, including links and images of sheet music.

SC 1.3.1: Certain ARIA roles must contain particular children.
Location(s):

1. *<ul data-v-a6c9d6a3="" role="menubar" class="sage-navbar-group">*
2. *<div id="tabstrip" class="k-tabstrip js-tabstrip k-widget k-header k-floatwrap k-tabstrip-top" data-tabs="" data-role="tabstrip" tabindex="0" role="tablist" aria-activedescendant="tabstrip_ts_active">*

Reason flagged:
- Element has children which are not allowed: [role=none]
- Element has children which are not allowed: ul[tabindex], [role=tabpanel]

SC 1.3.1: Certain ARIA roles must be contained by particular parents.
Location(s):

1. *<li class="k-item k-state-default k-first" role="tab" aria-controls="tabstrip-1"><h2 class="k-link">Summary</h2>
*
2. *<li class="k-item active k-state-default k-tab-on-top k-state-active" role="tab" aria-controls="tabstrip-2" aria-selected="true" id="tabstrip_ts_active"><h2 class="k-link">Chapters</h2>
*
3. *<li class="k-item k-state-default k-last" role="tab" aria-controls="tabstrip-3"><h2 class="k-link">Video Info</h2>
*

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

SC 1.3.1: and <ol> elements must only directly contain <li>, <script>, or <template> elements.
Location(s):

1. *<ul class="tabset-list k-tabstrip-items k-reset">*

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

SC 1.3.1: elements must be contained in a <ul> or <ol>.
Location(s):

1. *.sticky-site-info-list > .active*
2. *div[data-sticky-dialog=""] > .js-content-tools.content-tools[data-id="85684"] > .content-tools-get-link-item*
3. *div[data-sticky-dialog=""] > .js-content-tools.content-tools[data-id="85684"] > li:nth-child(2)*
4. *div[data-sticky-dialog=""] > .js-content-tools.content-tools[data-id="85684"] > li:nth-child(3)*

5. *div[data-sticky-dialog=""] > .js-content-tools.content-tools[data-id="85684"] > li:nth-child(4)*
6. *div[data-sticky-dialog=""] > .js-content-tools.content-tools[data-id="85684"] > .download-pdf[data-module-name="content-functions"]*
7. *.footer__methodspace-link*

Reason flagged:
- List item parent element has a role that is not role="list"
- List item does not have a <ul>, <ol> parent element

SC 1.4.3: Elements must meet minimum color contrast ratio thresholds.
Location(s):

1. *<select data-v-8e15daf7="" class="sage-select__select" aria-disabled="false" id="groupBy"><option value="true">Work</option><option value="false">Section</option></select>*
2. *<select data-v-8e15daf7="" class="sage-select__select" aria-disabled="false" aria-label="Sort by. search results will update on selection" id="sortBy"><option value="relevance">Most relevant</option><option value="title">Alphabetical</option><option value="pubdate">Most recent</option><option value="mostpop12months">Most popular (last 12 months)</option><option value="mostpop">Most popular (all time)</option></select>*

Reason flagged:
- Element has insufficient color contrast of 1.2 (foreground color: #E3E3E3, background color: #77E296). Expected contrast ratio of 3:1 for interactive elements.

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4.Advanced Search Page

Test Case: Test advanced search page. Search for "empiricism" with the content type of "video."

SC 1.3.1: elements must be contained in a <ul> or <ol>.
Location(s):

      1. *<li class="sage-footer-section__link footer__methodspace-link" target="_blank">*

Reason flagged:

- List item does not have a <ul>, <ol> parent element