

HOW WILL ADA TITLE II AFFECT EAST ASIAN ELECTRONIC RESOURCES?

ADA Title II Regulations on Digital Accessibility

Americans with Disabilities Act 1990

Title I: Employment,

Title II: State and Local Government Services

Title III: Public Accommodations and in Commercial Facilities

Title IV: Telecommunications

Title V: Miscellaneous Provisions

ADA Title II

All state and local government services, programs, and activities need to comply with the ADA Title II, including:

- **Public education (schools)**
- Public Transportation
- Recreation
- Health care
- Social services
- Courts
- Etc.

ADA Title II Subpart H

A public entity shall ensure that the following are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities:

(1) Web content that a public entity provides or makes available, directly or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements; and

(2) Mobile apps that a public entity provides or makes available, directly or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements.

On April 24, 2024, the US Department of Justice added a Subpart H under ADA Title II: The web content and mobile apps by state and local governments must follow the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Version 2.1, Level AA, including third-party products available through state and local governments.

WCAG 2.1 Level AA Standard includes but not limited to:

- Text Alternatives
- Captions and audio descriptions for media
- Use of color
- Contrast ratio of images and text
- Keyboard accessible
- Assistive technology

April 24, 2026 for public entities with 50,000 or more population

April 24, 2027 for those under 50,000.

Potential Impacts

Libraries: unable to purchase or renew non-compliant e-resources.

Users: suspended or loss of access to e-resources that are not compliant on accessibility.

Vendors: accessibility compliant before sales.

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Committees, Alliances, and Upcoming Steps

UW ADA Digital Accessibility Initiative

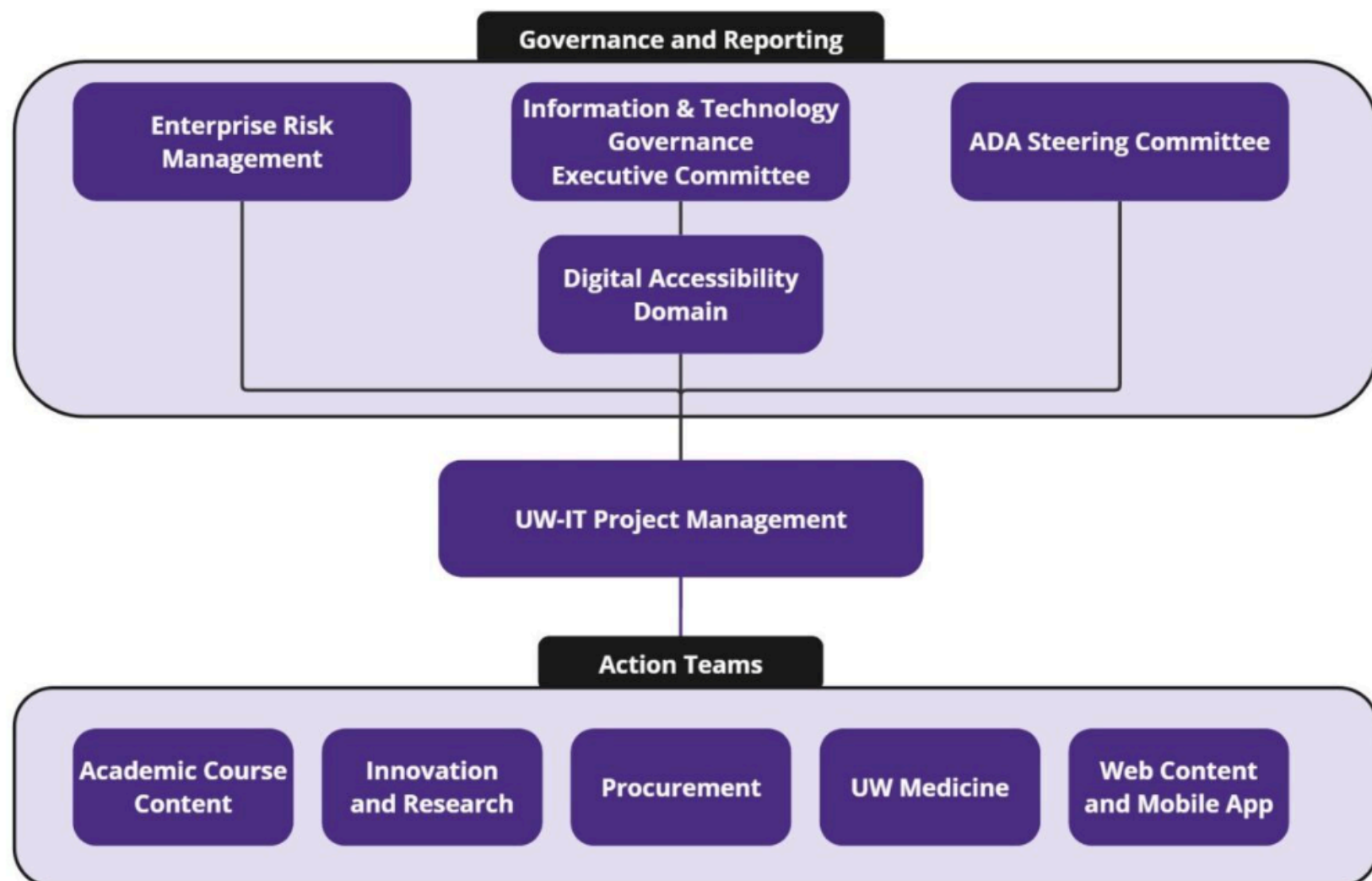


Fig 1. Organizational chart of UW ADA Digital Accessibility Initiative (Source: <https://www.washington.edu/accessibility/digital/initiative/>)

UMN Office for Digital Accessibility (ODA) & Library Accessibility Steering Committee

Accessible U is Now the ODA
Office for Digital Accessibility (ODA)

Accessibility at UMN | Getting Started | Creating Accessible Content | Help and Training | Events and Recordings

Office for Digital Accessibility (ODA) > Getting Started > Learn the 7 Core Accessibility Skills

Learn the 7 Core Accessibility Skills

Summary

No matter your role at the University, you can cultivate a more inclusive, accessible, and equitable community. We encourage you to start by learning the 7 core skills that apply to content created in all digital formats by taking the [Digital Accessibility Foundations](#) course, and reviewing the skills below.

Libraries Accessibility Steering Committee (LASC)

Purpose	LASC charge (updated July 2023)
The Accessibility Steering Committee's primary focus is to develop the expertise and processes within the Libraries to ensure that we are meeting legal and community standards for accessibility in our facilities and services as well as establishing a commitment to the principles of accessibility. Where policies or standards are lacking in areas specific to library resources and services, or where we wish to set a higher standard, the Committee will develop, implement, and communicate them.	LASC meeting minutes
To contact LASC, please reach out to your Service Area's LASC representative or a co-chair.	LASC Google Drive folder
	Accessibility Fundamentals Pathway
	IDEA Sparks

Fig 2. Webpage of UMN Office for Digital Accessibility (ODA) & Library Accessibility Steering Committee



- Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA)
- Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL)
- Greater Western Library Alliance (GWLA)
- Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)
- Ivy Plus Libraries Confederation (IPLC)
- Florida Virtual Campus (FLVC)
- University System of Maryland and Affiliated Institutions (USMAI)

Upcoming Steps for Libraries

In House Testing

- Basic keyboard testing
- Advanced keyboard testing
- Additional elements, i.e. contrast, heading, etc.

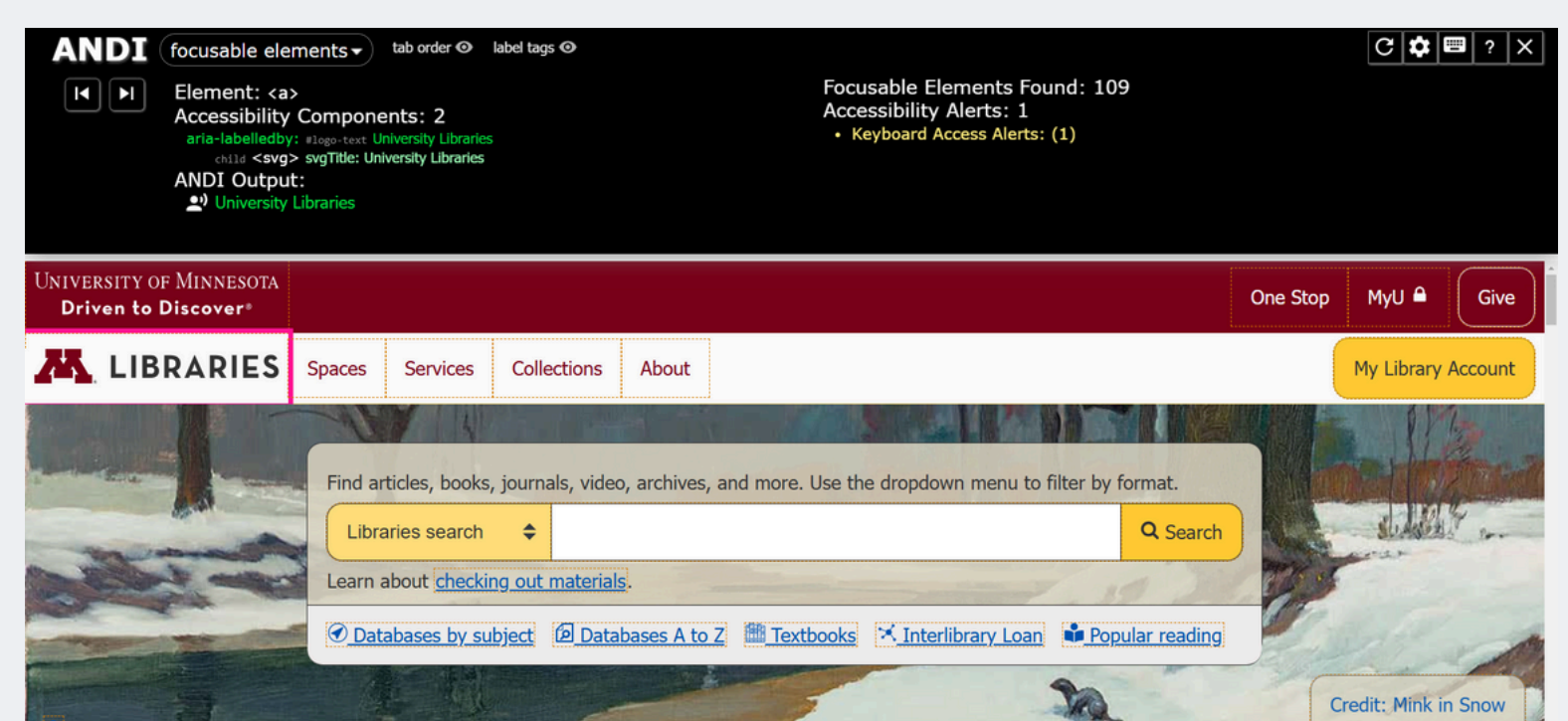


Fig 3. Using free accessibility testing tool ANDI (Accessible Name & Description Inspector) to test the UMN Libraries page.

Vendor Communication

- Inform on regulations
- License language revision
- VPAT request
- Timeline of improvement

Dear Library Partner:

As a provider of library digital information, technology, or digital content, we are writing to share information about the recent Department of Justice (DOJ) [ADA Title II ruling](#) (brief [fact sheet](#)). The ruling was added to the Federal Register on April 24, 2024. Most institutions are expected to be in full compliance with the new rules by April 24, 2026.

The ruling requires that digital assets used in public entities, including most libraries, K-12 schools, and many higher education institutions, must meet the W3C's [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines \(WCAG\) 2.1](#) Level AA. WCAG is a globally recognized minimal digital accessibility standard.

As consumers of your product(s), we request your assistance in meeting our obligations under ADA Title II so we can continue our business relationships with you.

Meeting WCAG 2.1 AA gives libraries the ability to serve all patrons including people with disabilities. Most people will experience a disability at some point in their life, with one large research university reporting nearly 50% of the student population having a diagnosed disability. While we recognize that each library partner has different structures and procedures, we respectfully request you consider the following steps if you have not already:

1. **Set goals to meet WCAG 2.1 AA.** For your product team(s), develop processes and educate each person to incorporate accessibility considerations throughout the design, development, documentation, and maintenance cycles.
2. **Ensure all content complies with accessibility standards.** For libraries, all content—including conventional electronic documents like PDF files—must conform to WCAG 2.1 AA guidelines. If you aggregate content from other publishers, our contractual relationship requires that all such content also complies with these legal standards. Consider having conversations with and including accessibility clauses in your agreements with content providers.
3. **Prioritize born-accessible content.** Encourage content providers to provide digital born-accessible content upfront. By prioritizing born-accessible content, vendors and libraries are more effectively positioned to address additional access concerns and provide quick turnaround times for accommodation requests. Consider Benetech's [Born Accessible Initiative](#) certification program.
4. **Include accessibility-related language in contracts.** The language should stipulate that your product(s) meet WCAG 2.1 AA for U.S. contracts. The language should also include how you will effectively communicate changes that affect the accessibility of your product(s), how libraries may communicate accessibility concerns, and the expected vendor response time.
5. **Provide a dedicated accessibility contact.** Accessibility contact information should be publicly available. Responses and problem resolution should be clear and timely, where timely was proposed by the ADA as five business days.
6. **Include public accessibility statements.** Accessibility statements help libraries determine a level of risk in doing business with you and signals a desire to be a partner to meet legal requirements. Accessibility statements, per product, should provide contact information, list what technologies are required to use it, and list known limitations (issues that you are aware of but which have no current solution). [ASPIRE](#) may be a helpful resource for you to review.
7. **Publish accurate ACRs and accessibility remediation roadmaps.** An [Accessibility Conformance Report \(ACR\)](#) is a completed [Voluntary Product Accessibility Template \(VPAT\)](#). ACRs should be provided with each version of the product released and are snapshots of the product's state of accessibility, include what components were tested, and whether extensions or additional features are included or have a separate ACR. We request technical experts to audit and document product strengths and weaknesses honestly rather than the work be done by a marketing or sales team.

We believe that, beyond legal compliance, all academic libraries are committed to ensuring successful academic and employment experiences for disabled individuals. Given the ubiquity of digital technology in postsecondary education, this commitment requires an environment where libraries and their partners take both a sense of responsibility for digital accessibility and a sense of pride in its effective implementation.

The Library Accessibility Alliance (LAA) represents 7 academic library consortia composed of nearly 200 academic libraries across the country. We need your help in meeting our legal and ethical obligations. We would happily collaborate with you to support your efforts for equitable access to your products. Please let us know how we can contribute to this work.

With regards,
The Library Accessibility Alliance (LAA)

Fig 4. Letter from LAA to all library partners about complying with the ADA Title II

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E-Content Accessibility Testing & Tools

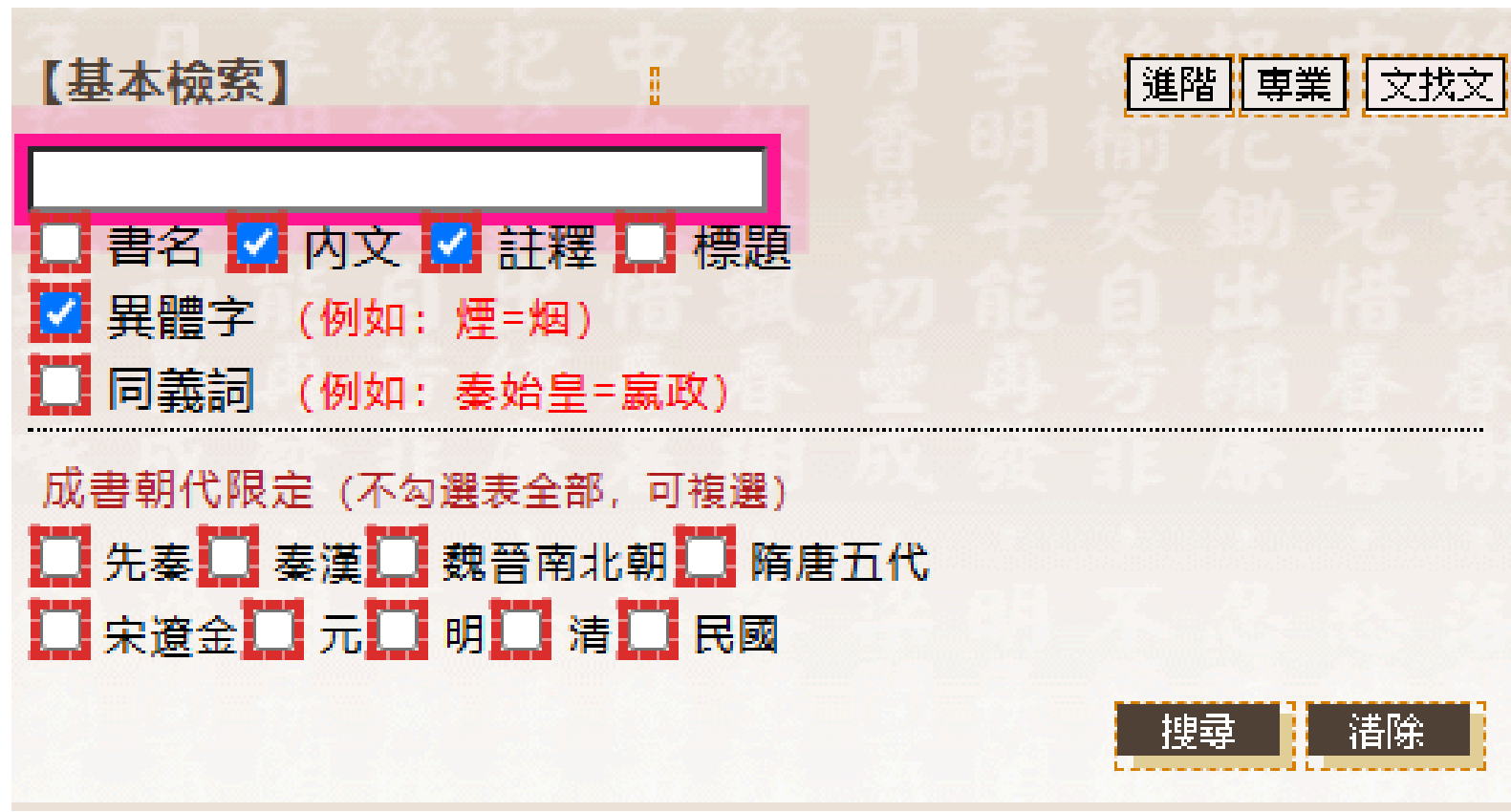
Inventory of UW CJK Databases

CJK	Renewal Type	can search	can retrieve result	can interact with search result	Keyboard test pass 0=yes 3=no	testing notes
china	Database	n	n	n	3	Has pop-up that blo
china	Database	n	n	n	3	Has pop-up that blo
china	Database	y	y	y	0	
china	Database	n/y	n	n	3	Requires mouse cli
china	Maintenance	y	n	n	3	
kor	Database	y	y/n	y	3	Can't open the artic
kor	Database	y	y/n	y	3	Not always you can
kor	Database	n/a	n/a	n/a		See the beblow six
kor		y	y	y	0	
kor		y	y	y	0	
japan	Database	y	n	n	3	Can resarch, but tal
japan	Database	n	n	n	3	Tabbing sometimes

Fig 5. Screenshot of the Inventory of UW CJK Databases

Keyboard Testing - Basic

Search



Select



Interact



Fig 6. Sample database keyboard navigation testing with highlighted tab fields.

UW Testing Results

Non-CJK Databases

- 606 Total Tested
- 547 Passed
- 60 Failed

CJK Databases

- 60 Total Tested
- 24 Passed
- 36 Failed

Available Tools at UMN

Drupal: Built-in accessibility checking module

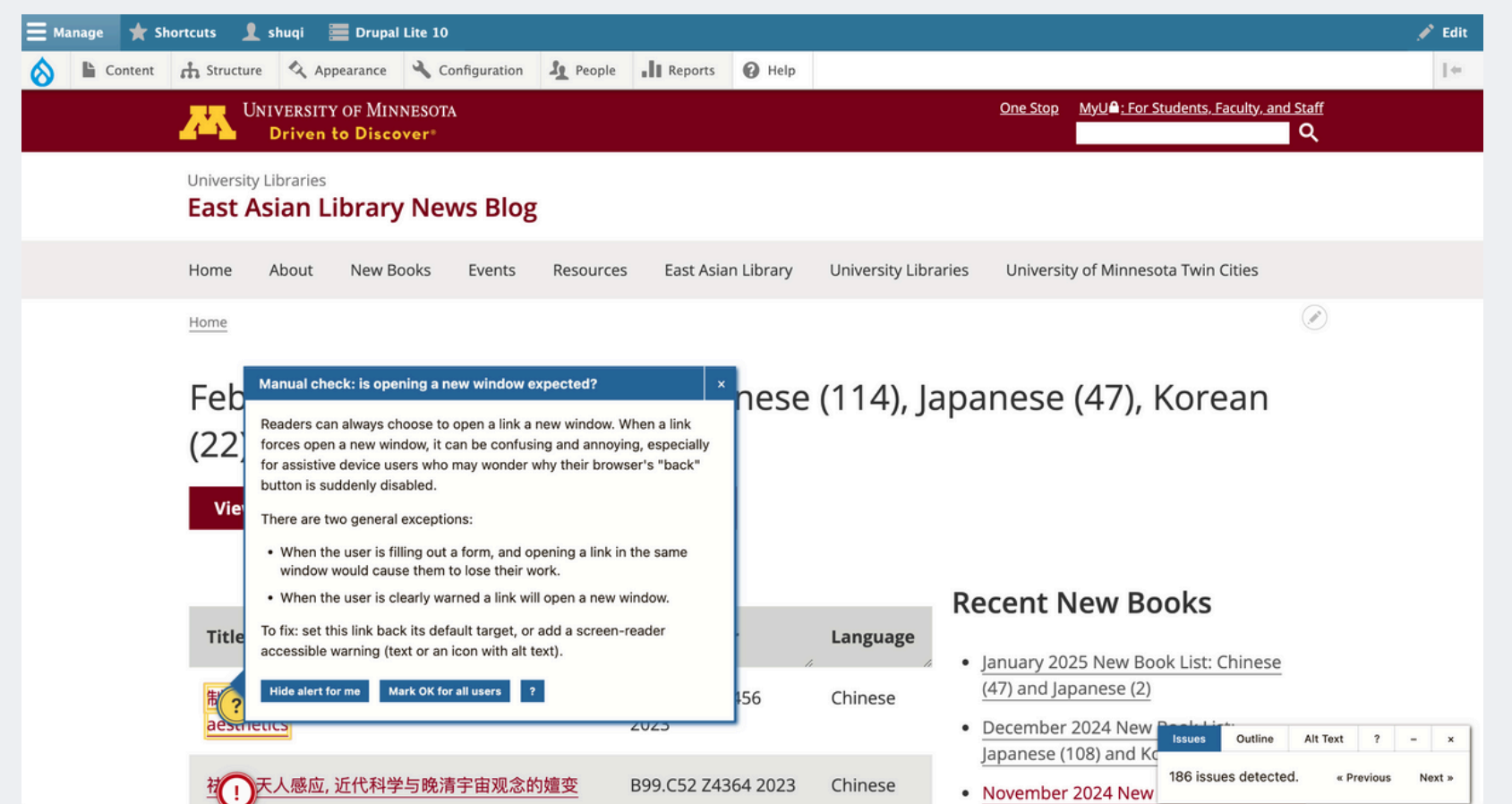


Fig 7. Screenshot of Drupal built-in module checking accessibility issues of a webpage

Pope Tech: 3rd-party accessibility checking tool

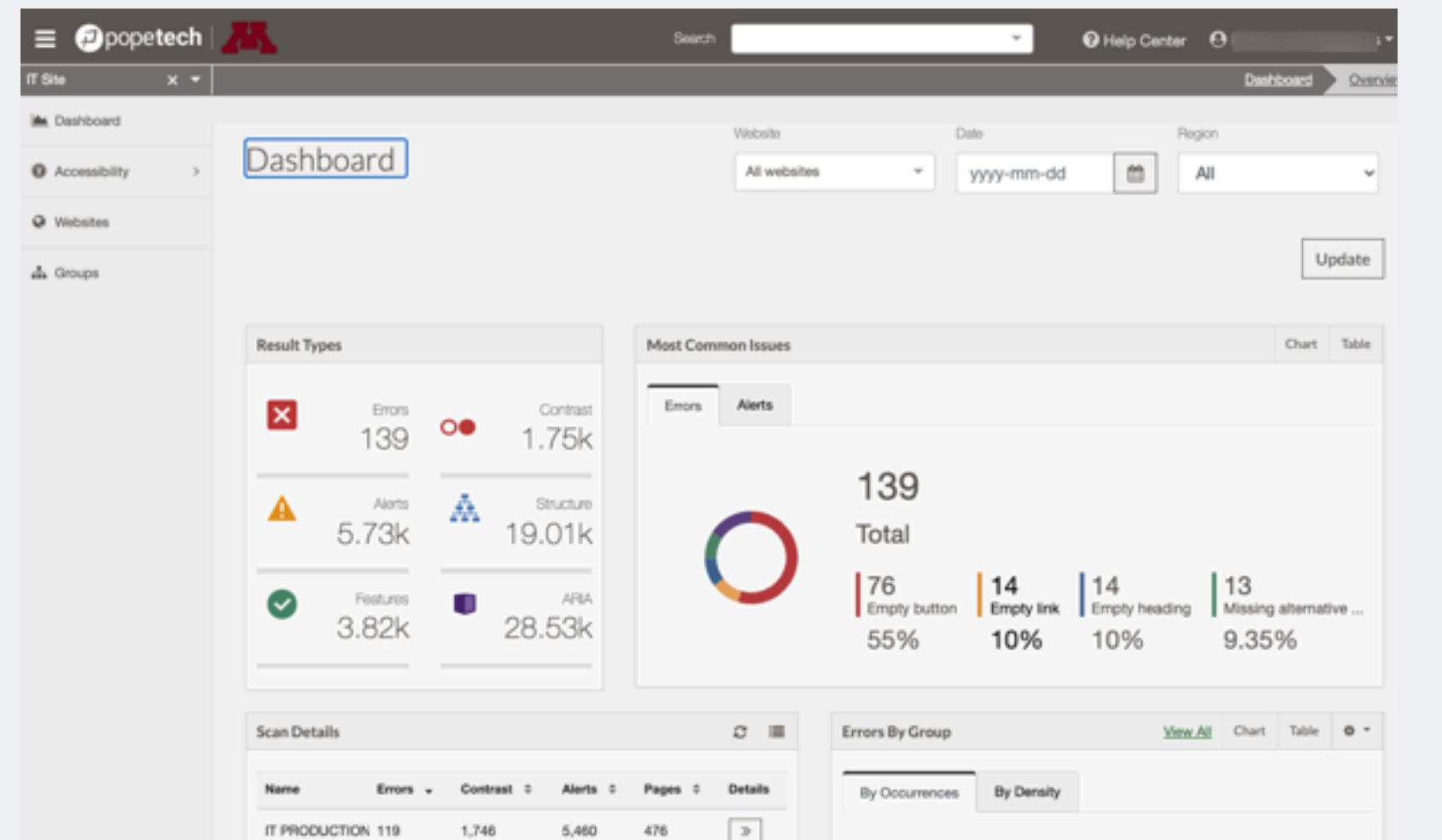


Fig 8. Screenshot of Dashboard of Pope Tech

WCAG Compliance in East Asia Mainland China

GB/T 37668-2019: WCAG 2.0 and WCAG 2.1
Accessibility law requirement: Public sector

Taiwan

網站無障礙規範(110.07): WCAG 2.1

Accessibility law requirement: Public sector

Japan

JIS X 8341-3: 2016: WCAG 2.0; Under revision to comply with WCAG 2.2

Accessibility law: Public sector

Korea

KWCAG 2.2/KS X OT0003:2022: WCAG 2.1

Accessibility law: Public sector; Private sector

HOW WILL ADA TITLE II AFFECT EAST ASIAN ELECTRONIC RESOURCES?

Resources and Pathways

Pathways

Libraries

- Familiarize with ADA Title II rulings
- Inventory e-contents
- Conduct accessibility testing
- Revise license languages
- Inform vendors on requirements and product compliance status
- Seek alternative resources when necessary
- Check for VPAT/accessibility report from vendors
- Justify inaccessible e-resources when necessary.

Exceptions to ADA Title II

- Archived web content
- Pre-existing conventional electronic documents
- Content posted by a third party
- Password-protected individualized documents
- Electronic documents
- Pre-existing social media posts

Vendors

- Familiarize with ADA Title II
- Refer to tools available in accessibility alliances
 - LAA
 - BTAA
- File VPAT/Accessibility Report
- Set timeline for improvement
- Improve accessibility on products

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Digital Accessibility Vendor Cookbook

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Overview

- There is a strong business case to make your digital products accessible to all users
- Postsecondary institutions are legally required to buy accessible products
- Disabled and nondisabled users will benefit from accessible design throughout your products' lifecycles
- The VPAT/ACR and HECVAT are two common instruments for communicating the accessibility of your products

Fig 9. Table of contents page of the BTAA Digital Accessibility Vendor Cookbook

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