

SAGE CQ Researcher Website

VPAT

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13 March 2017

Rev 2.3

SAGE CQ Researcher Website VPAT

Evaluation of the SAGE *CQ Researcher* Website identified accessibility features and functionalities of the platform. This evaluation provided the information required to assess the conformance of SAGE *CQ Researcher* Website with the Section 508 Accessibility Standards.

The Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC) has published recommended language to be used in completing VPAT documents that has been designed to create simplicity and uniformity/consistency in VPATs presented by a variety of suppliers. In preparing the CQ Researcher VPAT, TFA has used the ITIC-recommended *VPAT Summary Description and Suggested Language for Completing VPAT* (see *Appendix A*). The VPAT document includes the following tables: Table 1: Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating System, Table 2: Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet Information and Applications, Table 3: Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria, and Table 4: Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation, and Support.

Based on this evaluation and on information published on the ITIC website (<http://www.itic.org>), SAGE presents the following VPAT document for the SAGE *CQ Researcher* website.

Table 1: Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems – Detail

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(a) When software is designed to run on a system that has a keyboard, product functions shall be executable from a keyboard where the function itself or the result of performing a function can be discerned textually.	Supports with Exceptions	Interface elements show keyboard focus and can be operated without the use of a mouse. The exception to this is the SAGE Stats or US Political Stats widget utilized in some newer issues (beginning in 2017). The graphic content provided in this widget is not accessible to keyboard or screen reader users.
(b) Applications shall not disrupt or disable activated features of other products that are identified as accessibility features, where those features are developed and documented according to industry standards. Applications also shall not disrupt or disable activated features of any operating system that are identified as accessibility features where the application programming interface for those accessibility features has been documented by the manufacturer of the operating system and is available to the	Supports	The website does not interfere with operating system accessibility features.

product developer.		
(c) A well-defined on-screen indication of the current focus shall be provided that moves among interactive interface elements as the input focus changes. The focus shall be programmatically exposed so that Assistive Technology can track focus and focus changes.	Supports with Exceptions	Interface elements show keyboard focus and can be operated without the use of a mouse. The exception to this is the SAGE Stats or US Political Stats widget utilized in some newer issues (beginning in 2017). The graphic content provided in this widget is not accessible to keyboard or screen reader users.
(d) Sufficient information about a user interface element, including the identity, operation, and state of the element, shall be available to Assistive Technology. When an image represents a program element, the information conveyed by the image must also be available in text.	Supports with Exceptions	Interface elements have been labeled. The exception to this is found on the Saved Searches page. The long numerical file name for each search result is read by the screen reader before the issue title, without informing users as to what is being read or why.
(e) When bitmap images are used to identify controls, status indicators, or other programmatic elements, the meaning assigned to those images shall be consistent throughout an application's performance.	Not Applicable	Images are not used for controls.
(f) Textual information shall be provided through operating system functions for displaying text. The minimum information that shall be made available is text content, text input caret location, and text attributes.	Supports	Textual information is presented by the browser using OS functions.
(g) Applications shall not override user selected contrast and color selections and other individual display attributes.	Supports	The website does not interfere with or override user-selected display settings.
(h) When animation is displayed, the information shall be displayable in at least one non-animated presentation mode at the option of the user.	Not Applicable	No animation is used.
(i) Color coding shall not be used as the only means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element.	Supports	The website does not use color as the sole means of conveying information.
(j) When a product permits a user to adjust color and contrast settings, a	Not Applicable	The website has no built-in color/contrast

variety of color selections capable of producing a range of contrast levels shall be provided.		adjustments.
(k) Software shall not use flashing or blinking text, objects, or other elements having a flash or blink frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	Not Applicable	The website does not use flashing or blinking text, objects, or elements.
(l) When electronic forms are used, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	Supports with Exceptions	Most form controls are properly labeled. One exception is the E-mail a Document pop-up window, which cannot be closed without sending an email.

Table 2: Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet Information and Applications – Detail

Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet information and applications		
Voluntary Product Accessibility Template		
Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt", "longdesc", or in element content).	Supports with Exceptions	Many images, especially in older content, are missing alt text. For those images that include alt text, this often repeats the caption information. Another exception to this is the SAGE Stats or US Political Stats widget utilized in some newer issues (beginning in 2017). The graphic content provided in this widget is not accessible to keyboard or screen reader users.
(b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.	Supports	Videos feature synchronized closed captions.
(c) Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup.	Supports	Color is not used as the sole means of communicating information.
(d) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.	Supports with Exceptions	With style sheets disabled, hidden content (including modal dialogs) becomes visible. It should be noted that, currently, users of assistive technology would have full access to style

		sheets.
(e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.	Not Applicable	There are no server-side image maps.
(f) Client-side image maps shall be provided instead of server-side image maps except where the regions cannot be defined with an available geometric shape.	Not Applicable	There are no client-side image maps.
(g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.	Does not Support	Data tables are not marked up with headers.
(h) Markup shall be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers.	Supports with Exceptions	No complex data tables used. The long descriptions provided for the graphic content in the newer issues (beginning in 2017) utilize tables that are not marked up to associate data cells with header cells.
(i) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation	Not Applicable	No frames used.
(j) Pages shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	Not Applicable	Pages do not contain flashing elements.
(k) A text-only page, with equivalent information or functionality, shall be provided to make a website comply with the provisions of this part, when compliance cannot be accomplished in any other way. The content of the text-only page shall be updated whenever the primary page changes.	Does not Support	No accessible text page is provided. Nor it is practical to supply a text-only page with equivalent functionality.
(l) When pages utilize scripting languages to display content, or to create interface elements, the information provided by the script shall be identified with functional text that can be read by Assistive Technology.	Supports	User interface elements implemented with scripting appear as interactive to the screen reader.
(m) When a web page requires that an applet, plug-in or other application be present on the client system to interpret page content, the page must provide a link to a plug-in or applet that complies with 1194.21(a) through (l).	Supports	A link is provided for Adobe Reader, which is required for PDF files of articles, from the Help page. No other plug-ins are required.
(n) When electronic forms are designed to be completed online, the form shall allow	Supports with Exceptions	Most form controls are properly labeled. One exception is the E-mail a Document pop-up

people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.		window, which cannot be closed without sending an email
(o) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.	Supports	A Skip to Main Content link is provided.
(p) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.	Not Applicable	Timed response is not required.

Table 3: Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria – Detail

Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria Detail Voluntary Product Accessibility Template		
Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
(a) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user vision shall be provided, or support for assistive technology used by people who are blind or visually impaired shall be provided.	Supports with Exceptions	The website can be navigated using the keyboard and the main navigation menu. The exception to this is the long descriptions found for graphic content provided in the newer issues (beginning in 2017). When multiple components of a graphic require multiple long descriptions, users must read through/listen to all content and cannot navigate within the distinct long descriptions in the single file.
(b) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require visual acuity greater than 20/70 shall be provided in audio and enlarged print output working together or independently, or support for assistive technology used by people who are visually impaired shall be provided.	Supports with Exceptions	With minor exceptions (poor color contrast for several elements, such as “Search by keyword...; Search content from CQ Press; Featured Report tabs; Feedback tab; selected report part in left nav; date, volume #, issue #; SAGE Recommends; CiteNow and Save to Favorites Documents).
(c) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user hearing shall be provided, or support for assistive technology used by people who	Not Applicable	Audio is not used.

are deaf or hard of hearing shall be provided		
(d) Where audio information is important for the use of a product, at least one mode of operation and information retrieval shall be provided in an enhanced auditory fashion, or support for assistive hearing devices shall be provided.	Supports	Enhanced auditory support is provided by the computer in the form of a volume control and earphone output.
(e) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user speech shall be provided, or support for assistive technology used by people with disabilities shall be provided.	Not Applicable	Speech input is not required.
(f) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require fine motor control or simultaneous actions and that is operable with limited reach and strength shall be provided.	Supports with Exceptions	The website can be navigated using the keyboard and the main navigation menu. The exception to this is the SAGE Stats or US Political Stats widget utilized in some newer issues (beginning in 2017). The graphic content provided in this widget is not accessible to keyboard or screen reader users.

Table 4: Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation, and Support

Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support Voluntary Product Accessibility Template		
Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
(a) Product support documentation provided to end-users shall be made available in alternate formats upon request, at no additional charge	Supports	Alternative formats of the 'Help' documentation are available on request.
(b) End-users shall have access to a description of the accessibility and compatibility features of products in alternate formats or alternate methods upon request, at no additional charge.	Does not Support	Accessibility features are not documented.

(c) Support services for products shall accommodate the communication needs of end-users with disabilities.	Supports	Support is provided online through sagepub.com .
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Appendix A: Background On VPAT

To facilitate effective communication between producers of products and services and those who acquire them concerning the accessibility of specific products, an accessibility information template was created by a joint government and industry effort. The VPAT document was created by the Information Technology Industry Council (www.itic.org) based on Section 508 Standards established by the United States Access Board (www.access-board.gov) in 2001.

The use of the VPAT as an evaluation tool has enabled companies and organizations to self-document and formally attest to conformance and nonconformance with specific Section 508 accessibility requirements point by point. Its purpose is to assist federal and state contracting officials and other purchasers in making preliminary assessments regarding the availability of commercial Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) products and services with features that support accessibility. Vendors are frequently required to submit VPATs with their responses to RFPs and other government purchasing proposals.

For each ICT product category to which Section 508 applies, three different requirements need to be addressed. (Complete information regarding these requirements can be found at the www.section508.gov and www.itic.org websites):

1. Specific Requirements, corresponding to specific product groups:
 - Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems
 - Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet Information and Applications
 - Section 1194.23 Telecommunications Products
 - Section 1194.24 Video and Multimedia Products
 - Section 1194.25 Self-Contained, Closed Products
 - Section 1194.26 Desktop and Portable Computers
2. Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria, “Functional Performance Criteria,” applying to all product groups
3. Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation, and Support: General Requirement, “Information, Documentation, and Support,” applying to the information provided *accompanying* all ICT products. Thus FAQ’s, Manuals and the like must all be accessible.

Considering that the VPAT carries important information for the procurement official, it is essential that a supplier/producer provide an accurately prepared VPAT that fairly and responsibly represents its product and/or service.

Suggested Language For Completing VPAT

In order to simplify the task of conducting market research assessments for procurement officials or customers, ITIC (www.itic.org) has developed suggested language for use when filling out a VPAT document. The following table provides the suggested language.

Column 1 - Supporting Features

Column 2 - Remarks and Explanations

Feedback from procurement officials and customers shows that providing further explanation regarding features and exceptions is especially helpful. Use this column to detail how the product addresses the standard or criteria by:

- Listing accessibility features or features that are accessible
- Detailing where in the product an exception occurs

Explaining equivalent methods of facilitation (definition of "equivalent facilitation" -see 36 CFR 1194.5.)

Supporting Features	Recommended Language
Supports	Use this language when you determine the product fully meets the letter and intent of the Criteria.
Supports with Exceptions	Use this language when you determine the product does not fully meet the letter and intent of the Criteria, but provides some level of access relative to the Criteria.
Supports through Equivalent Facilitation	Use this language when you have identified an alternate way to meet the intent of the Criteria or when the product does not fully meet the intent of the Criteria.
Supports when combined with Compatible Assistive Technology	Use this language when you determine the product fully meets the letter and intent of the Criteria when used in combination with Compatible Assistive Technology. For example, many software programs can provide speech output when combined with a compatible screen reader (commonly used assistive technology for people who are blind).
Does not Support	Use this language when you determine the product does not meet the letter or intent of the Criteria.
Not Applicable	Use this language when you determine that the Criteria do not apply to the specific product.
Not Applicable - Fundamental Alteration Exception Applies	Use this language when you determine a Fundamental Alteration of the product would be required to meet the Criteria (see the access board standards for the definition of "fundamental alteration").