

Biodiversity Heritage Library website Accessibility Conformance Report

Based on VPAT® 2.4

Name of Product/Version ↗

Biodiversity Heritage Library website

Report Dates and Version ↗

- Report Date: 9/6/2026
- Last Modified Date: 9/17/2026
- Version: biodiversity heritage library website-4

Product Description ↗

The BHL website is an open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives.

Contact Information ↗

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Vendor Information ↗

Applicable Standards/Guidelines ↗

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

Standard/Guideline	Included In Report
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	• Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A • Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA • Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA

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 be used only in WCAG 2.x Level AAA.

WCAG 2.1 Report

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A 

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content	• Web: Partially Supports	• Web: When viewing the pages of a book, alternative/OCR text is not applied to the individual page images. OCR is available as a separate tab on the same page.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)	• Web: Not Applicable	• Web: BHL does not offer prerecorded audio or video content.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)	• Web: Not Applicable	• Web: BHL does not offer prerecorded audio or video content.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)	• Web: Not Applicable	• Web: BHL does not offer prerecorded audio or video content.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships	• Web: Partially Supports	• Web: BHL uses <header>, <aside>, <footer> tags but does not use <main> or <article> tags appropriately.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence	• Web: Partially Supports	• Web: On many pages, the sequence of content is clear and orderly, but on the page where a visitor reads a book, the sequence is undefined.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics	• Web: Partially Supports	• Web: Some elements on some pages do not have textual identification. When reading a book, there is no textual alternative to the pages of the book due to the imprecise nature of machine-generated OCR.
1.4.1 Use of Color	• Web: Partially Supports	• Web: Text in addition to color is used as a means of conveying information where possible.
1.4.2 Audio Control	• Web: Not Applicable	• Web: BHL does not offer audio content in any way.
2.1.1 Keyboard	• Web: Partially Supports	• Web: BHL supports keyboard navigation for all pages, but some difficulty may be encountered when using the keyboard to read a book. Scrolling through a book must be accomplished through the page listing and not the page thumbnails.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap	• Web: Supports	• Web: We could find no Keyboard Traps in any page in BHL.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts	• Web: Not Applicable	• Web: BHL offers no character key shortcuts and therefor dos not need a mechanism to disable or off the shortcut.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable	• Web: Not Applicable	• Web: BHL does not offer features that must be read or interacted with in some time frame. Start/stop/hide is not applicable.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide	• Web: Not Applicable	• Web: BHL does not offer features that must be read or interacted with in some time frame. Adjusted timing is not applicable.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold	• Web: Not Applicable	• Web: There is no flashing content on BHL.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks	Web: Does Not Support	Web: BHL does not have a "skip to content" mechanism
2.4.2 Page Titled	Web: Supports	Web: All pages on BHL have a reasonably descriptive title.
2.4.3 Focus Order	Web: Supports	Web: Focus order is sensible and consistent across all pages in BHL.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)	Web: Supports	
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures	Web: Supports	
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation	Web: Supports	
2.5.3 Label in Name	Web: Supports	
2.5.4 Motion Actuation	Web: Supports	Web: BHL has no motion-activated operations.
3.1.1 Language of Page	Web: Partially Supports	Web: BHL's user interface is identified as English, but content in BHL is in a variety of languages that is not identified and programmatically available.
3.2.1 On Focus	Web: Supports	
3.2.2 On Input	Web: Supports	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.3.1 Error Identification	• Web: Supports	
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions	• Web: Supports	
4.1.1 Parsing	• Web: Supports	
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	• Web: Supports	

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA 

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live)	• Web: Not Applicable	• Web: BHL does not offer live audio or video content.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)	• Web: Not Applicable	• Web: BHL does not offer prerecorded audio or video content.
1.3.4 Orientation	• Web: Supports	
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose	• Web: Does Not Support	• Web: The feedback/contact us page does not include the purpose of the input field which can be programmatically determined.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)	• Web: Partially Supports	• Web: A few elements have a contrast ratio of only 3.48:1.
1.4.4 Resize text	• Web:	• Web:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
	Partially Supports	Some screen elements do not respond accurately when text is scaled 200%
1.4.5 Images of Text	Web: Supports	
1.4.10 Reflow	Web: Partially Supports	Web: When text is zoomed to 200% or greater, some horizontal scrolling is required, especially on smaller screens.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast	Web: Supports	
1.4.12 Text Spacing	Web: Supports	
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus	Web: Not Applicable	
2.4.5 Multiple Ways	Web: Supports	
2.4.6 Headings and Labels	Web: Supports	
2.4.7 Focus Visible	Web: Does Not Support	Web: Focus highlighting is provided by the browser more instead of by BHL itself.
3.1.2 Language of Parts	Web: Does Not Support	Web: BHL contains content in many languages, but does not supply a programmatically-accessible language.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation	Web: Supports	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.2.4 Consistent Identification	• Web: Supports	
3.3.3 Error Suggestion	• Web: Partially Supports	• Web: No suggestion is provided when the main search is lacking a search term. The advanced search offers a simple suggestion when the form is empty.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)	• Web: Not Applicable	• Web: BHL does not offer forms for legal or financial commitments.
4.1.3 Status Messages	• Web: Does Not Support	

Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA 

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