

The average web homepage has 51.4 accessibility issues, Open Library's Has 0



The Project

While accessibility is a core value of many cultural institutions, websites continue to be designed in ways that prevent users with disabilities from accessing them.

Partnering with Open Library, I set out to document the site's accessibility issues, remediate any problems found, and ensure the site is accessible going forward.

The Test Set

In order to fully capture the issues on the site, I selected a set of 20 pages to test. The content included logging in to the site, checking out a book, browsing the collection, and adding new works.

The Work

In order to test the site, the team relied upon WCAG 2.1 Levels A, AA, and 3 AAA Success Criteria.

Testing work was divided up into meaningful chunks (e.g. 'Test all images on page x') and the work was done by myself and Open Library's volunteer contributors throughout the globe.

Testing results were turned into GitHub Issues & fixes were submitted via Pull Requests.

The Results

Recognizing that digital accessibility is not a static end point, but rather a larger process, we can point to a number of successes, including:

- Documenting project standards & how to test a page for accessibility
- Increasing the average Google Lighthouse score on a test set page by over 6 points
- Closing over 109 Google Lighthouse issues
- Receiving contributions from over 6 testers

The Future

The project is just the beginning of Open Library's accessibility journey. Multiple participants remain involved in development & are working to tackle some of the remaining backlog.

Processes in place strive to ensure accessibility will be included in any development going forward.