Does EBSCOhost comply with the current Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) guidelines?

The EBSCOhost platform, including EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS), is working towards WCAG 2.1 Level AA compliance. EBSCO has invested time and resources to exceed Web accessibility guidelines and to support several features that are part of the WCAG 2.1 Level AA compliance by improving page orientation and navigation of EBSCOhost.

Notable features include:

- Introductory text and shortcuts for screen reader users
- Elimination of most tables to improve searching with screen readers or keyboard controls
- Descriptive page titles, section header tags and selected link labels
- Redesigned form controls for easier tab navigation
- Streamlined code for simpler page structures
- Access keys support international keyboards functionality across multiple browsers
- Detailed alternative text image descriptions
- Decreased page size means shorter download times for all users.

EBSCO monitors evolving accessibility standards and proactively addresses accessibility issues in each software release. In addition, EBSCOhost meets, and in many cases exceeds, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards.

Has EBSCOhost been tested for accessibility?

Accessibility and usability have been incorporated into the EBSCOhost software development process. Key elements of the strategy include:

- Accessibility is a key consideration when writing software development requirements involving new platform features.
- Accessibility enhancements are routinely scheduled into the quarterly EBSCOhost release cycle, thus working towards a goal of achieving a greater level of usability.
- EBSCO’s usability testing involves people who use assistive technology such as screen-reading software to interact with the computer.
- EBSCO’s Quality Assurance engineers use JAWS® software and have regression test cases in place to test each release.
- EBSCO maintains relationships with several accessibility organizations that periodically consult, review and provide reports on the accessibility of new features that are added to the system.