

DATE: February 19, 2026
TO: RAILS Board of Directors
FROM: Joe Filapek, Associate Executive Director
SUBJECT: RAILS Accessibility Statement

We are pleased to share RAILS' newly developed Digital Accessibility Statement. This statement was written collaboratively by our RAILS Internal Digital Accessibility Committee, with additional review and suggestions provided by RAILS' attorney. It represents one of several important steps in our ongoing work toward full adherence to the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) v2.1 at Level AA. The statement also reflects the complexity of our digital environment, including specific references to content and services provided through third-party vendors as part of our Deals and Discounts program, as well as content that may be posted by RAILS member libraries on our website. In addition, the statement will be accompanied by a web accessibility feedback form, allowing users to notify RAILS directly of any accessibility barriers they encounter on our site so that we may address them promptly.

While formal approval of this statement is not required, we welcome any feedback you may have as we continue strengthening RAILS' commitment to equitable digital access for all users.

RAILS Digital Accessibility Statement

RAILS is committed to ensuring that all visitors can readily access and interact with the features and content of our digital platforms. We actively work to increase the accessibility of our web content through regular monitoring and audits, user feedback, and adherence to the World Wide Web Consortium's [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines v2.1](#) at Level AA.

RAILS negotiates with a variety of third-party vendors to make digital products and services available to our member libraries through our Deals & Discounts program. While we actively engage with vendors to communicate our expectations for accessibility, it is the responsibility of the individual participating libraries that enter into contractual agreements with the vendors for content and services to ensure that such content and services comply with the WCAG. To assist member libraries with their evaluation of research databases and other products that the libraries provide to their users through third-party vendors, RAILS hosts a [repository of Voluntary Product Accessibility Templates](#) (VPATs).

Some content on RAILS websites and social media accounts is exempt from WCAG compliance under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Specific exemptions include:

- Archived content created before April 26, 2027
- Conventional documents (PDF, MS Office, etc.) posted before April 26, 2027
- Content posted by a third party where the third party is not posting due to contractual, licensing, or other arrangements with RAILS
- Social media posts posted created by RAILS before April 26, 2027

These exemptions do not negate RAILS' duty to provide individuals with disabilities with effective communication, reasonable modifications, and equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from RAILS' services, activities and programs.

Ensuring web accessibility is an ongoing priority for RAILS. As standards evolve, we remain committed to improving usability. While some areas may still require enhancement, we appreciate your patience and feedback. We encourage visitors to report any accessibility issues by using the form below. You may also contact us by phone at 630.734.5000. We value your feedback and will make every effort to address your concerns.