

Accessibility and the new RDA Toolkit

Music Library Association/Theatre Library Association Joint Conference
Session: Meeting the Need for Metadata Accessibility and Usability

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RDA 3R (Restructure & Redesign) Project Goal

- Bring the site into compliance with current accessibility standards
 - Achieve a AA rating according to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 <https://www.w3.org/WAI/GL/WCAG20/>
 - Following these guidelines makes content accessible to a wide range of people with disabilities, including blindness and low vision, deafness and hearing loss, learning disabilities, cognitive limitations, limited movement, speech disabilities, photosensitivity and combinations of these
 - In order to meet the needs of different groups and different situations, three levels of conformance are defined: A (lowest), AA, and AAA (highest)

The Approach

- Worked with [Design for Context](#), usability and user experience design consultants
 - Review changes to RDA logo, colors, fonts, and all other components of the site (windows, dropdowns, tabs, navigation), and determine how to manage examples
- Once the beta Toolkit was “stabilized” (April 2019), had an independent consulting firm conduct a full evaluation of the site, returning a list of accessibility issues
- Shared [The Voluntary Product Accessibility Template \(VPAT\) report](#) summarizing the results
- Remediated those issues (completed Sept. 2019)

Test Results: AA Rating Achieved, with One Exception

Highlights

- All non-text content has text equivalents
- Images of text are not used
- Information and relationships are conveyed through markup
- All elements are in a meaningful sequence
- Page titles describe topic or purpose
- Links are appropriately labeled
- No parsing errors or duplicate IDs
- Language of page is correctly identified
- Error suggestions are accessible

Partially supported (the exception)

- Language of parts: Some of the foreign-language text elements are not marked up with their language
 - Purpose: to assist screen readers with correct pronunciation
 - Problem occurs with examples
 - But ignore proper names, technical terms, and words/phrases that have become part of the vernacular of the surrounding text
 - Decided that language + region code is not necessary (e.g. “en-US” vs. “eng”)
 - Will work on addressing this over time

The Challenge of RDA

Examples

- has authorized access point for expression
Brunhoff, Jean de, 1899–1937. Babar en famille. English.
Spoken word
 - English will apply unless specific language codes added
 - Proper names ignored, so given name will be read as “Jean” not “Jzawn”
 - Only the title needs to be marked up in this string
- has variant title of work
Ιφιγένεια
- has variant title of work
Ifigeneia
 - The first is straightforward (Greek), but what about transliterated Greek?