HeinOnline Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5Rev)

Name of Product/Version: HeinOnline

Report Date: September 10, 2026

Product Description: Online Legal Research Database

Contact Information: support@heinonline.com

Notes: This VPAT® supersedes all previous versions.

Evaluation Methods Used: HeinOnline was evaluated using a combination of automated and manual accessibility testing techniques. Automated testing using the Siteimprove Accessibility Checker was used to help identify potential accessibility issues within page structure and code. Manual testing included keyboard-only navigation to verify that interactive elements and site

"Voluntary Product Accessibility Template" and "VPAT" are registered service marks of the Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)

functionality are operable without the use of a mouse. Screen reader testing was performed using JAWS 2026 to assess accessibility of page structure, headings, links, form controls, and other interactive components for users who rely on assistive technologies. Color contrast was evaluated using a color contrast analysis tool to ensure that text and user interface elements meet the contrast requirements defined by WCAG 2.2 Level A and AA. Testing was performed using Google Chrome version 146 on Windows 11.

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 2.0	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2	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.x 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

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)	Supports	Non-text content has text alternatives.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Not Applicable	The HeinOnline interface does not have auto-only or video-only media.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Not Applicable	The HeinOnline interface does not have any synchronized media presentations. Support videos are available on YouTube, which provides auto-generated captions.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Not Applicable	The HeinOnline interface does not have any synchronized media presentations. Support videos are available on YouTube, which provides auto-generated captions.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most pages use semantic HTML structure including headings, lists, and labeled form controls to convey relationships between content elements. Screen reader testing confirms that most structural relationships are programmatically determinable. Minor inconsistencies in heading structure may occur on some pages.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Supports	Page content is generally structured so that the programmatically determined reading order matches the visual presentation. Screen reader and keyboard navigation testing indicate that most pages present content in a logical sequence that preserves meaning.
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supports	Instructions and content do not rely solely on sensory characteristics. All interactive elements, navigation controls, and document viewing actions provide text labels or alternative cues. Users do not need to perceive color, shape, or sound alone to complete tasks.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Partially Supports	In most cases, color is not used as the sole means of conveying information. All buttons, labels, and controls provide additional textual or symbolic cues. One exception is that search terms are highlighted in green and hyperlinks are highlighted in blue; these rely primarily on color, though all interactive functionality remains accessible.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Not Applicable	HeinOnline does not include any audio that plays automatically for more than 3 seconds.
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Supports	All interactive elements, including navigation menus, search, forms, and document controls, can be accessed and operated using keyboard-only navigation. No functionality requires a mouse.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supports	Users can navigate to and from all interactive components using keyboard-only navigation. Focus is not trapped in any element; users can exit modals, menus, and document viewer controls using standard keyboard interactions such as Tab, Shift+Tab, or Escape.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	HeinOnline does not implement any single-character keyboard shortcuts. No functionality is triggered solely by a single key press.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Not Applicable	HeinOnline does not require users to complete tasks within a time limit. Standard interactions such as search, navigation, and document viewing do not impose timing constraints that would affect accessibility.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Not Applicable	HeinOnline does not include any automatically moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating content that would require user control. All content updates occur only in response to user action.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Not Applicable	HeinOnline does not contain any content that flashes more than three times per second. No page content exceeds the general flash or red flash thresholds.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Supports	HeinOnline provides a “Skip to Main Content” link at the top of pages, allowing users to bypass repeated navigation and header content. Keyboard and screen reader testing confirm that this mechanism works correctly.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Supports	Each page has a descriptive title that accurately identifies its content and purpose. Titles are programmatically determined and correctly announced by screen readers.
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Partially Supports	Keyboard focus generally moves in a logical and meaningful order through navigation menus, search fields, forms, and document controls. Filtering search results requires additional keystrokes to reach all elements, but all essential functionality is accessible via keyboard.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Supports	The purpose of each link can be determined from the link text alone.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	All functionality that can be operated with a pointer is operable with a single pointer gesture. Multi-pointer gestures are not required to complete any tasks, and all interactive elements (buttons, links, menus, and document controls) are accessible via standard taps or clicks.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	All pointer-activated functionality can be completed in a way that prevents accidental activation. Users can cancel or undo actions, and no critical operation is triggered by a single inadvertent tap or click. Interactive elements in navigation menus, search results, and document controls operate reliably on both desktop and touchscreen devices.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	All interactive controls, including buttons, links, and form elements, include the visible text in their programmatic name. Icons without visible text include descriptive alternative text or aria-label attributes. Screen reader testing confirms that all UI components are properly announced.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	HeinOnline does not implement any functionality that requires device motion. All interactive elements are operable using standard pointer, keyboard, or touch input.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Supports	The default language of each page is programmatically determined using the HTML lang attribute. Screen readers and other assistive technologies correctly interpret and announce content according to the page language.
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supports	Focus does not automatically trigger a change of context. Infinite scroll on search results dynamically loads additional items as the user scrolls, but focus remains in place, and the user context is preserved. No navigation, pop-ups, or unexpected actions occur on focus.
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Supports	Changing input components (forms, filters, dropdowns) does not automatically change the context unless the user explicitly triggers a search. Infinite scroll loads additional results as the user scrolls, but focus remains in place, and no page navigation or unexpected changes occur. Users retain control over the interface.
3.2.6 Consistent Help (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	Help links and documentation consistently available in top navigation (“help” section).
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Supports	Input errors are indicated to the user via visible messages.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most input fields, including login, search, filters, and profile forms, have programmatically associated labels or instructions. Some features, however, do not have clear labels, which may make it harder to identify and use with assistive technologies.
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	HeinOnline primarily uses IP address authentication for most users, which allows access without relying on memory. Institutional SSO/OpenAthens is also supported. Individual username/password login is available for a minority of users, but alternative methods ensure that most users can access the platform without cognitive barriers related to memory.
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A) WCAG 2.0 and 2.1 – Always answer 'Supports' WCAG 2.2 (obsolete and removed) - Does not apply	Not Applicable	For WCAG 2.0 and 2.1, the September 2023 errata update indicates this criterion is always supported. See the WCAG 2.0 Editorial Errata and the WCAG 2.1 Editorial Errata.
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)	Supports	Interface components have programmatically determinable names, roles, and values, allowing assistive technologies to interact correctly.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	HeinOnline does not host any live media content.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	Prerecorded videos are not available in HeinOnline
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	HeinOnline does not restrict orientation; content can be viewed in portrait or landscape. While usability on small smartphones may be challenging due to the interface's complexity, functionality and orientation

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		are not restricted. Larger tablets provide a usable experience in either orientation.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Input fields are visually labeled using placeholders and descriptive text
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Most text and interface elements meet WCAG 2.1 minimum contrast requirements. Some highlighted interface elements, such as search term highlights, may not meet the required contrast ratio.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Supports	Search results and navigation pages remain fully usable when text is resized up to 200%.
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Supports	A vast majority of HeinOnline content is scanned or image-based; however, OCR text is provided for every page. Images of text are necessary for reproducing historical documents
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Interface pages such as navigation, search results, and forms reflow correctly at high zoom levels.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially Supports	Most interface components, including icons, buttons, and controls, meet the 3:1 minimum contrast ratio against adjacent colors. Some visual indicators, such as search term highlights (green) and hyperlink highlights (blue), may not meet the required contrast ratio. Core functionality and usability remain accessible.
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially Supports	Interface text and controls support user-adjustable line height, letter spacing, and word spacing without loss of content or functionality. Scanned document pages are image-based and cannot have spacing adjusted directly; however, OCR text and downloadable PDFs allow access to the content in adjustable formats.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	All content that appears on hover is also accessible via keyboard focus and alternative interactions. Users can view, interact with, and dismiss this content across

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		devices, ensuring equivalent access for mouse, keyboard, and touch users.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Supports	HeinOnline provides multiple ways to access content, including search, quick locator and citation lookup tools, and table-of-contents or category browsing
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Most pages include headings and descriptive labels that help users navigate content and interface elements. Some pages, however, lack headings entirely, which may make it more difficult for screen reader users to understand the page structure and navigate efficiently.
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Supports	Interactive elements such as links, buttons, and form controls display a visible focus indicator when navigated via keyboard, allowing users to easily identify the currently focused element.
2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	When navigating via keyboard, focused interface elements remain visible and are not fully obscured by other page content such as navigation elements or overlays.
2.5.7 Dragging Movements (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	HeinOnline does not require dragging gestures to operate functionality.
2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	Interactive elements, including links, buttons, and form controls, meet or exceed the minimum 24 × 24 CSS pixel target size, allowing users to accurately activate controls using mouse, keyboard, or touch input.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Supports	The primary language of interface pages (English) is identified.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	Navigation mechanisms that are repeated across pages appear in a consistent order and location, allowing users to predictably locate navigation controls throughout the site.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supports	Elements with the same functionality across pages are consistently identified using the same labels, icons, and terminology, allowing users to reliably recognize and operate repeated components.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Supports	When an input error is detected (e.g., login, search, or form entry), the system provides error messages to alert the user. No automated suggestions for correction are provided, either for security reasons (login) or because automated suggestions are not feasible.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	HeinOnline does not have forms that involve legal, financial, or other data submissions that could result in significant consequences. Standard searches, downloads, and login forms do not require undo or confirmation mechanisms.
3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	HeinOnline does not require users to complete cognitive function tests, such as solving puzzles, memorizing information, or transcribing characters, as part of the authentication process. Authentication can be completed using standard username/password credentials or supported single sign-on methods.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Status messages are visible and accessible.

Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA

Notes: HeinOnline has not been evaluated for Level AAA conformance. This VPAT addresses only Level A and AA requirements.

Legal Disclaimer

This Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) provides an evaluation of the accessibility features of HeinOnline as of the date of this report. It is intended to assist organizations in assessing the product's accessibility relative to WCAG, Section 508, and other applicable standards.

The information in this VPAT is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, express or implied. Accessibility conformance may vary depending on product configuration, updates, user agents, or assistive technologies used. HeinOnline makes no guarantees regarding future accessibility or compliance and recommends that customers conduct their own testing in their environment to verify accessibility.