

Veridian Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG EDITION | 24 April 2026
(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5REV)

What is VPAT®?

The **Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT®)** is a standardized template used to document how well a product conforms to accessibility standards and guidelines.

Its purpose is to provide an **Accessibility Conformance Report** that helps customers and buyers make informed assessments about whether commercial information and communications technology (ICT) products and services include features that support accessibility.

In other words, it shows whether a website, app, or software meets the requirements that make digital products usable for everyone, including people who rely on screen readers, keyboard navigation, captions, or other assistive technologies.

Report Summary Information

Name of product: Veridian Software

Version: 24 April 2026

Product description: Veridian Software is a web-based presentation platform designed for accessing digitized historical newspapers and other archival collections.

Report date: 24 April 2026. This report supersedes all previous versions and is based on Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT®) Version 2.5Rev WCAG.

About this report: This report reflects the accessibility of the standard Veridian platform as of the publication date. Client sites may use versions newer or older than this release. Accessibility is considered during custom development; however, site-specific customizations are assessed separately and are outside the scope of this report. Some materials may not fully meet accessibility standards due to limitations in original scanned content and OCR accuracy, and are therefore outside the platform's control.

Contact information: contact@veridiansoftware.com

Evaluation methods used: Conformance to the listed accessibility standards was evaluated by Veridian Software engineers using a combination of manual testing, general product knowledge, and assistive technologies. We use a variety of tools to help ensure collections housed in Veridian are accessible, including WAVE (WebAIM), Siteimprove, NVDA screen reader, Google Chrome Lighthouse, and ANDI. In addition, we have manually tested Veridian using the NVDA screen reader to confirm that content is accessible, navigable, and understandable for visually impaired users.

Applicable Standards/Guidelines

This report covers the degree of conformance for the following accessibility standards/guidelines:

| Standard/guideline | Included in report |
|--|---|
| Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 or WCAG 2.0 (ISO/IEC 40500) | Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No) |
| Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 or WCAG 2.1 | Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No) |
| Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 or WCAG 2.2 | Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No) |

Evaluation Glossary of Terms

Supports: The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criterion without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation.

Partially Supports: Some functionality of the product does not meet the criterion.

Does Not Support: The majority of product functionality does not meet the criterion.

Not Applicable: The criterion is not relevant to the product.

Not Evaluated: The product has not been evaluated against the criterion. This can only be used in WCAG Level AAA criteria.

WCAG 2.x Report

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.x Success Criteria, they are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility supported ways of using technology as documented in the [WCAG 2.0 Conformance Requirements](#).

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|---|-------------------|--|
| <p>1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)</p> | <p>Supports</p> | <p>Veridian provides text alternatives for non-text content to ensure information and functionality are accessible to assistive technologies. Images include descriptive alternative text, and non-text interface elements (e.g. buttons and icons) are provided with accessible names that convey their purpose.</p> <p>For digitized newspaper and other historical content, Veridian provides an OCR text layer and descriptive metadata (e.g. publication title, date, and issue information) to support access.</p> <p>Decorative elements that do not convey information may not include text alternatives, consistent with accessibility best practices.</p> <p>Veridian may use Google reCAPTCHA v3 or Cloudflare Turnstile to protect certain pages. These systems operate non-interactively and do not require users to complete visual or audio challenges.</p> <p>Time-based media, test content, and sensory characteristics are not applicable to Veridian Software.</p> |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|---|-------------------|---|
| 1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A) | Not Applicable | Veridian is designed for presenting static digitized materials such as newspapers and documents. Support for prerecorded audio or video content is not included by default but can be achieved through custom modules or integrations that meet relevant accessibility requirements. If these customisations are of interest, please contact our team to discuss available options. |
| 1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A) | Not Applicable | |
| 1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A) | Not Applicable | |
| 1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A) | Supports | <p>In Veridian, the organization of content – including navigation menus, search filters, facet groupings, and the hierarchical structure of digital collections – is designed so that information and relationships between interface elements can be programmatically determined and conveyed in text.</p> <p>This includes complex structured relationships inherent in historical newspaper content, where publications contain issues, issues contain pages, and pages contain articles. These parent–child relationships are consistently conveyed through headings, lists, and link structures, enabling assistive technologies to interpret both hierarchy and context.</p> <p>As a result, both assistive technology users and sighted users can understand how items relate to one another, how content is grouped, and how collections are structured and navigated.</p> |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|--|-------------------|--|
| 1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A) | Supports | Veridian presents content in a clear, logical order that reflects its intended meaning. The sequence of articles, issue and page navigation, and related elements follows a natural reading flow, helping all users – including those using assistive technologies – understand information in the way it was intended. |
| 1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A) | Supports | Sensory characteristics are not used as the sole means of conveying information or instructions. Text-based labels and context are provided to support understanding. |
| 1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A) | Supports | Color is never used as the sole mechanism for conveying information. A textual representation is always used as the primary mechanism for conveying information, as well as WAI-ARIA techniques to ensure that components are correctly conveyed to assistive technologies. |
| 1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A) | Not Applicable | Veridian is designed for presenting static digitized materials such as newspapers and documents. Support for audio content (and audio control) is not included by default but can be achieved through custom modules or integrations that meet relevant accessibility requirements. If these customisations are of interest, please contact our team to discuss available options. |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|--|-------------------|--|
| 2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A) | Supports | <p>Veridian supports full keyboard navigation for core functionality, including logical focus order, visible focus indicators, and use of standard keys (Tab, Shift+Tab, arrow keys).</p> <p>Where interactions cannot be directly replicated using a keyboard (e.g. freeform actions within the viewer), equivalent keyboard-accessible alternatives are provided to ensure functionality remains accessible.</p> |
| 2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A) | Supports | <p>Veridian supports standard keyboard navigation for users and ensures that they will not be trapped within content requiring the use of other input methods.</p> |
| 2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 and 2.2) | Supports | <p>Within Veridian the keyboard shortcut for a user interface component is only active when that component has focus.</p> |
| 2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A) | Supports | <p>No content, including dialog boxes or other interactions within Veridian is time limited. Therefore, users can complete tasks without unexpected changes in content or context that are a result of a time limit.</p> |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|---|-------------------|---|
| 2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A) | Not Applicable | Veridian does not include auto-moving, blinking, scrolling, or auto-updating content. Any movement or scrolling is user-initiated and fully controllable. |
| 2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A) | Not Applicable | Veridian does not use flashing content or interface elements. |
| 2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A) | Supports | Veridian includes skip links that allow users to bypass repeated content (e.g. navigation menus and toolbars) and move directly to the main content area. |
| 2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A) | Supports | Veridian provides descriptive page titles that identify the topic and purpose of the content. Page titles are programmatically defined (e.g. using the HTML <code>title</code> element) and reflect the specific content being presented. |
| 2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A) | Supports | Veridian maintains a logical and predictable focus order that follows the intended visual and reading sequence of the page, enabling assistive technologies to convey content accurately. |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|---|-------------------|---|
| 2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A) | Supports | Veridian ensures that all links are presented with descriptive text or accessible names that clearly convey their purpose. Where icons or non-text controls are used, additional attributes such as <code>aria-label</code> are applied. |
| 2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 and 2.2) | Supports | Features in Veridian that use multipoint or path-based gestures can also be operated using simple pointer actions, such as single mouse clicks. |
| 2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2) | Supports | <p>In Veridian, button and link actions are triggered on release, allowing users to cancel activation by moving the pointer away before completing the click.</p> <p>In the document viewer, dragging is used to adjust or reposition the viewport. As the action occurs continuously during the drag, it cannot be cancelled mid-gesture. This interaction is considered essential, and no equivalent single-pointer alternative is available.</p> |
| 2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 and 2.2) | Supports | In Veridian, interactive elements such as buttons, links, and form controls include their visible text labels within the accessible name. |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|---|-------------------|--|
| 2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2) | Not Applicable | No features in Veridian are controlled by shaking, tilting, or other motion-based gestures. All functions can be operated through standard input methods such as mouse, keyboard, or touchpad. |
| 3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A) | Supports | <p>The default language of each page is programmatically identified using the <code>lang</code> attribute, enabling assistive technologies to correctly interpret and present interface elements. This applies to platform interface components.</p> <p>Historical collection content (e.g. digitized newspapers, OCR text, and metadata) may contain multiple languages or may not have language attributes consistently defined, as this content is derived from original source materials and is outside the control of the platform.</p> |
| 3.2.1 On Focus (Level A) | Supports | In Veridian, moving focus to an interactive element – such as a button, link, or form control – does not automatically trigger a change of context. Actions such as navigation or search execution only occur after the user actively selects or confirms the control. |
| 3.2.2 On Input (Level A) | Supports | Changing an input value (e.g. filters or dropdowns) does not automatically trigger a change of context. Updates or navigation occur only after explicit user action. Where automatic changes are required, users are informed in advance. |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|---|-------------------|---|
| 3.2.6 Consistent Help (Level A 2.2 only) | Supports | Veridian includes a link to a dedicated, structured self-help page that is consistently located in the same position—on the far right of the main navigation—across all pages. |
| 3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A) | Supports | Veridian automatically detects input errors and presents clear, text-based feedback describing the nature of the error and how it can be corrected. |
| 3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A) | Supports | Veridian provides clear, visible labels and on-screen instructions for all content requiring user input. These labels are also programmatically associated with their corresponding fields using standard HTML and WAI-ARIA attributes, ensuring they are perceivable and understandable by both visual and assistive-technology users. |
| 3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A 2.2 only) | Supports | <p>Veridian reduces the need for redundant data entry by retaining previously entered information across relevant user workflows. For example, search queries persist between pages, and tag entry is supported by autocomplete suggestions based on previously entered values.</p> <p>This criterion is not applicable to other user activities such as metadata editing or text correction.</p> |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|--|-------------------|---|
| 4.1.1 Parsing (Level A) | Obsolete | This criterion was originally adopted to address problems that assistive technology had directly parsing HTML. Assistive technology no longer has any need to directly parse HTML. Consequently, these problems either no longer exist or are addressed by other criteria. This criterion no longer has utility and is removed. |
| 4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A) | Supports | Veridian uses standard HTML and WAI-ARIA attributes to convey the name, role, and state of user interface elements to assistive technologies. |

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|--|-------------------|---|
| 1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA) | Not Applicable | Veridian is designed for accessing historical materials. It does not include live or real-time media; therefore, live captioning is not applicable. |
| 1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA) | Not Applicable | Veridian does not include or deliver pre-recorded video content. Therefore, audio description requirements for pre-recorded media are not applicable. |
| 1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2) | Supports | Veridian's interface automatically adjusts to different screen sizes and orientations, ensuring content remains easy to view and navigate across different devices. |
| 1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2) | Supports | Veridian supports identifying input purpose, including the use of appropriate autocomplete attributes on form fields, which enables assistive technologies and browsers to programmatically determine input purposes and provide features such as autofill. |
| 1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA) | Supports | Veridian's default interface meets the required contrast requirements to ensure readable and accessible content. |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|---|-------------------|---|
| | | <p>Some organizations choose to customise their interface to reflect their brand identity, which may affect color contrast levels.</p> <p>Organizations seeking a collection-specific Accessibility Conformance Report that reflects these customisations are encouraged to contact our team.</p> |
| <p>1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)</p> | <p>Supports</p> | <p>Veridian allows the user to set a default large text size and also supports standard zoom capabilities built into modern web browsers and operating systems.</p> |
| <p>1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)</p> | <p>Supports</p> | <p>Veridian is designed to provide access to historical materials in their original form, many of which include images of text. To support accessibility, users can zoom in on these materials, and a separate reading pane presents corresponding OCR-converted text, enabling access to the content as machine-readable text where available.</p> <p>This functionality applies to the platform’s presentation of content. However, some materials may not fully meet accessibility standards due to limitations in the original scanned sources and OCR accuracy, which are outside the control of the platform.</p> |
| <p>1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)</p> | <p>Supports</p> | <p>Veridian’s responsive design allows content to reflow correctly on devices and viewports as small as 320 CSS pixels wide or 256 CSS</p> |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|--|-------------------|---|
| | | <p>pixels high. Information and functionality remain available without requiring scrolling in both directions.</p> <p>This requirement does not apply to content requiring two-dimensional layout, such as data tables. In these cases, horizontal scrolling may be necessary to preserve data relationships.</p> |
| <p>1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)</p> | <p>Supports</p> | <p>Veridian’s default interface design meets the required contrast requirements to ensure that elements related to user interface components, such as icons and visual indicators, are easily identifiable.</p> <p>Some organizations choose to customise their interface to reflect their brand identity, which may affect colour contrast levels. Organizations seeking a collection-specific Accessibility Conformance Report that reflects these customisations are encouraged to contact our team.</p> |
| <p>1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)</p> | <p>Supports</p> | <p>Veridian’s interface supports adjustments to text spacing without loss of content or functionality. When line height, paragraph spacing, letter spacing, or word spacing are increased, all content remains visible, readable, and fully functional.</p> |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|--|-------------------|---|
| 1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2) | Supports | <p>Veridian supports content on hover or focus by ensuring that additional content triggered by these interactions is hoverable, persistent, and dismissible where required.</p> <p>In cases such as the document viewer, where users hover to select blocks of text, the resulting interaction does not introduce additional content that obscures other interface elements or impacts functionality. As such, the requirement for dismissible content does not apply in this context.</p> |
| 2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA) | Supports | <p>Veridian provides multiple ways for users to locate content, including search functionality and structured browsing through collections, publications, issues, and pages. These complementary navigation methods allow users to find content based on either direct queries or exploratory browsing.</p> |
| 2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA) | Supports | <p>Veridian uses headings and labels which describe a topic or purpose.</p> |
| 2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA) | Supports | <p>Veridian provides visible focus indicators to highlight the active element during keyboard navigation. Focus styles are consistent across the interface, with enhancements applied where needed to ensure focus remains clearly visible.</p> |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|--|-------------------|--|
| 2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only) | Supports | Veridian ensures that keyboard focus is not obscured by author-created content. The platform does not rely on sticky headers, sticky footers, non-modal dialogs, or other interface elements that would overlap and obscure focused elements during navigation. |
| 2.5.7 Dragging Movements (Level AA 2.2 only) | Does Not Support | Dragging interactions in Veridian (e.g. document image clipping) cannot currently be replicated through a single-pointer action. Our development team is exploring options to provide accessible alternatives. Please note: this criterion is specific to WCAG 2.2 Level AA and is not included in the ADA Title II Final Rule on Digital Accessibility (2024), which requires conformance to WCAG 2.1 Level AA. |
| 2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only) | Supports | Veridian supports minimum target size requirements. Interactive elements such as buttons, links, and controls are designed with sufficient size and spacing to ensure they can be easily activated by users across a range of devices and input methods. |
| 3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA) | Supports | The language of historical content presented in Veridian is programmatically identified using the <code>lang</code> attribute, where available, derived from source material metadata, to support assistive technologies. |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|---|-------------------|---|
| 3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA) | Supports | <p>Veridian maintains consistently ordered navigation mechanisms across all pages, ensuring users can easily locate and use recurring interface elements.</p> <p>Each Veridian page includes a global navigation menu that allows users to access other sections of the site without following a fixed sequence. In addition, breadcrumb links are provided to help users understand their location within the site's structure and navigate efficiently.</p> |
| 3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA) | Supports | <p>Within Veridian, user interface components and elements that perform the same function are identified consistently across all pages to support predictable interaction.</p> |
| 3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA) | Supports | <p>Veridian assists users in identifying and correcting input errors by providing relevant suggestions when incorrect data is entered.</p> |
| 3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA) | Supports | <p>Veridian does not require users to enter into legal commitments or complete financial transactions.</p> <p>Actions that result in the deletion of user data (e.g. deleting private lists, list items, comments, or tags) require explicit user confirmation prior to completion.</p> |

| Criteria | Conformance Level | Remarks and Explanations |
|--|-------------------|--|
| 3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only) | Supports | Veridian's authentication does not require cognitive function tests and does not prevent the use of password managers. Standard input fields support secure entry and auto-fill of credentials. |
| 4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2) | Supports | <p>Status messages (e.g. success confirmations such as "Saved") are programmatically conveyed using appropriate semantics (e.g. <code>role="status"</code> with <code>aria-atomic="true"</code>), ensuring assistive technologies are notified of updates without requiring a change in focus.</p> <p>Status messages are presented for a sufficient duration to be perceived by users, including screen reader users.</p> |