

Voluntary Product Evaluation Template (VPAT)

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Name of Product: *CQ Researcher* (library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher)

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Note: This document was prepared by SAGE, with consultation and support from [Tech For All](#) (TFA). TFA's evaluation of *CQ Researcher* identified accessibility features and functionalities of the platform. This evaluation provided the information required to assess the conformance of *CQ Researcher* with the Section 508 Accessibility Standards. TFA concludes that the website does not fully conform with the Section 508 standards. Based on this evaluation and on information published on the ITIC website (<http://www.itic.org>), TFA presents the following VPAT document for *CQ Researcher*.

Table 1: Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems – Detail

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(a) When software is designed to run on a system that has a keyboard, product functions shall be executable from a keyboard where the function itself or the result of performing a function can be discerned textually.	Supports with Exceptions	Many interface elements do not show keyboard focus and cannot be operated without the use of a mouse.
(b) Applications shall not disrupt or disable activated features of other products that are identified as accessibility features, where those features are developed and documented according to industry standards. Applications also shall not disrupt or disable activated features of any operating system that are identified as accessibility features where the application programming interface for those accessibility features has been documented by the manufacturer of the operating system and is available to the product developer.	Supports	The website does not interfere with operating system accessibility features.

<p>(c) A well-defined on-screen indication of the current focus shall be provided that moves among interactive interface elements as the input focus changes. The focus shall be programmatically exposed so that Assistive Technology can track focus and focus changes.</p>	<p>Supports with Exceptions</p>	<p>Many interface elements do not show keyboard focus.</p>
<p>(d) Sufficient information about a user interface element including the identity, operation and state of the element shall be available to Assistive Technology. When an image represents a program element, the information conveyed by the image must also be available in text.</p>	<p>Supports with Exceptions</p>	<p>Several interface elements are not labeled; custom controls are not accessible. Some images are missing alt text.</p>
<p>(e) When bitmap images are used to identify controls, status indicators, or other programmatic elements, the meaning assigned to those images shall be consistent throughout an application's performance.</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>	<p>Images are not used for controls.</p>
<p>(f) Textual information shall be provided through operating system functions for displaying text. The minimum information that shall be made available is text content, text input caret location, and text attributes.</p>	<p>Supports</p>	<p>Textual information is presented by the browser using OS functions.</p>
<p>(g) Applications shall not override user selected contrast and color selections and other individual display attributes.</p>	<p>Supports</p>	<p>The website does not interfere with or override user-selected display settings.</p>
<p>(h) When animation is displayed, the information shall be displayable in at least one non-animated presentation mode at the option of the user.</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>	<p>No animation is used.</p>
<p>(i) Color coding shall not be used as the only means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or</p>	<p>Supports</p>	<p>The website does not use color as the sole means of conveying information.</p>

distinguishing a visual element.		
(j) When a product permits a user to adjust color and contrast settings, a variety of color selections capable of producing a range of contrast levels shall be provided.	Not Applicable	The website has no built-in color/contrast adjustments.
(k) Software shall not use flashing or blinking text, objects, or other elements having a flash or blink frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	Supports	The website does not use flashing or blinking text, objects, or elements.
(l) When electronic forms are used, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	Supports with Exceptions	Many form controls are not properly labeled.

Table 2: Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet Information and Applications – Detail

Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet information and applications		
Voluntary Product Accessibility Template		
Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt", "longdesc", or in element content).	Supports with Exceptions	Many images are missing alt text.
(b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.	Not Applicable	There are no multimedia presentations on the CQ Researcher website.
(c) Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup.	Supports with Exceptions.	Color is not used as the sole means of communicating information. Several elements do not have sufficient color contrast.
(d) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.	Supports with Exceptions	With style sheets disabled, hidden content (including modal dialogs) becomes visible. It should be noted that currently

		users of assistive technology would have full access to style sheets.
(e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.	Not Applicable	There are no server side image maps.
(f) Client-side image maps shall be provided instead of server-side image maps except where the regions cannot be defined with an available geometric shape.	Not Applicable	There are no server side image maps.
(g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.	Does not Support	Data tables are not marked up with headers.
(h) Markup shall be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers.	Not Applicable	No complex data tables used.
(i) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation	Not Applicable	No frames used.
(j) Pages shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	Supports	Pages do not contain flashing elements.
(k) A text-only page, with equivalent information or functionality, shall be provided to make a web site comply with the provisions of this part, when compliance cannot be accomplished in any other way. The content of the text-only page shall be updated whenever the primary page changes.	Does not Support	No accessible text page is provided. Nor it is practical to supply a text only page with equivalent functionality. Compliance with this paragraph can be achieved by fixing all other accessibility issues.
(l) When pages utilize scripting languages to display content, or to create interface elements, the information provided by the script shall be identified with functional text that can be read by Assistive Technology.	Supports with Exceptions	Multiple user interface elements implemented with scripting do not appear as interactive to the screen reader.
(m) When a web page requires that an applet, plug-in or other application be present on the client system to interpret page content, the page must provide a link to a plug-in or applet	Supports with Exceptions	On the Help page, no link is provided for Adobe Reader, which is required for PDF files listed. No other pages require plug-ins.

that complies with 1194.21(a) through (l).		
(n) When electronic forms are designed to be completed on-line, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	Supports with Exceptions	Some of the form controls are not properly labeled.
(o) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.	Does not Support	Inadequate or non-existent semantic structure does not allow effective page navigation.
(p) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.	Not Applicable	Timed response is not required.

Table 3: Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria – Detail

Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria Detail Voluntary Product Accessibility Template		
Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
(a) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user vision shall be provided, or support for assistive technology used by people who are blind or visually impaired shall be provided.	Supports with Exceptions	Multiple accessibility issues present significant accessibility barriers for screen reader users. Large portions of the website cannot be navigated due to inaccessibility of the main navigation menu.
(b) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require visual acuity greater than 20/70 shall be provided in audio and enlarged print output working together or independently, or support for assistive technology used by people who are visually impaired shall be	Supports with Exceptions	With minor exceptions (poor color contrast for several elements).

provided.		
(c) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user hearing shall be provided, or support for assistive technology used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing shall be provided	Supports	Audio is not used.
(d) Where audio information is important for the use of a product, at least one mode of operation and information retrieval shall be provided in an enhanced auditory fashion, or support for assistive hearing devices shall be provided.	Supports	Enhanced auditory support is provided by the computer in the form of a volume control and earphone output.
(e) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user speech shall be provided, or support for assistive technology used by people with disabilities shall be provided.	Supports	Speech input is not required.
(f) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require fine motor control or simultaneous actions and that is operable with limited reach and strength shall be provided.	Supports with Exceptions	Many interface elements do not receive keyboard focus and cannot be operated without the use of a mouse. Large portions of the website cannot be navigated due to inaccessibility of the main navigation menu.

Table 4: Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation, and Support

Section 1194.41 Information, Documentation and Support Voluntary Product Accessibility Template		
Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and Explanations
(a) Product support documentation provided to end-users shall be made available in alternate formats upon	Supports with Exceptions	Support documentation is available as online HTML help as well as downloadable PDF files. PDF files lack

request, at no additional charge		accessibility features.
(b) End-users shall have access to a description of the accessibility and compatibility features of products in alternate formats or alternate methods upon request, at no additional charge.	Does not Support	Accessibility features are not documented.
(c) Support services for products shall accommodate the communication needs of end-users with disabilities.	Supports	Support is provided online or by phone.