



OCLC Accessibility Remediation Roadmap

WCAG 2.2 AA Criteria

Accessibility Roadmap Template version 1.0

Reviewed by: OCLC Accessibility Team

Revision date: April 2026

Vendor Name	OCLC, Inc.
Product Name	FirstSearch
Product Version	
Product Description	FirstSearch empowers users to find the authoritative content they need in every format from worldwide library collections. FirstSearch delivers the precise, full-featured WorldCat searching that library staff and researchers value.
Completion Date	April 2026
Contact Name/Title	OCLC Accessibility Team
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Disclaimer: While we are committed to the accessibility improvements outlined in this roadmap, all timelines and deliverables are estimates subject to change and should not be considered legally enforceable commitments

WCAG CRITERIA	REMARKS AND EXPLANATIONS	ISSUE DESCRIPTION	AVAILABLE WORKAROUNDS	CURRENT STATUS	REMEDIATION PLAN AND DATE
1.1.1 (A) - Non-text content	Images tagged with alt text that is redundant or not as clear as it could be.	Screen readers announce unclear or redundant alternative text, creating confusion for users who rely on audio descriptions of visual content. This impacts blind and visually impaired users' ability to understand page content effectively.		Open	April 2026
1.3.1 (A) - Info and relationships	Access keys with the same ID; Input fields did not have proper descriptions; Form control (search) is missing text label; Some headings were not tagged as <H> headings; Some labels were not connected to form controls.	Users with screen readers cannot navigate content logically or understand form relationships. Duplicate IDs break assistive technology functionality. Missing labels prevent users from understanding form field purposes.	Users can use WorldCat Discovery as an alternative. WorldCat Discovery now has a redesigned Advanced Search experience to provide the powerful precision searching previously only available through FirstSearch, utilizing the robust search indexes available in FirstSearch.	Open	See available workaround.
1.3.2 (A) - Meaningful sequence	Two issues where CSS was used to create reading orders that were not programmatically present.	Screen readers and keyboard navigation follow DOM order rather than visual order, creating confusing navigation flow for users with disabilities. Content may be read in incorrect sequence, making comprehension difficult.	Users can use WorldCat Discovery as an alternative. WorldCat Discovery now has a redesigned Advanced Search experience to provide the powerful precision searching previously only available through FirstSearch, utilizing the robust search indexes available in FirstSearch.	Open	See available workaround.
1.4.10 (AA) - Reflow	Web: FirstSearch accessibility testing revealed partial support for text reflow without loss of information or functionality. • Content formatted in table will not reflow	Content displayed in tables does not reflow properly at narrow viewport widths. Users who zoom or use small screens may be forced to scroll horizontally, making it difficult to read and interact with the information.	Users can use WorldCat Discovery as an alternative. WorldCat Discovery now has a redesigned Advanced Search experience to provide the powerful precision searching previously only available through FirstSearch, utilizing the robust search indexes available in FirstSearch.	Open	See available workaround.
1.4.11 (AA) - Non-text contrast	Web: FirstSearch accessibility testing revealed no support for images having at least a 3:1 contrast ratio. • Majority of color contrast ratios were below acceptable criteria.	Non-text elements such as icons, graphical objects, and interface components do not consistently meet the required 3:1 contrast ratio. Low-contrast controls are difficult for users with low vision to perceive and operate.		Open	April 2026
1.4.12 (AA) - Text spacing	Web: FirstSearch accessibility testing revealed no support for ability to increase line and letter spacing.	Users cannot reliably adjust line height, letter spacing, or word spacing without loss of content or functionality. This creates barriers for people with low vision or dyslexia who rely on customized spacing to improve text readability.	Users can use WorldCat Discovery as an alternative. WorldCat Discovery now has a redesigned Advanced Search experience to provide the powerful precision searching previously only available through FirstSearch, utilizing the robust search indexes available in FirstSearch.	Open	See available workaround.
1.4.3 (AA) - Contrast (minimum)	Majority of color contrast ratios were below acceptable criteria.	Users with low vision, color blindness, or viewing screens in bright light cannot read text content effectively. Poor contrast creates significant barriers to content comprehension.		Open	April 2026
2.1.1 (A) - Keyboard navigation	Two instances of skipnav being present but not working correctly; One page where Help icons were skipped in tab order; External documentation site had issues with keyboard access.	Keyboard-only users cannot navigate efficiently through the interface. Non-functional skip navigation traps users in lengthy navigation sequences. Missing tab stops prevent access to help functionality.	Users can use WorldCat Discovery as an alternative. WorldCat Discovery now has a redesigned Advanced Search experience to provide the powerful precision searching previously only available through FirstSearch, utilizing the robust search indexes available in FirstSearch.	Open	See available workaround.
2.1.2 (A) - Keyboard traps	Issues with some external links not opening in their own tabs and not being able to get back to FirstSearch.	Users become trapped in external sites without clear navigation path back to original content. Keyboard users cannot return to FirstSearch application, effectively ending their session.	Users can use WorldCat Discovery as an alternative. WorldCat Discovery now has a redesigned Advanced Search experience to provide the powerful precision searching previously only available through FirstSearch, utilizing the robust search indexes available in FirstSearch.	Open	See available workaround.
2.2.1 (A) - Timing adjustable	Users are not warned or given opportunity to extend session time.	Users with cognitive disabilities or those using assistive technology may need more time to complete tasks. Automatic session timeouts can cause loss of work and data, creating significant barriers.	Users can use WorldCat Discovery as an alternative. WorldCat Discovery now has a redesigned Advanced Search experience to provide the powerful precision searching previously only available through FirstSearch, utilizing the robust search indexes available in FirstSearch.	Open	See available workaround.
2.4.1 (A) - Bypass blocks	Two issues uncovered where skipnav was used but did not work properly; Linked external site had bypass blocks missing for bottom navigation.	Users must navigate through repetitive content blocks repeatedly, significantly slowing navigation and creating frustration for screen reader and keyboard users.	Users can use WorldCat Discovery as an alternative. WorldCat Discovery now has a redesigned Advanced Search experience to provide the powerful precision searching previously only available through FirstSearch, utilizing the robust search indexes available in FirstSearch.	Open	See available workaround.
2.4.2 (A) - Page titled	"Help" is being used as title for all help documentation. Each page needs to be uniquely titled; One issue where URL was used as page title.	Users cannot distinguish between different pages when using browser history, bookmarks, or screen reader page lists. Generic titles prevent effective navigation and content identification.		Open	April 2026
2.4.3 (A) - Focus order	Info icons were skipped on one page; External link had issues with visible focus, and so focus order.	Keyboard navigation becomes unpredictable and confusing. Users may miss important interactive elements or lose track of their position in the interface.	Users can use WorldCat Discovery as an alternative. WorldCat Discovery now has a redesigned Advanced Search experience to provide the powerful precision searching previously only available through FirstSearch, utilizing the robust search indexes available in FirstSearch.	Open	See available workaround.
2.4.4 (A) - Link purpose (in context)	News links were broken; "Hide Tips" link title was ambiguous.	Users cannot understand link destinations or purposes, making navigation decisions difficult. Broken links create dead ends. Ambiguous link text provides insufficient context for decision-making.		Open	April 2026
2.4.6 (AA) - Headings and labels	Web: FirstSearch accessibility testing revealed partial support for descriptive headings and labels. Also recorded in 1.3.1 • Form control (search) is missing text label. • Some pages had headings but were not tagged as <H> headings. • Some labels were not connected to form controls.	Some headings and labels are either missing, not descriptive, or not properly coded. These issues make it difficult for screen reader users to understand page structure and the purpose of form fields.		Open	April 2026
2.4.7 (AA) - Focus visible	External documentation site had issues with visible focus.	Keyboard users cannot track their current position in the interface, making navigation extremely difficult and potentially impossible for users who cannot use pointing devices.	Users can use WorldCat Discovery as an alternative. WorldCat Discovery now has a redesigned Advanced Search experience to provide the powerful precision searching previously only available through FirstSearch, utilizing the robust search indexes available in FirstSearch.	Open	See available workaround.
2.5.3 (A) - Label in name	Web: FirstSearch accessibility testing revealed no support images with text and/or use of glyphs	Images with embedded text and icons or glyphs used as controls do not provide a programmatically associated label that matches the visible text or meaning. This prevents speech input users from activating controls by voice and makes it harder for screen reader users to understand the purpose of these elements.		Open	April 2026
3.1.1 (A) - Language of page	Web: FirstSearch accessibility testing revealed partial support for the default human language of each Web page being programmatically determined. • Pre-login pages "Terms and Conditions" and "Recommended browsers" did not specify English.	Screen readers and translation tools cannot properly process content without language specification, affecting pronunciation and comprehension for users with disabilities.		Open	April 2026
3.1.2 (AA) - Language of parts	Web: FirstSearch accessibility testing revealed partial support for the human language of a passage or phrase in the content of a page being programmatically determined.	Phrases in languages other than the page default are not always identified with the correct language attribute. This causes screen readers to mispronounce text, making it harder for multilingual users to understand titles, names, or content presented in other languages.	Users can use WorldCat Discovery as an alternative. WorldCat Discovery now has a redesigned Advanced Search experience to provide the powerful precision searching previously only available through FirstSearch, utilizing the robust search indexes available in FirstSearch.	Open	See available workaround.
3.2.2 (A) - On input	Some buttons were not connected to form inputs; Issues of missing external icons and programmatically alerting user to change in context.	Unexpected context changes confuse users and can cause disorientation. Users with cognitive disabilities may lose track of their location or current task when context changes without warning.		Open	April 2026
3.2.3 (AA) - Consistent navigation	Web: FirstSearch accessibility testing revealed partial support for labels or instructions being provided for user input. • Some errors covered in 1.3.1	Navigation elements are not always presented in a consistent order across pages. This inconsistency makes it harder for users, especially those relying on screen readers or cognitive support, to predict where navigation links will appear and to efficiently move through the site.		Open	April 2026
3.3.1 (A) - Error identification	Two issues on WAI-ARIA being present when page loads.	Users receive confusing or premature error messages, making it difficult to understand actual form validation issues. Improper ARIA implementation can cause screen readers to announce incorrect information.		Open	April 2026
3.3.2 (A) - Labels or instructions	Input fields did not have proper descriptions; Form control (search) is missing text label; Some pages had headings but were not tagged as <H> headings; Some labels were not connected to form controls.	Users cannot understand form field requirements or purposes, leading to input errors and task failure. Missing labels create significant barriers for screen reader users.		Open	April 2026
3.3.3 (AA) - Error suggestions	Web: FirstSearch accessibility testing revealed partial support for suggestions for correcting detected user errors. • Two issues on WAI-ARIA being present when page loads.	Error messages do not consistently provide clear suggestions for how to fix problems.		Open	April 2026
4.1.2 (A) - Name, role, value	Web: FirstSearch accessibility testing revealed partial support for the programmatic specification of names and roles for user interface components or the states, properties and values of those that can be set by the user. • Some errors covered in 1.3.1 • Input fields did not have proper descriptions • Form control (search) is missing text label. • Some pages had headings but were not tagged as <H> headings. • Some labels were not connected to form controls.	Some interface components are missing proper programmatic names, roles, and values. These issues make it difficult for assistive technologies to accurately convey the purpose and state of components to users.		Open	April 2026
4.1.3 (AA) - Status messages	Web: FirstSearch accessibility testing revealed full support for status messaging. • All status messages are missing ARIA role of status	Status messages, such as confirmations or alerts, are not assigned the correct ARIA role of "status." Without this role, screen readers may not announce updates automatically, causing users with visual impairments to miss important information or feedback unless they manually navigate to it.		Open	April 2026