

WORKING TOWARD DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

A Continuous Conversation

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II requires 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.

Government size	Compliance date
0 to 49,999 persons	Apr 26, 2027
Special district	Apr 26, 2027
50,000 or more persons	Apr 24, 2026

Source: Fact Sheet: New Rule on the Accessibility of Web Content and Mobile Apps Provided by State and Local Governments. <https://www.ada.gov/resources/2024-03-08-web-rule/>

University of Washington (UW) and University of Minnesota (UMN), each with over 50,000 or more students and faculty, are striving to ensure all digital content can be accessible to all abilities by the April deadline.

In March, 2025, we presented on the initial actions taken by the two universities, including inventory of electronic resources and internal testing, and started vendor communication. In this presentation, we provide further policies on resource review, procurement, and digital accessibility remediation beyond electronic resources.

UW LIBRARIES

Accessibility Risk Score (0-10)

Continuously review third-party electronic resources

- Keyboard navigation test score
- Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR), or Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) score

Testing Results

Interface Name	Vendor Name	Date Tested	Keyboard test score	can search (0=yes, 1=no)	can retrieve result (0=yes, 1=no)	can interact with search result (0=yes, 1=no)	VPAT score	Accessibility risk score (0-10)
A-R Editions	A-R Editions	3-Oct-25	0	0	0	0	1	1
ABC-CLIO databases	ABC-CLIO LLC	16-Sep-25	0	0	0	0		
ABC-CLIO eBooks	Greenwood Publishing	3-Oct-25	1	1	0	0		
Academic Video Online (AVON) [part of Alexander Street?]	Tugg Products	13-Sep-24	0	0	0	0		
Academy of Management	Academy of Management	3-Oct-25	0	0	0	0		
Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei	Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei	14-Jul-25	0	0	0	0		
Access World News - Historical and Current	Newsbank Readex	3-Sep-25	0	0	0	0	1	1
Accessible Archives	ACCESSIBLE ARCHIVES INC	16-Sep-25	0	0	0	0	5	5
AccessMedicine, AccessPharmacy, AccessSurgery, JAMA Evidence	McGraw-Hill	4-Sep-25	0	0	0	0		
Acland's Video Atlas of Human Anatomy	Lippincott	15-Aug-25	0	0	0	0	5	5
ACLS Humanities eBook	American Council of Learned Societies	3-Oct-25	0	0	0	0		
ACM digital library	Association for Computing Machinery	16-Oct-25	0	0	0	0		
Acta Scientiarum Mathematicarum	Acta Scientiarum Mathematicarum	16-Sep-25	0	0	0	0		
Africa Confidential	Africa Confidential	16-Sep-25	0	0	0	0		
African American Newspapers--The 19th Century & Pennsylvania Gazette 1726-1800	Accessible Archives	21-Sep-25	0	0	0	0	5	5

Image: Risk scores based on keyboard testing and VPAT evaluation, published by UW Libraries. Source: <https://lib.uw.edu/about/accessibility/libraries-e-resource-accessibility-testing/>

UMN LIBRARIES

Accessibility License Terms

Following Library Accessibility Alliance's guidance:

- Accessibility language negotiation in procurement licences
- All vendors to sign new contract that addresses accessibility compliance.

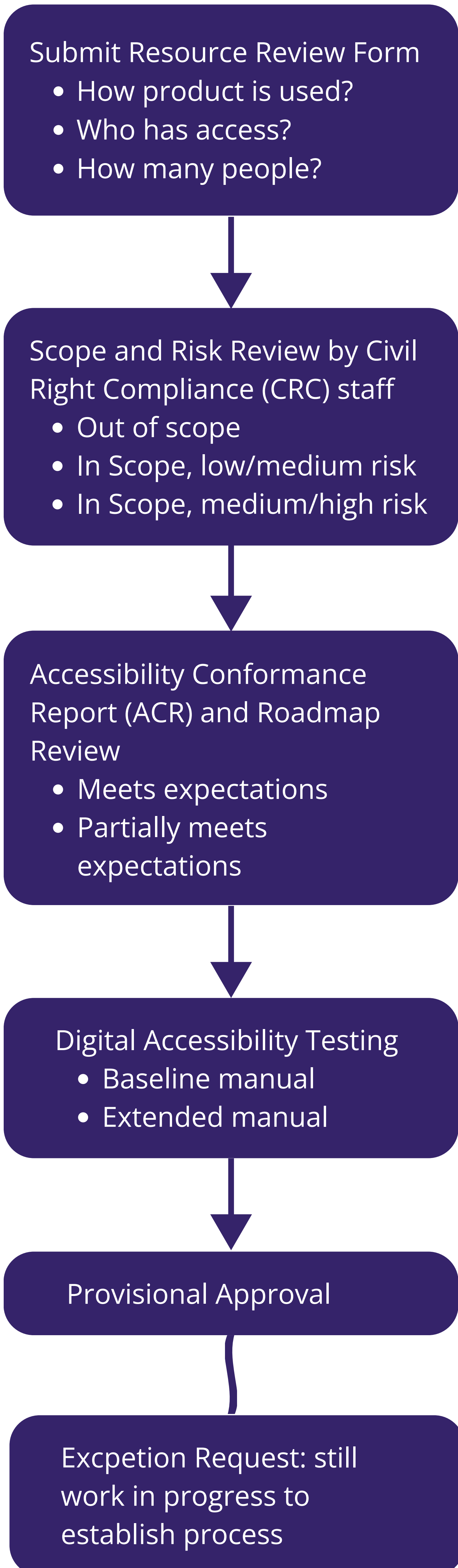
LIBRARY ACCESSIBILITY ALLIANCE

- 151 E-Resource Reports as of February 28, 2026.
- Standardized license language

WORKING TOWARD DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

Upcoming Procurement Accessibility Reviews

UW LIBRARIES



UMN LIBRARIES



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Assurance Roadmaps and Contracts*

Vendors are expected to provide VPAT report and accessibility roadmaps if a product is still under improvement.

VOLUNTARY PRODUCT ACCESSIBILITY TEMPLATE

- Includes all required information.
- Current, no more than a few months old.
- Prepared by an independent 3rd party accessibility consultant is more credible than a self-report.
- Transparency is more important than perfect accessibility.
- Sufficient details in Remarks/Explanations column.

[Company] Accessibility Conformance Report
International Edition
(Based on VPAT® Version 2.6Rev)

Name of Product/Version:
Report Date:
Product Description:
Contact Information:
Notes:
Evaluation Methods Used:
Applicable Standards/Guidelines

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

Standard/Guideline	Included in Report
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0	Level A (Yes / No) Level AA (Yes / No) Level AAA (Yes / No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	Level A (Yes / No) Level AA (Yes / No)

Image: VPAT Template, International Edition. Source: <https://www.itic.org/policy/accessibility/vpat>

COMPLIANCE ROADMAP

Phase	Implementation Plan	
Final Phase	Date	Apr 26, 2026
	Goal	Achieve and maintain full compliance
	Task 1	Successfully complete remediation and release accessible product.
	Task 2	Periodic maintenance and address emerging accessibility issues.

Image: Sample Roadmap Chart.

- Product and vendor info
- Purpose Statement
- Implementation plan with phases
- Commitment and Assurance

DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY RIDER

- Provide equal level of access to authorized users with disabilities.
- Indemnify, defend, and hold institutions harmless to any claims related to the failure of compliance
- Licensors shall comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), by supporting assistive software or devices...in a manner consistent with the Web Accessibility Initiative Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1 AA...
- Licensors shall ensure that product maintenance and upgrades are implemented in a manner that does not compromise product accessibility.
- Licensors shall provide to Licensee a current, accurate completed Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) to demonstrate compliance with accessibility standards...
- If the product does not comply, the Licensor shall adapt the Licensed Materials in a timely manner and at no cost to the Licensee in order to comply with applicable law.
- Nothing in this Agreement shall limit the Licensee or any end user from making lawful, noninfringing uses to facilitate access to the Licensed Materials by users who have disabilities...

Source: Library E-Resource Accessibility - Standardized License Language Library E-Resource Accessibility - Standardized License Language. <https://btaa.org/library/programs-and-services/reports/library-e-resource-accessibility---standardized-license-language>

*Not to be taken as legal advice.

WORKING TOWARD DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY

Beyond Vendor Provided E-Resources

UW LIBRARIES

Digital Product Inventory by Unit

- Research guides
- Project website pages
- Tools and platforms
- PDF documents

Status	Resource or Platform	Name of Item / Resource	Link / Friendly URL
In progress	LibGuides	China Studies Research Guide	https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/chinese-studies
In progress	LibGuides	East Asia Studies Research Guide	https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/east-asia
In progress	LibGuides	Japan Studies Research Guide	https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/japan-studies
Done	LibGuides	Korean Studies LibGuide	https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/korea
In progress	LibGuides	Taiwan Studies LibGuide	https://guides.lib.uw.edu/research/taiwan-studies
Done	Tools / PI	English Translations of Korean Literature DB (WordPress/DB)	https://koreanlit.ds.lib.uw.edu/
Deleted	Tools / PI	Booksori (PressBook)	
Not started	Webpage	TEAL Exhibits (Omeka) (include Xiao Xinghua, Chinese Jews in Kaifeng, and Oral History exhibit)	https://www.tealtd.ds.lib.uw.edu/exhibits
In progress	Webpage	Dunhuang Exhibit (Omeka)	https://dunhuang.ds.lib.uw.edu/Dunhuang-Exhibitions/
In progress	Webpage	Dunhuang Project (Wordpress)	https://dunhuang.ds.lib.uw.edu/Dunhuang-Exhibitions/

Image: UW Tateuchi East Asia Library digital product inventory.

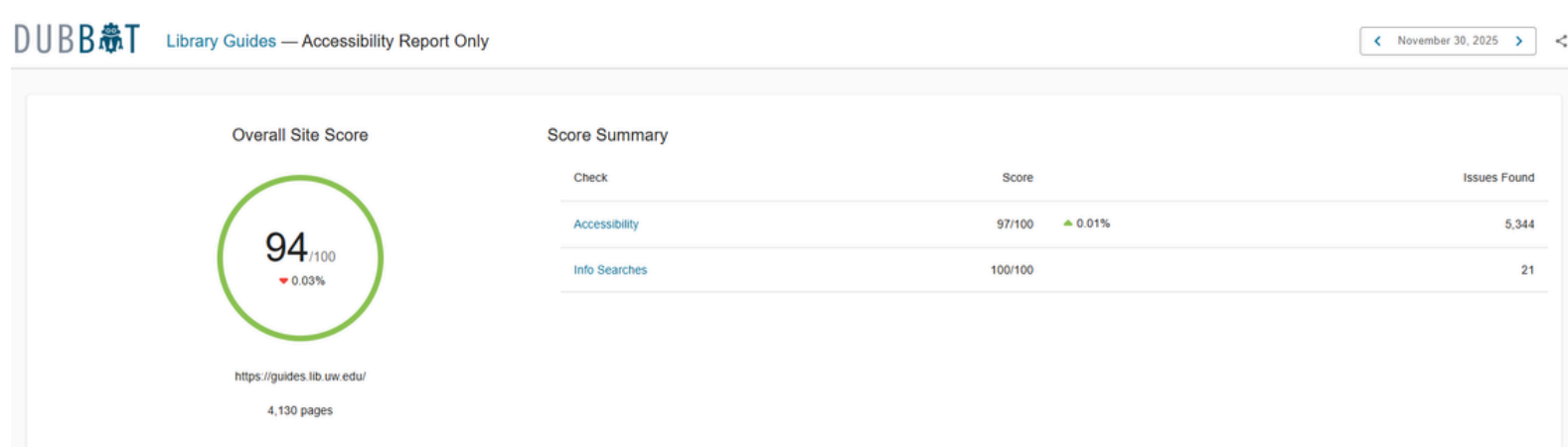


Image: DubBot score on UW Libraries research guides.

Archive, Remediate, & Create

- Archive if needed
- Simplify: keep only necessary
- Remediate: links, alternative text, headings, hierarchy, color contrast
- Create with accessibility in mind

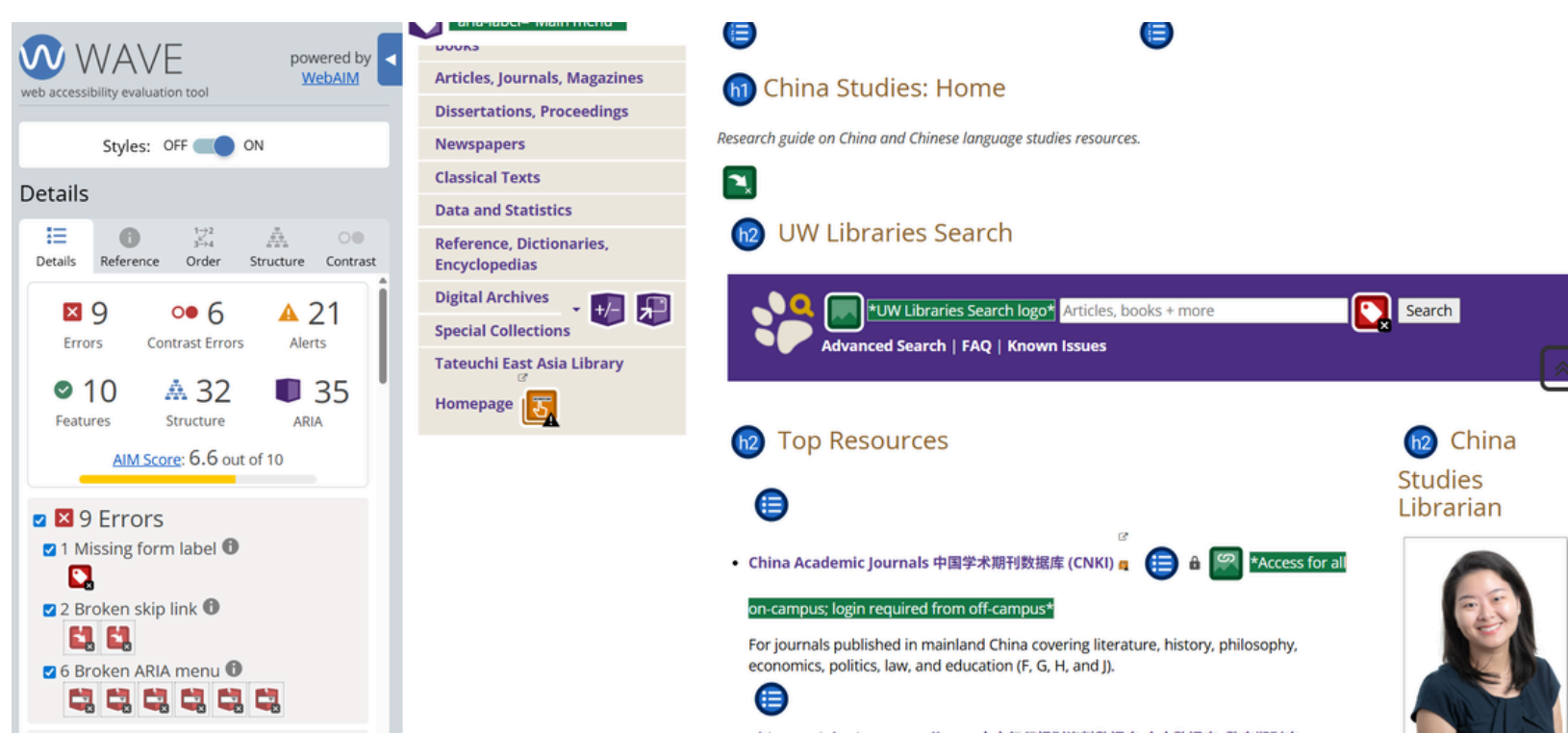


Image: Remediate LibGuide page according to DubBot report, check using WAVE accessibility tool.

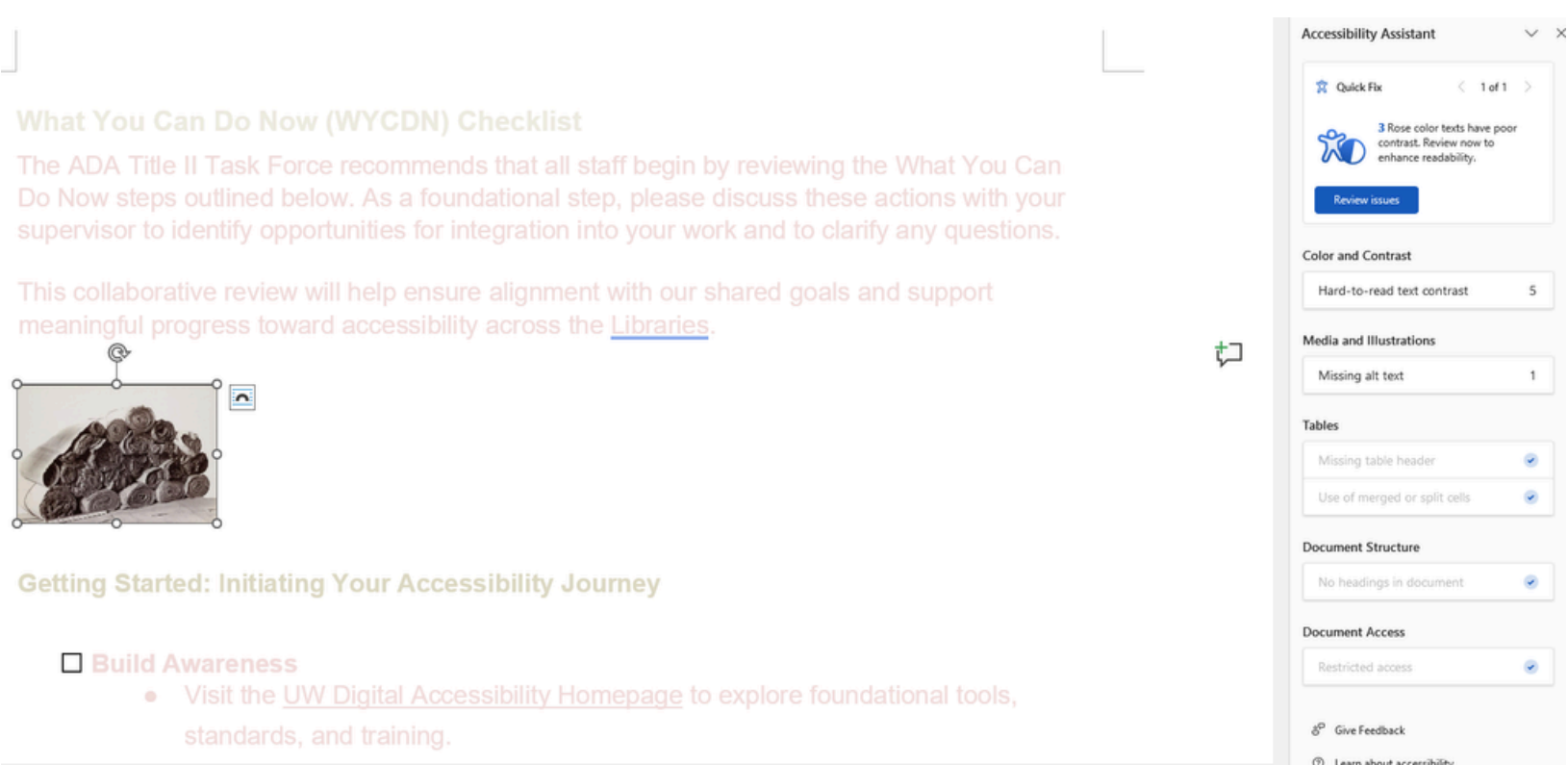


Image: Create document with Microsoft Word accessibility check.

UMN Libraries

Libraries Web Pages

- Main Libraries website
- Digital repositories
 - UMedia
 - DRUM
- Research guides/LibGuides
- Other websites created by staff

LibGuides at UMN Libraries

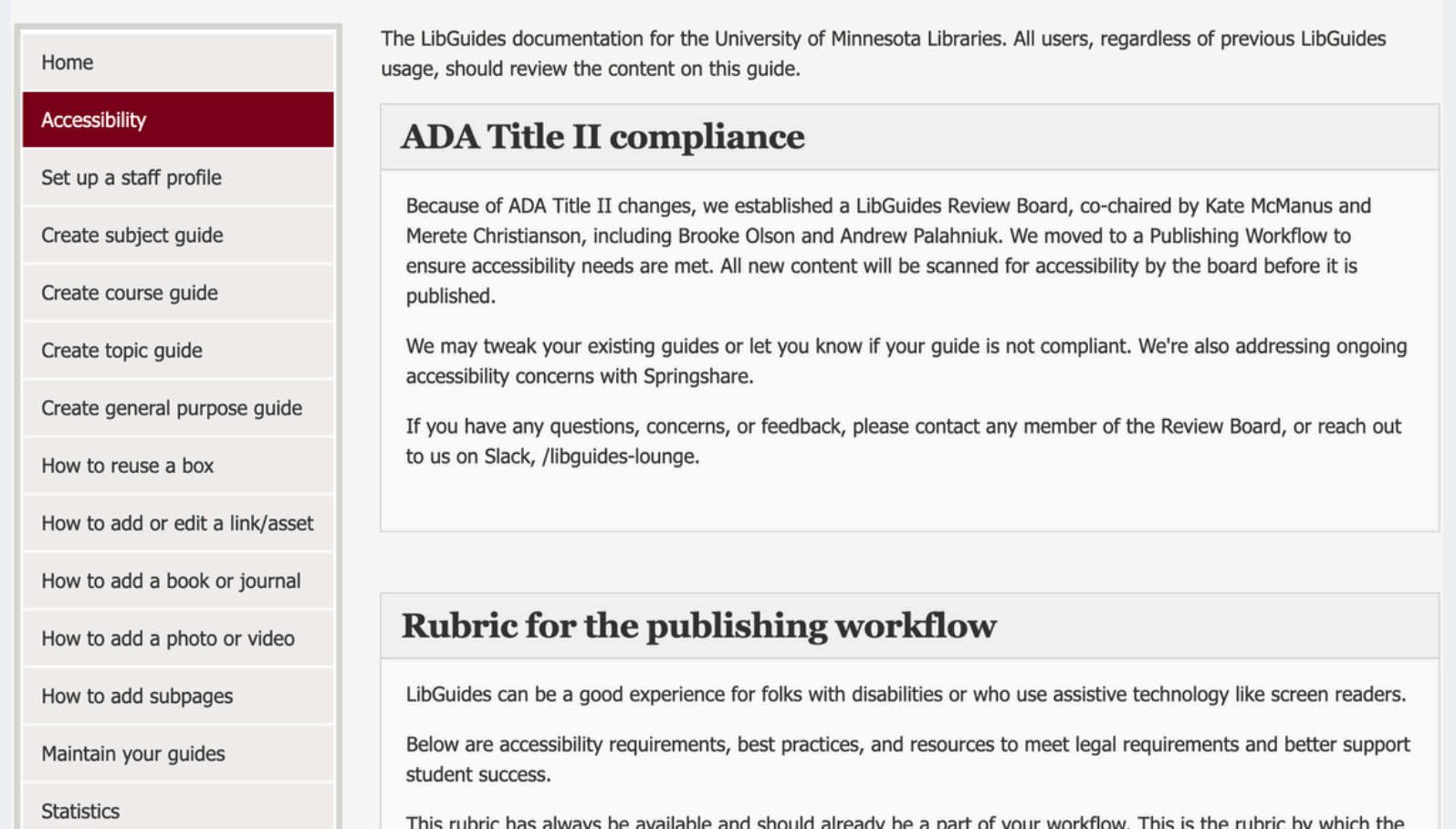


Image: UMN LibGuide accessibility review workflow

Remediation

- WAVE Web Accessibility Evaluation Tools for preview
- Accessibility review before publishing
- Remediate PDF files

Training and guidance

- Library Accessibility Steering Committee (LASC)
- Office of Digital Accessibility

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TATEUCHI EAST ASIA LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



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LIBRARIES
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA