



Dear Austin and the LAA team,

Thank you for including Engineering Village in this latest round of accessibility reviews. We genuinely appreciate the work that went into your report and your continued focus on making digital research platforms better for everyone.

Accessibility is something we care deeply about. While we've made improvements over time, we also recognize there's more we need to do—and your feedback really helps us see that more clearly. We especially appreciate the specificity of the report, which has already guided us toward some immediate fixes.

What we're doing now

Some key improvements already in motion include:

- Adding accessible labels to key elements (e.g., checkboxes in the results list)
- Ensuring keyboard-only access to interactive controls like filter buttons
- Fixing ARIA roles and values in advanced search components
- Structuring tab-like elements properly using semantic markup

These are actively being worked on and will be included in our upcoming releases.

What's next

Short term (now–Q2 2025)

- Add missing text alternatives for buttons and icons
- Correct label associations for radio buttons and form fields

Mid-term (Q3–Q4 2025)

- Improve color contrast on key UI elements
- Refactor tab panels and filter structures for better accessibility
- Improve clarity and uniqueness of link text for screen readers

Long-term (2026 and beyond)

- Standardize ARIA usage across components
- Redesign navigation for consistency across pages

- Align legacy structures with updated accessibility practices
- Apply changes that require broader platform-level updates

Engineering Village was recently evaluated by Elsevier’s accessibility team, and a new VPAT was issued in March 2024 following a comprehensive review. Elsevier has been providing detailed and honest VPATs around Engineering Village since 2007. Additional information about EV accessibility including the option to request the most current VPAT/ACR can be found on our site: <https://www.elsevier.com/about/accessibility>.

We really appreciate the ongoing collaboration and your commitment to raising the bar across the industry. Please don’t hesitate to keep sharing feedback—we want Engineering Village to be better for all researchers, and we’re committed to doing the work it takes to get there.

Sincerely,

Yingzhi Wang

Product Team, Engineering Village

Elsevier