

California Digital Library (CDL) Web Accessibility Policy and Guidelines

April 2013

Summary statement

The University of California (UC), including the California Digital Library (CDL), is committed to providing an electronic environment that is accessible to the broadest possible audience, including individuals with disabilities. The World Wide Web is a major source of information for many people. Acknowledging that the CDL is engaged in Web page and Web site development for all its constituencies, this policy establishes minimum standards for accessibility.

Scope

This policy and guidelines apply to all official Web resources developed and maintained or hosted by the CDL that publicize programs, describe activities or deliver services to University of California staff, students, or the general public. The policy does not cover the accessibility of sites outside of CDL to which a CDL page may be linked. However, CDL encourages other providers to make their content accessible. In some cases—most notably services with contributed content—CDL's ability to meet the policy may be limited, depending on the characteristics of that content and the metadata provided.

Technical standards

The University of California and the CDL recommend that Web developers conform to the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.0 level AA standards](#) for all Web-based information. In addition, [section 508](#) of the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998 requires that Federal agencies ensure the accessibility of their electronic and information technology, including Web-based intranet and internet information and applications. Although Section 508 applies specifically to Federal agencies, another law (the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, or "AT Act") requires that any State receiving a grant under this act (i.e., all states) must assure that it (the State), or any recipient of State funds, will comply with Section 508 standards. Since CDL holds its vendors liable for maintaining these standards, we need to hold ourselves to these standards as well.

The [UC Electronic Accessibility Website](#) is available for consultation in meeting these goals.

CDL staff and outside contractors creating Web sites on CDL's behalf should follow the following guidelines:

[Electronic accessibility for web developers](#)

[Electronic accessibility for content developers](#)

Additional information on the UC Web Accessibility Website provides information on the EALT initiative, standards and principles, procurement, training and conferences and more.

Schedule for adherence to standards

New Websites created in 2013 and continuing forward should conform to the current standard, WCAG 2.0 Level AA as much as possible, given the nature of some CDL content.

Already existing Websites—or portions therein—should be brought to this level as they are revised and updated.

Resources for testing and remediating

For UC only: UC has acquired an enterprise accessibility testing tool, SSB BART Group's [Accessibility Management Platform \(AMP\)](#). Everyone within UC now has access this tool via Shibboleth.

Non-UC: A few examples of free and paid [testing tools](#) are also available from the UCOP site.

Deeper testing: The UC Berkeley Disabled Students Program has staff available to test and evaluate Web sites with a screen reader after they have been tested with the AMP Tool and corrected. There is an hourly cost for this service. Testers can be on site or work remotely. Contact [WebAccess](#) for further information.

Procurement

In order to ensure accessibility of IT products used at the CDL, those responsible for making decisions about which products to procure must consider accessibility as one of the criteria for acquisition. CDL's [Technical Requirements for Licensed Resources](#) document addresses vendors' accessibility requirements, as does UC's [Procurement Guidelines](#).