

Ancestry.com Operations, L.P. Accessibility Conformance Report

Revised Section 508 Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5)

Name of Product/Version: Newspapers.com

Report Date: March, 2025

Product Description: Newspapers.com™ is the largest online newspaper archive consisting of 1 billion+ pages of historical newspapers from 28,200+ newspapers from around the United States and beyond.

Contact Information:

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Notes:

Only the web software was evaluated in this report, since there is no hardware, authoring tools or other non-web software associated with this product.

Evaluation Methods Used:

The product was evaluated, and continues to be regularly evaluated, via automated and manual testing. The product used for automated testing was the Axe Dev Tools, Version 4.103.6 on Chrome 134.0.6998.178. The manual tests were performed by two accessibility professionals employed by Ancestry. One tester is a Certified Professional in Accessible Core Competencies, and the other is a Certified Professional in Web Accessibility, both certified through the International Association of Accessibility Professionals. The assistive technologies employed during manual testing included NVDA version 2024.4.2 and JAWS version 2025.2503.39 on Windows 10.

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)
Revised Section 508 standards published January 18, 2017 and corrected January 22, 2018	(Yes)

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 2.0 Report

Tables 1 and 2 also document conformance with Revised Section 508, Chapter 5 – 501.1 Scope.

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.0 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) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Partially Supports	Given the nature of this product, where the whole idea is to show users images of old newspaper pages, there is only so much that can be done to make this accessible to screen reader users. Nevertheless, Ancestry has provided OCR text which, while not perfect, does provide screen reader users some access to the information. In addition, some decorative images are not properly hidden from screen readers. The nearby papers feature is not accessible to screen reader users because the information is only presented in a map. Finally, one of the help articles has an image which conveys information that's not available in the text.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508	Partially Supports	A calendar is marked up as a list rather than a table, making it slightly more difficult for screen reader users to use.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 		
<u>1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
<u>1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
<u>1.4.1 Use of Color</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Partially Supports	Overall, the site does not use color as the sole means to convey information. However, information about which newspapers are new or recently updated is conveyed by color alone. In addition, a few links are indicated only by color, and focus is indicated by color alone in a few locations.
<u>1.4.2 Audio Control</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
<u>2.1.1 Keyboard</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Partially Supports	While the majority of the site is largely usable there are several failures of this criterion on multiple pages.
<u>2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap</u> (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Partially Supports	A message which requests the user to log in times out automatically. Aside from this minor exception, this criterion is otherwise supported across the site.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Partially Supports	There is some animated content on the clipping page, but otherwise this success criterion is supported.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software 	Supports	
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Partially Supports	We found multiple instances where focus was unpredictable, able to escape modal dialogs, or lost unexpectedly.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Partially Supports	Most links are properly labeled, but there are a couple instances where links have ambiguous or confusing names. The only unlabeled links we found were the clipping thumbnail links.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
3.2.1 On Focus (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
3.2.2 On Input (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Partially Supports	One of the search fields on the site uses a placeholder instead of a traditional label. There are also several radio buttons that lack fieldsets and legends. However, we don't anticipate that this will pose a major problem for most disabled users, as all of this information is still available through context.
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A) Also applies to: WCAG 2.0 – Always answer 'Supports' Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	For WCAG 2.0 and the 508 standards, the September 2023 errata update indicates this criterion is always supported. See the WCAG 2.0 Editorial Errata .

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Partially Supports	There are multiple failures of this criterion across the site including issues with the year selector, unlabeled buttons, missing or improper headings, the states of controls not being properly indicated, tabs not marked up properly or functioning as expected, etc.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Partially Supports	The vast majority of text on the site meets color contrast guidelines. The only exception we encountered was some text on a help page.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA) Also applies to:	Supports	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 		
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software 	Supports	
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Partially Supports	Most of the site provides a visible focus indicator, except for a few locations where the focus indicator disappears.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software 	Supports	
3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) – Does not apply to non-web software 	Supports	

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA) Also applies to: Revised Section 508 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 501 (Web)(Software) 	Supports	

Table 3: Success Criteria, Level AAA

Notes: Not evaluated.

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Notes:

Chapter 3: [Functional Performance Criteria \(FPC\)](#)

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
302.1 Without Vision	Partially Supports	Most functions of the product are usable by means of a screen reader. For exceptions, see previous tables.
302.2 With Limited Vision	Partially Supports	Most functions of the product are usable with limited vision. See previous tables for exceptions regarding color, etc.
302.3 Without Perception of Color	Partially Supports	Most functions of the product are usable without perception of color. See previous tables for exceptions regarding color contrast and other use of color.
302.4 Without Hearing	Supports	
302.5 With Limited Hearing	Supports	
302.6 Without Speech	Supports	
302.7 With Limited Manipulation	Partially Supports	Most functions of the product are usable with limited manipulation. See previous tables for exceptions regarding keyboard-only use and control labeling.
302.8 With Limited Reach and Strength	Partially Supports	Most functions of the product are usable with limited reach and strength. See previous tables for exceptions regarding keyboard-only use and control labeling.
302.9 With Limited Language, Cognitive, and Learning Abilities	Supports	

Chapter 4: Hardware

Notes: Not applicable.

Chapter 5: Software

Notes: Not applicable.

Chapter 6: Support Documentation and Services

Notes: Not applicable.

Legal Disclaimer (Company)

Newspapers.com has an ongoing commitment to achieving the highest levels of satisfaction for all aspects of its users online experiences, and in furtherance of that commitment, continues to conduct reviews to regularly assess the website's ongoing level of accessibility and to enhance the online experience for users with disabilities. Accordingly, the above report is subject to change, as Newspapers.com continues to work to improve the accessibility of its website.

If you or any user has any trouble operating this website, please do not hesitate to contact us at support@newspapers.com and we will be happy to assist.