

# WRDS Accessibility Conformance Report

## WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5)

**Name of Product/Version:** Wharton Research Data Services (WRDS)

**Report Date:** February 2024

### Product Description:

WRDS democratizes data access so all disciplines can easily search for concepts across the data repository.

### Contact Information:

Eric Sauers, IT Project Manager, [esauers@wharton.upenn.edu](mailto:esauers@wharton.upenn.edu)

### Notes:

Please refer to the Product Roadmap starting on Page 9 for the estimated resolution of issues found.

### Evaluation Methods Used:

Assistive technologies used in this evaluation included VoiceOver and NVDA, as well as exclusive use of the keyboard to navigate and operate the site content and functionality. Automatic tests were performed using the WAVE browser extension.

# Applicable Standards/Guidelines

This report covers the degree of conformance for the following accessibility standard/guidelines:

Standard/Guideline	Included In Report
<a href="#">Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0</a>	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
<a href="#">Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1</a>	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)

## Terms

The terms used in the Conformance Level information are defined as follows:

- **Supports:** The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criterion without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation.
- **Partially Supports:** Some functionality of the product does not meet the criterion.
- **Does Not Support:** The majority of product functionality does not meet the criterion.
- **Not Applicable:** The criterion is not relevant to the product.
- **Not Evaluated:** The product has not been evaluated against the criterion. This can only be used in WCAG Level AAA criteria.

## WCAG 2.1 Report

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.x Success Criteria, they are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility-supported ways of using technology as documented in the [WCAG 2.0 Conformance Requirements](#).

**Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A**

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">1.1.1 Non-text Content</a> (Level A)	Partially Supports	The site provides sufficient text alternatives for most instances of non-text content. Exceptions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When graphs are rendered through HighCharts, there is limited support for assistive technology.</li> <li>• Icons used as buttons in the mobile menu are not labeled.</li> <li>• Some decorative images, such as those used in Image Cards, are missing an alt attribute.</li> <li>• PDF documents supplied by third-party vendors may not be accessible.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)</a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	The site does not contain prerecorded audio-only or video-only media.
<a href="#">1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)</a> (Level A)	Supports	All videos with audio have captions provided or the ability for auto-captions to be enabled.
<a href="#">1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)</a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	The site does not contain prerecorded video content that would require audio description or a media alternative.
<a href="#">1.3.1 Info and Relationships</a> (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most visual structure and relationship information is provided through object information or is available in text. Exceptions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On query forms, some fields are missing labels.</li> <li>• The search bar is unlabeled.</li> <li>• In the main menu, the "aria-controls" attribute is mis-configured, which breaks certain screen reader functionality.</li> <li>• Username and password fields do not have a programmatic label.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence</a> (Level A)	Supports	The site content is presented in a meaningful sequence.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics</a> (Level A)	Supports	Instructions do not rely solely on sensory characteristics.
<a href="#">1.4.1 Use of Color</a> (Level A)	Supports	Site content and functionality does not convey information through color alone.
<a href="#">1.4.2 Audio Control</a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	The site does not contain audio that plays automatically.
<a href="#">2.1.1 Keyboard</a> (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most site functionality can be accessed and operated using a keyboard. However, the mobile menu "hamburger" button is not usable by keyboard.
<a href="#">2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap</a> (Level A)	Supports	The site does not include keyboard traps.
<a href="#">2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts</a> (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	The site does not provide character key shortcuts.
<a href="#">2.2.1 Timing Adjustable</a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	The site does not include time limits.
<a href="#">2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide</a> (Level A)	Partially Supports	After submitting a query, the user is brought to a page that auto-refreshes every five seconds until the query is done running. While a "Kill" button exists, assistive technology users are unlikely to be able to navigate to and activate this button before the page reloads.
<a href="#">2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold</a> (Level A)	Not Applicable	The site does not contain flashing content.
<a href="#">2.4.1 Bypass Blocks</a> (Level A)	Supports	A link to skip the page header to go to the main content is provided.
<a href="#">2.4.2 Page Titled</a> (Level A)	Supports	The site's web pages are titled.
<a href="#">2.4.3 Focus Order</a> (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most of the site's components receive focus in a meaningful order. Exceptions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain filters on internal content pages come after the panel content.</li> <li>• When the mobile menu is opened and a dropdown toggle is activated, focus does not move to the new panel</li> </ul>
<a href="#">2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)</a> (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most links can be determined from the link text alone. Exceptions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Top of Section" jump links are indistinguishable from each other.</li> </ul>

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “More” links on Image Cards are indistinguishable from each other.</li> <li>• Redundant links are present on Date Cards.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">2.5.1 Pointer Gestures</a> (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	The site does not rely on multipoint or path-based gestures.
<a href="#">2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation</a> (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	The site functions that use a single pointer are completed when the user releases the pointer.
<a href="#">2.5.3 Label in Name</a> (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially Supports	The accessible name of each user interface component that includes a visible text label corresponds to that label text. Exceptions to this are instances that have failed another Success Criteria and are documented there.
<a href="#">2.5.4 Motion Actuation</a> (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	The site does not have functionality operated by device motion or user motion.
<a href="#">3.1.1 Language of Page</a> (Level A)	Supports	The default language of the site’s webpage is identified using the lang attribute in the html element.
<a href="#">3.2.1 On Focus</a> (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most of the site’s components do not initiate a change of context when focused. Exceptions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain tabs or filters used on internal content pages</li> </ul>
<a href="#">3.2.2 On Input</a> (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most changes of context do not occur automatically on user input. Exceptions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain filters do not announce a change of context to screen readers</li> </ul>
<a href="#">3.3.1 Error Identification</a> (Level A)	Supports	Where errors are automatically detected, the error is identified, and an error message is provided as text.
<a href="#">3.3.2 Labels or Instructions</a> (Level A)	Partially Supports	A label is provided for each of the site’s input fields. Exceptions to this are instances that have failed another Success Criteria and are documented there.
<a href="#">4.1.1 Parsing</a> (Level A) WCAG 2.0 and 2.1 – Always answer ‘Supports’ WCAG 2.2 (obsolete and removed) - Does not apply	Supports	The site’s web pages uses semantically correct markup for all interface elements; has complete start and end tags; and has tags with unique ID values.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">4.1.2 Name, Role, Value</a> (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most user interface components in the site provide programmatic name, role, and/or state information. Exceptions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some homepage links have buttons nested inside of links that go to the same destination</li> <li>• Instances that have failed another Success Criteria and are documented there.</li> </ul>

**Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA**

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">1.2.4 Captions (Live)</a> (Level AA)	Not Applicable	The site does not contain live synchronized media.
<a href="#">1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)</a> (Level AA)	Not Applicable	The site does not contain prerecorded video content that would require audio description.
<a href="#">1.3.4 Orientation</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	The content of the site does not restrict its view and operation to a single display orientation.
<a href="#">1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	The site does not contain input fields that require the user to enter personally identifiable information.
<a href="#">1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)</a> (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Most text in the site meets minimum contrast requirements. Exceptions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Warning" and "Success" system alerts</li> <li>• Orange and gray date blocks</li> <li>• The current page's title in the breadcrumb bar</li> <li>• Bright blue text on white background on the public-facing WRDS site</li> <li>• When code syntax is displayed, some of the variable colors do not meet contrast requirements</li> </ul>
<a href="#">1.4.4 Resize text</a> (Level AA)	Supports	The site supports the ability to resize text.
<a href="#">1.4.5 Images of Text</a> (Level AA)	Supports	The site uses text instead of images of text.
<a href="#">1.4.10 Reflow</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	The content on the site's web pages support reflow.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<a href="#">1.4.11 Non-text Contrast</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Meaningful non-text content elements in the site have sufficient contrast.
<a href="#">1.4.12 Text Spacing</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	The spacing between letters, words, lines of text and/or paragraphs can be adjusted in the site's webpage.
<a href="#">1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	The site does not contain content elements triggered by hover or focus.
<a href="#">2.4.5 Multiple Ways</a> (Level AA)	Supports	The site provides multiple ways to locate web pages via site search, homepage link listings, and sidebar navigations.
<a href="#">2.4.6 Headings and Labels</a> (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Most headings and labels in the site are descriptive. Exceptions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In modals, the "X" button used to dismiss the modal has the label set as "times" instead of "Close"</li> </ul>
<a href="#">2.4.7 Focus Visible</a> (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Most focusable elements in site have a visible keyboard focus indicator. Exceptions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Links and buttons in the utility menu lack a focus state</li> </ul>
<a href="#">3.1.2 Language of Parts</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Within the site's webpage, the language of each portion of the page is programmatically determinable.
<a href="#">3.2.3 Consistent Navigation</a> (Level AA)	Supports	The site provides consistent and repeatable navigation.
<a href="#">3.2.4 Consistent Identification</a> (Level AA)	Supports	Components that have the same functionality within the site are identified consistently.
<a href="#">3.3.3 Error Suggestion</a> (Level AA)	Supports	When an error is automatically detected within a data entry form in the site, the resulting error message provides suggestions for correction.
<a href="#">3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)</a> (Level AA)	Not Applicable	No forms within the site submit actions that cause legal commitments or financial transactions to occur, nor do any forms submit actions that modify or delete user-controllable data in data storage systems.
<a href="#">4.1.3 Status Messages</a> (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Status messages can be programmatically determined.

## **Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA**

Notes: Not applicable. WRDS was not evaluated for WCAG 2.1 Level AAA conformance.

### **Legal Disclaimer**

The University of Pennsylvania makes world wide web resources available to all segments of the University community and may provide listings of and/or links to web pages maintained by university faculty, students, staff, student organizations, non-University organizations and others. The University web space contains web pages that have been created by the University and its schools, departments or other administrative offices, as well as web pages generated by groups or individuals.

University departments, schools, and administrative offices strive to ensure the accuracy of their web pages. If you have a question or concern regarding any of the University web pages, please contact that department directly.

Personal, individual or group web pages are not endorsed, edited or approved by the University. The content and the items accessible from the pages are the sole responsibility of their creators and do not represent positions, policies or opinions of the University of Pennsylvania. If you have any questions about a particular page or document, please contact the site's author directly.

Some University of Pennsylvania web pages may contain links to web pages created by sources outside the University. The existence of these links does not suggest that the University approves or endorses the content of these web pages.

University Communications is responsible for the maintenance and design of the University of Pennsylvania home page and the central web pages but is not responsible for the timeliness or completeness of the information provided by other departments, individuals or schools. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about the University of Pennsylvania web pages, please send an email to [webmaster@upenn.edu](mailto:webmaster@upenn.edu).

To learn more about the University of Pennsylvania web policies, click on the links below:

[Policy on Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources](#)

[Guidelines on Open Expression](#)



# Product Roadmap

Issue	Noted in	Expected Resolution Date
Inaccessible PDF Content	1.1.1 Non-text Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>December 2023 (Content created by WRDS)</li> <li>Ongoing and as needed (Content created by third-party vendors)</li> </ul>
Unlabeled fields on login form	1.3.1 Info and Relationships	March 2023
Image Cards: Missing alt attribute	1.1.1 Non-text Content	March 2024
Image Cards: "More" links on Image Cards are indistinguishable from each other.	2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)	April 2024
Unlabeled search bar	1.3.1 Info and Relationships	April 2024
Certain filters do not announce a change of context to screen readers	3.2.2 On Input	April 2024
Unlabeled icon buttons in mobile menu	1.1.1 Non-text Content	May 2024
In modals, the "X" button used to dismiss the modal has the label set as "times" instead of "Close"	2.4.6 Headings and Labels	May 2024
Enable HighChart's accessibility module and functionality	1.1.1 Non-text Content	May 2024
Tab order on Terms of Use	Not noted in document. On the Terms of Use page, there is a Table of Contents and Top of Section buttons which lead to 48 tab stops before a user can accept the TOU.	June 2024
"Top of Section" buttons indistinguishable for screen readers	2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)	July 2024
Color contrast for alerts, date boxes, and syntax	1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)	July 2024
Color contrast for breadcrumb trail	1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)	August 2024
Nested button inside of link	4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	August 2024
Redundant links on Date Blocks	2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)	September 2024
Focus order on tabs/filters	2.4.3 Focus Order	October 2024
Focus state on utility menu	2.4.7 Focus Visible	October 2024

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Noted in</b>	<b>Expected Resolution Date</b>
Unlabeled fields on query form	1.3.1 Info and Relationships	October 2024
Improve main menu HTML structure	1.3.1 Info and Relationships, 2.1.1 Keyboard	October 2024
Bright blue text on white background on the public-facing WRDS site	1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)	December 2024