

Author: The Open University Library  
Date: September 2024  
Title: Accessibility auditing Primo VE transcript

Welcome to the Digital Accessibility for Academic Libraries: Optimising Primo VE course by the Open University library.

In this compressed video, we will be conducting a basic accessibility audit of Primo VE using the WCAG 2.2 Level A and AA Basic Primo VE checklist found in this course.

In this video, we will be testing Primo VE for the following key areas:

- Colour contrast
- Keyboard navigation
- Images (alternative text)
- Structure
- Labelling
- Zoom 200%, 400%
- Increase font size
- Visible focus
- Sensible focus order
- Skip link
- Text Spacing

Please note, this video will give you a good starting point for understanding basic accessibility audits, so this video won't go into every detail nor does it fully cover WCAG 2.2.

What you are now viewing is the Open University library search homepage, using the Primo VE platform, on a Windows laptop in Google Chrome version 126.

As we watch this video together, we advise you to use the checklist provided in this course to see how compliant your Primo VE system is. It's a great way to keep track of what's working and what could be improved!

Using the automated accessibility tool, the Web Accessibility Evaluation tool , which is a free a browser extension, we can check for the following checklist items:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 13, 16 and 21

In this video, you can see the Web Accessibility Evaluation tool panel on the left. Now that it has been activated, I will explain each tab.

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Summary: This shows you errors known as accessibility issues, colour contrast issues, alerts that are advisory.

Details: Want to know more about a specific problem? Check here for extra information.

Reference: This tells you which accessibility rules (WCAG) the problem relates to.

Order: This shows how a screen reader would read the page.

Structure: This lists all the headings on the page.

Contrast: This highlights parts of the page that are too hard to read because of colour contrast."

Exit the tool once you have finished.

It is best practice to use more than just one automated tool, as they may identify different issues. Next, we will be using the automated accessibility tool Deque Axe.

Deque provides a free or fee-paying browser extension, known as Pro.

Once you install Deque Axe, you'll find it as a tab in your browser's developer tools. Using Deque Axe, we can check for the following checklist items:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 13, 16 and 21

Exit the tool once you have finished.

With all the automated tools closed, next we will be conducting a manual test using the keyboard.

Test Primo VE with just your keyboard using keys like Tab, Enter, and the arrows.

Test if users can reach every element of the page.

Using the keyboard, we can check for the following checklist items:

10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, and 19

What you are now viewing is the Open University library search homepage.

Using the tab key on your keyboard, your logo in Primo VE should provide a 'skip to content' and 'skip to search' link to allow users to bypass sections on the webpage. If yes, this passes checklist item 12.

Continuing to use the keyboard, are all parts of the website accessible by keyboard only?

Using the keyboard only, check for the following checklist items:

10, 11, 12, 14, 17, 18, and 19

Do all elements have a sensible focus order when tabbed? Do all interactive elements provide a clear keyboard focus? If yes, this is a pass.

As we navigate across the top navigation bar, using the keyboard only, you may come across a "show more" button. Can you select it using the keyboard only?

Are all of the interactive elements accessible by keyboard only, and can you exit? If yes, then this is a pass.

However, if you experience a keyboard trap and/or not all elements are accessible by keyboard only, then this is a fail.

We will do the same as we navigate to 'Menu' in the top navigation bar, using the keyboard only. Can you select it using the keyboard only? It should open a sub-menu.

Are all of the interactive elements accessible by keyboard only, and can you exit the sub-menu, or do you experience a keyboard trap?

Remember, as you are testing Primo VE, continue to log your results in your checklist. Using the keyboard only, let us now test 'advanced search'.

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We are going to check for the following checklist items:

10, 11, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21

Are the form fields clear and helpful?

While inputting your search query, check if the focus doesn't jump to the next form field once the current field is complete. If it doesn't, then this is a pass.

We will now select the fields found in 'advanced search' using the keyboard only. Check the entire page; are all elements accessible by keyboard only? If yes, then this is a pass.

What you are now viewing is the Open University library search homepage, using the Primo VE platform.

Next, we are going to check for the following checklist items:

6 and 7.

To do this, we will zoom the webpage to 200%. Check if the user is forced to scroll in both directions (horizontally and vertically). Are there any losses of webpage content or functionality?

If yes, then this fails items 6 and 7 from the checklist.

If the user only has to scroll vertically, then this is a pass.

Once done, zoom in again at 400% and repeat the process.

What you are now viewing is the Open University library search homepage at its default display size.

Next, we are testing for item 9 from the checklist, success criterion 1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA)

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Using the WCAG 1.4.12 Text Spacing bookmarklet, can you increase the font size and font spacing without loss of webpage content or functionality? If yes, this is a pass.

The next item we will be testing from the checklist is item 22, success criterion 3.2.6 Consistent Help (Level A).

Is help available and repeated across several pages so that users can always find it in the same place?

On this website, help is 'Chat to a Librarian', which is on every page. This is a pass.

What you are now viewing is the Open University library search homepage in its default state.

We are going to test the website using a screen reader.

Using NVDA screen reader, we can check for the following checklist items:

14, 15, 23

With the screen reader active, test Primo VE with your keyboard using keys like Tab, Enter, and the arrows. Does the screen reader read every element and content of the page? Is there sensible focus order when tabbed? Is every hyperlink and interactive element understandable by the screen reader? If yes, this is a pass.

We will now watch and listen to how the screen reader reads the page.

Congratulations, you have now learned how to conduct a basic accessibility audit of Primo VE.

Make sure to test a sample of representative pages from your website.

You can use the checklist to log the results for each page you test.

For advice on how to fix accessibility issues, the Open University library has provided guidance found in the Digital Accessibility for Academic Libraries: Optimising Primo VE course.

Thank you for watching this video by the Open University library.

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If you have any questions or would like to share your experience on accessibility or auditing,  
please contact us at:

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