

EPUB Accessibility 1.1

Conformance and Discoverability Requirements for EPUB publications

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[EPUB 3](#)

See also [translations](#).

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Abstract

This specification specifies content conformance requirements for verifying the accessibility of EPUB® Publications. It also specifies accessibility metadata requirements for the discoverability of EPUB publications.

Status of This Document

This section describes the status of this document at the time of its publication. A list of current [W3C publications](#) and the latest revision of this technical report can be found in the [W3C technical reports index](#) at <https://www.w3.org/TR/>.

This document was published by the [Publishing Maintenance Working Group](#) as a Recommendation using the [Recommendation track](#).

W3C recommends the wide deployment of this specification as a standard for the Web.

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This document is governed by the [03 November 2023 W3C Process Document](#).

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§ 1. Introduction

§ 1.1 Overview

This section is non-normative.

This specification, EPUB Accessibility, addresses two key needs in the EPUB ecosystem:

- discoverability of the accessible qualities of [EPUB publications](#); and
- evaluation and certification of accessible EPUB publications.

The provision of accessibility metadata facilitates informed decisions about the usability of an EPUB publication. Consumers can review the qualities of the content and decide whether an EPUB publication is appropriate for their needs, regardless of whether it meets the bar of accessible certification. At a minimum, all EPUB publications that conform to this specification meet the accessibility metadata requirements described in [2. Discoverability](#).

Although [EPUB creators](#) have always been able to create EPUB publications with a high degree of accessibility, this specification sets formal requirements for certifying content accessible. These requirements provide EPUB creators a clear set of guidelines to evaluate their content against and allows certification of quality. An accessible EPUB publication is one that meets the accessibility requirements described in [3. Accessible publications](#).

The specification also discusses the practice of optimizing EPUB publications for specific reading modalities. In these cases, the content cannot meet the broad accessibility requirements of this specification, but by following its discoverability and reporting requirements EPUB creators can improve the ability of users to determine if the content still meets their needs. Refer to [4. Optimized publications](#) for more information.

The specification also addresses the impact of distribution on the accessibility and discoverability of content in [5. Distribution](#).

This specification does not target a single version of EPUB. It is applicable to EPUB publications that conform to any version or profile, including future versions of the standard.

Ideally, these guidelines help evaluate any digital publication built on Open Web Platform technologies, although ensuring such application is outside the scope of this specification.

NOTE

For additional background on the decisions that went into this specification, refer to [EPUB Accessibility Frequently Asked Questions](#).

§ 1.2 Success techniques

This section is non-normative.

This specification takes an abstract approach to the accessibility requirements for [EPUB publications](#), similar to how WCAG [[wcag2](#)] separates its accessibility guidelines from the techniques to achieve them. This approach allows the guidelines to remain stable even as the format evolves.

To facilitate this approach, the companion [EPUB Accessibility Techniques](#) [[epub-a11y-tech-11](#)] document outlines conformance techniques. These techniques explain how to meet the requirements of this specification for different versions of EPUB.

§ 1.2.1 Internationalization

This specification is also designed to address the accessibility needs of users independent of what languages they read. The same is true for the principles and success criteria defined in [[wcag2](#)]. The goal is to ensure that users can fully consume the information of a publication regardless of their preferred reading modality.

At the same time, the language and writing conventions of the authored text will influence the techniques necessary to meet the accessibility requirements. EPUB [requires support for Unicode text](#) [[epub-3](#)], for example, which ensures the correct character data can be used (i.e., [EPUB creators](#) do not have to use images of text). Although this is an important feature, it is often not enough on its own to ensure that the text is fully accessible in any given language (e.g., additional information about directionality, emphasis, pronunciation, etc. may also be needed).

As a consequence, there may be language- or culture-specific practices for meeting accessibility requirements. Whether these practices are defined within this specification and its techniques or elsewhere (e.g., in WCAG techniques or language-specific best practice recommendations) will depend on whether the issues are specific to EPUB or broadly affect all web content.

§ 1.3 Application to older versions

This section is non-normative.

This specification is applicable to any [EPUB publication](#), even if the content conforms to an older version of EPUB that does not refer to this specification (e.g., EPUB 2 [[opf-201](#)]).

Creators of such EPUB publications should create content in conformance with the accessibility and discoverability requirements of this specification. [EPUB creators](#) should also upgrade to the latest version of EPUB to get access to the most advanced accessibility features and techniques.

Note that not all metadata expressions defined in this specification are supported in older version of EPUB. EPUB 2, in particular, does not support the [refines attribute](#) [[epub-3](#)]. If EPUB creators cannot avoid expressions that require this attribute, they will have to accept a certain amount of ambiguity in their statements (i.e., relationships between expression may only be apparent by their placement in the package document metadata).

§ 1.4 Terminology

This specification uses [terminology defined in EPUB 3](#) [[epub-3](#)].

It also defines the following term:

assistive technology

This specification uses the [definition of assistive technology](#) from [[wcag2](#)].

In the case of EPUB, an assistive technology is not always a separate application from a [reading system](#). Reading systems often integrate features of standalone assistive technologies, such as text-to-speech playback.

NOTE

Only the first instance of a term in a section links to its definition.

§ 1.5 Conformance

As well as sections marked as non-normative, all authoring guidelines, diagrams, examples, and notes in this specification are non-normative. Everything else in this specification is normative.

The key words *MAY*, *MUST*, *MUST NOT*, *OPTIONAL*, *SHOULD*, and *SHOULD NOT* in this document are to be interpreted as described in [BCP 14](#) [[RFC2119](#)] [[RFC8174](#)] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

§ 2. Discoverability

§ 2.1 Introduction

This section is non-normative.

Unlike web pages, [EPUB creators](#) distribute [EPUB publications](#) through many channels for personal consumption — a model that has made EPUB a successful format for ebooks and other types of digital publications. A consequence of this model, however, is that specific details about the accessibility of a publication must travel with it.

An online bookstore aggregating content from publishers and authors, for example, does not know the production quality that went into each submission unless the publisher informs them through metadata.

Ensuring that any interested party can discover the accessible qualities of an EPUB publication is therefore a primary concern. An EPUB publication can have more than one set of sufficient [access modes](#) depending on the alternatives provided to enable reading in another mode. For example, if alternative text and descriptions are provided for all the images in a publication, it would have both its default textual and visual sufficient access mode *and* a purely textual sufficient access mode.

Similarly, content that does not meet the accessibility requirements of this specification does not necessarily fail to meet the needs of individual users.

Only through the provision of rich metadata can a user decide if the content is suitable for them.

§ 2.2 Package metadata

All [EPUB publications](#) *MUST* include [\[schema-org\]](#) accessibility metadata in the [package document](#) that exposes their accessible properties, regardless of whether the publications also meet the [accessibility](#) or [optimization](#) requirements.

EPUB publications *MUST* include the following accessibility metadata:

- [accessMode](#) — a human sensory perceptual system or cognitive faculty necessary to process or perceive the content (e.g., textual, visual, auditory, tactile).
- [accessibilityFeature](#) — features and adaptations that contribute to the overall accessibility of the content (e.g., alternative text, extended descriptions, captions).
- [accessibilityHazard](#) — any potential hazards that the content presents (e.g., flashing, motion simulation, sound).

EPUB publications *SHOULD* include the following [\[schema-org\]](#) accessibility metadata:

- [accessibilitySummary](#) — a human-readable summary of the accessibility that complements, but does not duplicate, the other discoverability metadata. The summary also describes any known deficiencies (e.g., lack of extended descriptions, specific hazards).
- [accessModeSufficient](#) — a set of one or more access modes sufficient to consume the content without significant loss of information. An EPUB publication can have more than one set of sufficient access modes for its consumption depending on the types of content it includes (i.e., unlike [access modes](#), this property takes into account any alternatives for content that is not broadly accessible, such as the inclusion of transcripts for audio content).

[EPUB creators](#) *MAY* include additional [\[schema-org\]](#) accessibility metadata not specified in this section.

NOTE

This specification assumes that conformance and discoverability metadata will be processed and presented in a human-readable manner, removing the need for a summary unless there is additional information to express. Such processing is not available in all market segments, however, particularly in library systems. Publishers should consider this limitation when deciding whether to include a summary and what to state in it.

NOTE

For the complete list of approved terms to use with these properties, refer to the [Schema.org Accessibility Properties for Discoverability Vocabulary](https://www.schema.org/Accessibility-Properties-for-Discoverability-Vocabulary) [a11y-discov-vocab].

NOTE

See [Discovery Metadata Techniques](#) [epub-a11y-tech-11] for more information on these properties and how to include them in different versions of EPUB. See also [Include accessibility metadata in distribution records](#) [epub-a11y-tech-11] for more information on including accessibility metadata in other formats.

§ 2.3 Linked metadata records

Accessibility metadata can also be included in [linked records](#) [epub-3] (i.e., metadata records referenced from `link` elements), but the inclusion of such metadata solely in a linked record does not satisfy the discoverability requirements of this specification.

§ 3. Accessible publications

§ 3.1 Introduction

This section is non-normative.

EPUB builds on the Open Web Platform, with HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and SVG the core technologies used for content authoring. Leveraging these technologies allows [EPUB creators](#) to author [EPUB publications](#) with a high degree of accessibility through the application of established web accessibility techniques, such as using native elements and controls whenever possible and enhancing custom interactive content with [[wai-aria](#)] roles, states, and properties. Plus, whenever possible, the EPUB community adds publishing accessibility needs to these standards — for example,

through the creation of the [[dpub-aria-1.0](#)] role module. It is not necessary for anyone familiar with web accessibility to learn a new accessibility framework to make EPUB publications accessible.

The primary source for producing accessible web content is the W3C's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) [[wcag2](#)], which establish benchmarks for accessible content. WCAG defines four high-level content principles — that content be perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust. These principles are also central to creating accessible EPUB publications, so it is no surprise that this specification builds on the extensive work done in WCAG.

This section defines [how to apply the conformance criteria defined in WCAG](#) to EPUB publications. It also adds additional [requirements unique to EPUB publications](#), and defines [conformance reporting requirements](#).

EPUB publications authored to comply with the requirements in this section will have a high degree of accessibility for users with a wide variety of reading needs and preferences.

§ 3.2 Relationship to WCAG

This section is non-normative.

WCAG [[wcag2](#)] and its [associated techniques](#) provide extensive coverage of issues and solutions for web content accessibility, covering everything from multimedia to interactive content to structured markup and more. They represent the foundation that this specification builds upon.

This specification does not repeat the requirements or techniques introduced in those documents, as it risks breaking compatibility between the two standards (e.g., putting guidance out of sync, or in conflict). At the same time, although this specification does not call out those requirements, it does not diminish their importance in creating [EPUB publications](#) that are accessible.

This specification instead defines how to apply WCAG to an EPUB publication — which is a [collection of web documents](#) as opposed to a single page — and adds an [additional set of requirements](#). These requirements are no more or less important than those covered in WCAG; they are simply necessary to follow for EPUB publications. (Each requirement explains its relationship to WCAG in its respective section.)

The same is true of the techniques in the EPUB Accessibility Techniques document [[epub-a11y-tech-11](#)]. It provides coverage of techniques that are unique to EPUB publications, or that need clarification in the context of an EPUB publication. It does not mean that the rest of the WCAG techniques are not applicable.

As a result, although [EPUB creators](#) can read this section without deep knowledge of WCAG conformance, to implement the accessibility requirements of this specification requires an understanding of WCAG.

Because this specification adds requirements that are not a part of WCAG, an EPUB publication can conform to WCAG without conforming to this specification.

§ 3.3 WCAG conformance

§ 3.3.1 WCAG conformance requirements

To conform to this specification, an [EPUB publication](#):

- *MUST*, at the minimum, meet the requirements of WCAG 2.0 [[wcag20](#)], but it is strongly recommended that it meet the requirements of the [latest recommended version of WCAG 2](#).
- *MUST*, for whichever version of WCAG 2 selected, meet the requirements of [Level A](#), but it is strongly recommended that it meet the requirements of [Level AA](#).

NOTE

Although conforming at [level AAA](#) is not required by this specification, [EPUB creators](#) are encouraged to follow the practices detailed in AAA success criteria when producing accessible EPUB publications.

The reporting flexibility offered by these requirements is to ensure that this specification can be adapted for use in regions that mandate accessibility but without negating or superseding the requirements in effect in those regions.

This specification sets the baseline requirement to WCAG 2.0 Level A, for example, primarily to provide EPUB creators backwards compatibility for older content and flexibility to encourage adoption of accessible production where no formal requirements exist. Most accessibility practitioners do not recognize this level as providing a high degree of accessibility, however.

Ideally, EPUB creators should try to conform to the latest version of WCAG 2 at Level AA, but local and national laws, or procurer or distributor requirements, will define the formal thresholds they must

meet.

NOTE

Examples of legislative requirements for accessibility include the [Directive 2019/882](#) in the European Union and [Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973](#) in the United States. EPUB publications will need to meet more than just the basic Level A success criteria to be compliant with these laws.

Keeping pace with WCAG has the benefit of continuously enhancing access for users. As web technologies change and improve, and awareness of conditions that impede access evolve, the standard adds new requirements. Meeting these additional requirements helps ensure EPUB publications employ the most up-to-date techniques. Meeting the requirements of older versions, while still helpful, can result in a less optimal reading experience.

Similarly, legal frameworks and policies often cite Level AA conformance as the benchmark for accessibility. The reason is that it provides the greatest range of improvements that EPUB creators can realistically implement. When EPUB creators meet only Level A conformance, they compromise their content for various user groups, resulting in a less optimal reading experience.

NOTE

The [W3C Accessibility Guidelines Working Group](#) is currently developing WCAG 3. As this version potentially represents a significant departure from WCAG 2, a future version of this specification will address conformance requirements related to it. EPUB creators are encouraged to adopt WCAG 3 once it is stable and widely recognized, but conformance to the new version is not a requirement of this standard.

§ 3.3.2 Evaluating WCAG conformance

§ 3.3.2.1 Page and publication

The WCAG [principles](#) [[wcag2](#)] focus on the evaluation of individual web pages, but an [EPUB publication](#) more closely resembles what WCAG refers to as a [set of web pages](#): "[a] collection of web

pages that share a common purpose" [[wcag2](#)].

Consequently, when evaluating the accessibility of an EPUB publication, [EPUB creators](#) cannot review individual pages — or EPUB content documents, as they are known in EPUB 3 — in isolation. Rather, EPUB creators *MUST* evaluate their accessibility as part of the larger work.

For example, it is not sufficient for EPUB creators to order the content within individual [EPUB content documents](#) if they list the documents in the wrong order in the [spine](#). Likewise, including a title for every EPUB content document is complementary to providing a title for the publication: the overall accessibility decreases if either is missing.

EPUB creators *MUST* evaluate the WCAG guidelines for content to be perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust against the full EPUB publication, not only against each EPUB content document within it.

The EPUB Accessibility Techniques [[epub-a11y-tech-11](#)] provide more information about applying these guidelines to EPUB publications.

§ 3.3.2.2 Applying the conformance criteria

When evaluating an [EPUB publication](#), the WCAG [conformance criteria](#) [[wcag2](#)] are applied as follows:

- When determining compliance with a conformance level, the whole EPUB publication *MUST* meet the conformance requirements of the level claimed.
- [EPUB creators](#) *MUST NOT* use EPUB's fallback mechanisms to provide a [conforming alternate version](#) [[wcag2](#)], as there is no reliable way for users to access such fallbacks. If an EPUB creator uses fallbacks, both the primary content and its fallback(s) *MUST* meet the requirements for the conformance level claimed. EPUB-specific fallback mechanisms include [manifest fallbacks](#) [[epub-3](#)], [bindings](#) [[epub-3](#)] and content switching via the [epub:switch element](#) [[epub-3](#)].
- The "[Full Pages](#)" requirement [WCAG2] -- that parts of a page cannot be excluded when making a conformance claim -- applies to every [EPUB content document](#) in the EPUB publication (i.e., they must all conform in full to the conformance level claimed).

§ 3.4 EPUB requirements

§ 3.4.1 Page navigation

§ 3.4.1.1 Overview

This section is non-normative.

Statically paginated content is still ubiquitous, as print continues to be the most consumed medium for books both among the general reading public and in educational settings. Print is not the only source of static pagination, either: static page boundaries are also present in fixed-layout digital publications.

As a result, non-visual readers face disadvantages relative to their peers in environments that use statically paginated content as they cannot easily locate the same locations in a publication (e.g., if a teacher instructs students to all turn to a specific page).

The inclusion of page boundary locations helps bridge this disparity by ensuring the choice of reflowable media does not disadvantage those users.

Providing page navigation also helps in reflowable publications that do not have a statically paginated equivalent. The default pagination of these publications by [reading systems](#) is not static since it changes depending on the [viewport](#) size and user's font settings. As a result, coordinating locations among users of the same [EPUB publication](#) can be complicated without static references.

The inclusion of page navigation represents one method of achieving the [Multiple Ways success criterion](#) [wcag2], as it provides another meaningful way for users to access the content (e.g., in addition to the table of contents, linear reading order and any other navigation aids).

Given the importance of page navigation in mixed print/digital environments, the requirement to include this feature has higher precedence than it would solely as one of many ways to meet the Multiple Ways success criterion.

NOTE

Refer to [Page navigation](#) [epub-a11y-tech-11] for more information on the inclusion of page navigation in EPUB publications.

§ 3.4.1.2 Applicability

An [EPUB publication](#) *SHOULD* include page navigation whenever any of the following cases is true:

- the [EPUB creator](#) identifies the EPUB publication as the dynamically paginated equivalent of a statically paginated publication (e.g., included in a print/digital bundle);
- the EPUB creator offers the EPUB publication as an alternative to a statically paginated publication in an environment where they can reasonably predict the use of both versions (e.g., educational settings); or
- the EPUB creator generates the EPUB publication and a statically paginated publication from a workflow that allows the retention of page break locations across formats.

EPUB creators *MAY* include page navigation in reflowable EPUB publications without statically paginated equivalents.

When EPUB creators include page navigation, the objectives defined in this section apply to the EPUB publication.

§ 3.4.1.3 Objectives

§ 3.4.1.3.1 Pagination source

Objective

Identify the source of static page break locations.

Understanding this Objective

Users need to know the source of the pagination in an [EPUB publication](#) to determine whether it will be useful for their needs. Print publications, for example, produced in both hard and soft cover editions will have different pagination. Different editions of the same book often also have different pagination.

Including a recognizable identifier for the statically paginated source, such as its ISBN or ISSN, ensures that users can determine which version the pagination corresponds to.

If [EPUB creators](#) insert pagination as a navigation aid for digital-only publications, they must not specify a source (i.e., do not identify the current publication as the source of its own pagination).

Meeting this Objective

When an EPUB publication includes [page break markers](#) and/or a [page list](#) that correspond to a statically-paginated version of the publication, EPUB creators *MUST* identify that source in the [package document](#) metadata.

NOTE

Refer to [Identifying the pagination source](#) [epub-a11y-tech-11] for more information on meeting this objective.

§ 3.4.1.3.2 Page list

Objective

Provide navigation to static page break locations.

Understanding this Objective

The page list is the primary means of navigating to page break locations as it provides a list of links to each of the static page break locations in the [EPUB publication](#).

[Reading systems](#) typically use this list to generate a "go to page" interface in which users can plug in the page number that they wish to move to, but sometimes offer users the ability to access the full list and select the page number to go to.

Without a page list, page navigation becomes extremely difficult as it would rely on navigating the individual [page break markers](#) (if they are even present).

Meeting this Objective

An EPUB publication *MUST* include a page list.

[EPUB creators](#) *SHOULD* include links to all pages of content reproduced from the source (i.e., they do not have to provide links for blank pages or content not reproduced in the digital edition).

EPUB creators *MUST* include links to all [page break markers](#) in the content.

EPUB creators should include links for all pages in the source whether they are reproduced or not, but this is not a requirement.

NOTE

Refer to [Provide a page list \[epub-a11y-tech-11\]](#) for more information on meeting this objective.

§ 3.4.1.3.3 Page breaks

Objective

Provide static page break locations.

Understanding this Objective

Inserting page break markers into an [EPUB publication](#) provides users with context about where they are in the text. [Assistive technologies](#) can use this information to announce the current page number the user is on, for example, if the user wants to cite something on the page.

The inclusion of page break markers can also allow users to move quickly forwards and backwards by page without having to access the page list each time.

The inclusion of these markers also simplifies the creation of a [page list](#), as they provide easily referenced destinations for the links.

Meeting this Objective

Inclusion of page break markers in an EPUB publication is *OPTIONAL*.

If an [EPUB creator](#) includes page break markers:

- they *SHOULD* include page break markers for all pages reproduced from the source (i.e., blank pages and content not reproduced in the digital edition do not require markers).
- they should include page break markers for all pages in the source (whether reproduced or not), but this is not a requirement.

In addition, if page numbers are read aloud in a synchronized text-audio playback of the content (e.g., EPUB 3 media overlays [\[epub-3\]](#)), EPUB creators *MUST* identify the page numbers in the markup that controls the playback.

NOTE

Refer to [Provide page break markers](#) [epub-a11y-tech-11] for more information on meeting this objective.

§ 3.4.2 Synchronized text-audio playback

§ 3.4.2.1 Overview

This section is non-normative.

The provision of synchronized text-audio playback helps address various user needs. It not only enables a seamless visual and auditory reading experience from beginning to end of an [EPUB publication](#), but is useful to users who only require audio playback (e.g., who cannot see the text or are prevented from reading visually due to motion-sickness) or who only benefit from reading with text highlighting (e.g., readers with dyslexia).

Unlike purely linear listening experiences, EPUB with synchronized text-audio playback preserves the user's ability to navigate around the publication, such as via the table of contents, and also introduces audio-centric reading features like phrase navigation, and ways to control which parts of the content are read aloud.

In order to offer users greater control over content presentation, [EPUB creators](#) need to add structure and semantics so that the [reading system](#) has the necessary context to enable this type of user experience. With greater context, a reading system can provide the ability to skip past secondary content that interferes with the primary narrative and escape users from deeply nested structures like tables.

Adding structure and semantics to synchronized text-audio playback broadly falls under the objective of the [Info and Relationships success criterion](#) [wcag2]. Without structured and semantically meaningful playback sequences, the effect is to deprive users of rich navigation of the content.

§ 3.4.2.2 *Applicability*

[EPUB publications](#) with synchronized text-audio playback *MUST* conform to all requirements in [\[epub-3\]](#). It is not necessary to meet any additional requirements beyond those defined in [\[epub-3\]](#) to be conformant with this specification.

To maximize the effectiveness of synchronized text-audio playback for people with different reading needs, however, [EPUB creators](#) are strongly encouraged to meet the [OPTIONAL objectives](#) defined in the next section.

NOTE

EPUB creators do not have to include synchronized text-audio playback in their EPUB publications, only ensure it conforms to these requirements when present.

§ 3.4.2.3 *Objectives*

§ 3.4.2.3.1 *Completeness*

Objective

Ensure that all text content is available in audio.

Understanding this Objective

Although it is possible for users who require a publication in audio form to use text-to-speech playback, the experience is considerably poorer than when pre-recorded narration is provided. Text-to-speech engines have limited built-in vocabularies, causing them to mangle and mispronounce most uncommon words they encounter. As a result users have to have words repeated and spelled out to make sense of the content, slowing down their reading and reducing comprehension.

For this reason, it is important to provide narration for the full text of a publication in addition to the full text. Users can then decide which reading modality they prefer — text, audio, or a mix of

the two.

Meeting this Objective

[EPUB creators](#) *MUST* provide synchronized audio playback for all visible textual content as well as all textual alternatives for visual media.

NOTE

Refer to [Ensuring complete text coverage](#) [epub-a11y-tech-11] for more information on meeting this objective.

§ 3.4.2.3.2 Reading order

Objective

Ensure synchronized text-audio playback matches logical reading order.

Understanding this Objective

Every [EPUB publication](#) has a default reading order that allows users to progress through the content. The default reading order consists of two parts: the order of references in the spine provides a high-level progression through the [EPUB content documents](#) that make up the publication, while the markup within each EPUB content document provides the default progression through the content elements (i.e., as represented in the document object model [dom]).

For many languages, the default reading order also matches the logical reading order — the way that users will naturally follow the narrative. It ensures that readers can follow the primary narrative and that they encounter secondary content where the author intended it to be read. The default reading order also establishes some less obvious relations, like the progress within a table from cell to cell and row to row.

If the sequence of the synchronized text-audio playback does not match this progression, it can cause confusion for readers, whether they are only listening to the audio or trying to also follow visually.

Ordering the playback to match the default reading order is the safest way to ensure that users can follow the text. In some cases, however, strict adherence to this practice can result in a suboptimal reading experience (e.g., playback of a table by column instead of row might make

more natural sense in some cases). These publications have a logical reading order that cannot match the default order of the elements of the host format.

The goal of this objective is not to forbid alternate presentations, but to ensure that deviations are only made to better represent the logical reading order of the content.

Meeting this Objective

[EPUB creators](#) *SHOULD* order the synchronized text-audio playback instructions such that they reflect both:

- the order of the referenced EPUB content documents in the [spine](#); and
- the order of each element within its respective EPUB content document.

If EPUB creators use a different ordering, that ordering *MUST* still result in a logical playback of the content.

NOTE

Refer to [Specifying the reading order](#) [epub-a11y-tech-11] for more information on meeting this objective.

§ 3.4.2.3.3 Skippability

Objective

Enable users to automatically skip over content.

Understanding this Objective

Being able to read the primary narrative of a work without interruption is central to reading comprehension. [EPUB creators](#) typically structure [EPUB publications](#) to visually represent secondary information such as page break markers and footnotes outside the main narrative flow (e.g., by using different background colors or placement so readers can filter this information visually out while reading).

Readers who prefer auditory playback, however, cannot skip this information with the same ease in a linear audio-based reading experience. And, without structural semantics, synchronized text-audio playback cannot offer skipping content either.

When EPUB creators add structural semantics, however, [reading systems](#) can create reading experiences that allow users to decide which secondary content to skip by default during playback.

Meeting this Objective

EPUB creators *SHOULD* identify all skippable structures.

NOTE

Refer to [Identifying skippable structures](#) [epub-a11y-tech-11] for more information on meeting this objective.

§ 3.4.2.3.4 Escapability

Objective

Enable users to automatically escape from structured content.

Understanding this Objective

When reading visually, users can quickly move through, and escape from, highly structured content such as sidebars, lists, and figures. Visual readers can skim lists and quickly return to the primary narrative once they locate the desired information, for example. The same is true for reading figures and sidebars, as they are visually offset from the primary narrative so easily jumped into and out of.

The same ease of escaping from content is only possible if [EPUB creators](#) encode the structural semantics into the synchronized text/audio format. Users may not be able to escape from lists, sidebars, figures, and other highly structured content, unless EPUB creators encode the structural semantics of those elements.

When EPUB creators provide this information, [reading systems](#) can simplify playback for auditory readers to enable a comparable reading experience.

Meeting this Objective

EPUB creators *SHOULD* identify all escapable structures.

NOTE

Refer to [Identifying escapable structures](#) [epub-a11y-tech-11] for more information on meeting this objective.

§ 3.4.2.3.5 Navigation document

Objective

Ensure auditory playback is possible for the navigation aids in the [EPUB navigation document](#) when presented by [reading systems](#).

Understanding this Objective

Reading systems typically provide their own interfaces to the navigation aids in the EPUB navigation document. For example, they open the table of contents as a specialized interface on top of the content the user is reading.

To access these interfaces, users typically must rely on text-to-speech playback, when available, to hear the entries.

Providing synchronized text-audio playback for the EPUB navigation document provides reading systems the ability to use auditory labels for the links, improving the experience for auditory readers.

Meeting this Objective

[EPUB creators](#) *SHOULD* provide synchronized text-audio playback for the [EPUB navigation document](#) [epub-3].

NOTE

Refer to [Synchronizing the navigation document](#) [epub-a11y-tech-11] for more information on meeting this objective.

§ 3.5 Conformance reporting

§ 3.5.1 Introduction

This section is non-normative.

Evaluators report the accessibility conformance of an [EPUB publication](#) through the expression of metadata properties in the [package document](#).

This metadata establishes both:

- the [level of conformance achieved](#); and
- information about [who performed the evaluation](#).

The metadata uses a combination of properties from DCMI Metadata Terms [[dctterms](#)] and the [EPUB Accessibility Vocabulary](#), as explained in more detail in the following sections.

Although any individual or party can perform a conformance evaluation — provided they have the knowledge and tools to assess EPUB publications against the [WCAG](#) and [EPUB](#) requirements of this specification — users need to be able to trust that evaluations are performed in a comprehensive manner and that conformance claims are not influenced by self-interest in the outcome.

To address this confidence issue, some regions designate a local authority responsible for all evaluations, in which case there is no flexibility in who can perform evaluations. Where such authorities do not exist, evaluators are encouraged to obtain and reference any applicable [credentials](#) to strengthen public confidence in their evaluations.

NOTE

As each metadata format is unique in what it can express, this specification does not mandate how to express conformance metadata outside of the EPUB package document.

Ensuring consistency between internal and external accessibility metadata expressions is the responsibility of authors, publishers, and distributors. Refer to [5. Distribution](#) for a discussion of the effects of distribution on accessibility.

§ 3.5.2 Publication conformance

To indicate conformance to the accessibility requirements of this specification, an [EPUB publication](#) [epub-3] *MUST* specify in its [metadata section](#) a [conformsTo property](#) [dcterms] whose value, after [whitespace normalization](#) [xml], exactly matches (i.e., both in case and spacing) the following pattern:

EPUB Accessibility [A11Y-VER](#) - WCAG [WCAG-VER](#) Level [WCAG-LVL](#)

where:

A11Y-VER

Specifies the version number of the EPUB Accessibility specification the publication conforms to. The value *MUST* be 1.1 or higher.

WCAG-VER

Specifies the version number of WCAG the publication conforms to. The value *MUST* be 2.0 or higher.

WCAG-LVL

Specifies the WCAG conformance level the publication conforms to (e.g., A or AA).

EXAMPLE 1: A basic conformance statement

In this example, the [EPUB creator](#) is stating that their publication conforms to the EPUB Accessibility 1.1 specification at WCAG 2.2 Level AA.

```
<package ...>
  <metadata ...>
    ...
    <meta
      property="dcterms:conformsTo"
      id="conf">
      EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.2 Level AA
    </meta>
    ...
  </metadata>
  ...
</package>
```

The following conformance strings are valid as of publication of this specification:

- EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.0 Level A
- EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.0 Level AA
- EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.0 Level AAA
- EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.1 Level A
- EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.1 Level AA
- EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.1 Level AAA
- EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.2 Level A
- EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.2 Level AA
- EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.2 Level AAA

NOTE

The list of valid conformance strings will increase as [W3C](#) releases new versions of WCAG.

In addition, [WCAG 3.0](#) is set to introduce new level names (currently Bronze, Silver and Gold). Those names will likely replace A, AA, and AAA in the string pattern, but conformance will be addressed after that specification becomes a [W3C Recommendation](#).

§ 3.5.2.1 Other conformance claims

This section is non-normative.

The requirement to include a `dcterms:conformsTo` identifier does not prevent EPUB publications from conforming to other standards, including other accessibility standards and guidelines (e.g., a specification that covers specific natural language issues). An EPUB publication can have multiple `dcterms:conformsTo` statements.

For example, if an EPUB publication only meets WCAG conformance requirements (i.e., does not fully conform to this specification), EPUB creators can add a `dcterms:conformsTo` property with a conformance URL defined in the [Required Components of a Conformance Claim](#) [wcag2].

NOTE

As [wcag2] does not define how to specify the conformance level in the URL, EPUB creators will have to find an alternative means of relating this information when necessary (e.g., through the accessibility summary).

Conversely, EPUB creators might need to indicate that an EPUB publication does not meet any accessibility standards (e.g., in order to claim an exemption). In these cases, they can use a `dcterms:conformsTo` property with value "none".

NOTE

For more information about claiming exemptions, refer to [The EPUB Accessibility exemption property \[epub-a11y-exemption\]](#).

§ 3.5.3 Evaluator information

§ 3.5.3.1 Evaluator name

The [package document](#) metadata *MUST* include an [ally:certifiedBy](#) property that specifies the name of the party that evaluated the [EPUB publication](#).

NOTE

If an organization evaluates an EPUB publication, users will typically want to know the name of that organization. This specification discourages including the name of the individual(s) who carried out the assessment instead of the name of the organization, as this can diminish the trust users have in the claim.

EXAMPLE 2: An EPUB publication evaluated by the publisher

In this example, the publisher is stating they self-evaluated the EPUB publication (the values of the `dc:publisher` and `ally:certifiedBy` property are the same).

```
<metadata ...>
  ...
  <dc:publisher>
    Acme Publishing Inc.
  </dc:publisher>
  ...
  <meta
    property="dcterms:conformsTo"
    id="conf">
    EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.2 Level AA
  </meta>

  <meta
    property="ally:certifiedBy"
    refines="#conf">
    Acme Publishing Inc.
  </meta>
  ...
</metadata>
```

EXAMPLE 3: An EPUB publication evaluated by a third-party

In this example, a third party has evaluated the EPUB 3 publication (the values of the `dc:publisher` and `ally:certifiedBy` property differ).

```
<metadata ...>
  ...
  <dc:publisher>
    Acme Publishing Inc.
  </dc:publisher>
  ...
  <meta
    property="dcterms:conformsTo"
    id="conf">
    EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.2 Level AA
  </meta>
  <meta
    property="ally:certifiedBy"
    refines="#conf">
    Foo's Accessibility Testing
  </meta>
  ...
</metadata>
```

EXAMPLE 4: An EPUB publication evaluated by the author

In this example, the author is stating they self-evaluated the EPUB publication (the values of the `dc:creator` and `ally:certifiedBy` property are the same).

```
<metadata ...>
  ...
  <dc:creator>
    Jane Doe
  </dc:creator>
  ...
  <meta
    property="dcterms:conformsTo"
    id="conf">
    EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.2 Level AA
  </meta>

  <meta
    property="ally:certifiedBy"
    refines="#conf">
    Jane Doe
  </meta>
  ...
</metadata>
```

EXAMPLE 5: A self-evaluated EPUB 2 Publication

This example is the same as the [publisher example](#), but expressed in an EPUB 2 package document.

```
<metadata ...>
  ...
  <dc:publisher>
    Acme Publishing Inc.
  </dc:publisher>
  ...
  <meta
    name="dcterms:conformsTo"
    content="EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.2 Level AA"/>

  <meta
    name="ally:certifiedBy"
    content="Acme Publishing Inc."/>
  ...
</metadata>
```

§ 3.5.3.2 Evaluation date

If the date the evaluation was performed on is known, include that information in a [dcterms:date](#) property [dcterms] associated with [epub-3] the [evaluator's name](#).

EXAMPLE 6: Expressing the evaluation date

```
<metadata ...>
  ...
  <meta
    property="ally:certifiedBy"
    id="certifier">
    EPUB Accessibility Evaluator
  </meta>

  <meta
    property="dcterms:date"
    refines="#certifier">
    2021-09-07
  </meta>
  ...
</metadata>
```

§ 3.5.3.3 Evaluator credentials

If the evaluator has credentials or badges that establish their authority to evaluate content, include that information in an [ally:certifierCredential](#) properties associated with [epub-3] the [evaluator's name](#).

EXAMPLE 7: Expressing a basic credential

In this example, the `refines` attribute associates the credential with the certifier.

```
<metadata ...>
  ...
  <meta
    property="dcterms:conformsTo"
    id="conf">
    EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.2 Level AA
  </meta>

  <meta
    property="ally:certifiedBy"
    refines="#conf"
    id="certifier">
    EPUB Accessibility Evaluator
  </meta>

  <meta
    property="ally:certifierCredential"
    refines="#certifier">
    A+ Accessibility Rating
  </meta>
</metadata>
```

§ 3.5.3.4 Evaluator report

If the evaluator provides a publicly-readable report of its assessment, provide a link to the assessment in an `ally:certifierReport` property associated with [epub-3] the [evaluator's name](#).

EXAMPLE 8: An external accessibility report

The following example shows a link to an accessibility report hosted on a web site.

```
<metadata ...>
  <meta
    property="dcterms:conformsTo"
    id="conf">
    EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.2 Level AA
  </meta>

  <meta
    property="ally:certifiedBy"
    refines="#conf"
    id="certifier">
    EPUB Accessibility Evaluator
  </meta>

  <link
    rel="ally:certifierReport"
    refines="#certifier"
    href="http://www.example.com/ally/report/9780000000001"/>
</metadata>
```

EXAMPLE 9: A local accessibility report

The following example shows a link to an accessibility report included in the [EPUB container](#).

```
<metadata ...>
  <meta
    property="dcterms:conformsTo"
    id="conf">
    EPUB Accessibility 1.1 - WCAG 2.2 Level AA
  </meta>

  <meta
    property="ally:certifiedBy"
    refines="#conf"
    id="certifier">
    EPUB Accessibility Evaluator
  </meta>

  <link
    rel="ally:certifierReport"
    refines="#certifier"
    href="reports/ally.xhtml"/>
</metadata>
```

§ 3.5.4 Re-evaluating conformance

This section is non-normative.

NOTE

The following guidance is provided only to help [EPUB creators](#) determine when a new evaluation is necessary. It is not a conformance requirement of this specification.

How long a conformance evaluation of an [EPUB publication](#) is good for is a complex question. Unlike web sites, which are continuously evolving, EPUB creators may not update EPUB publications after their initial publication. As a result, an unmodified EPUB publication will always conform to its last evaluation.

It is common in publishing, however, to release updated versions of an EPUB publication to fix errors and typos in the work, as well as to periodically release new editions. As not all changes to an EPUB publication substantively change its accessibility, this complicates the question of when EPUB creators should perform a new evaluation, as well as whether a full or partial re-evaluation will suffice.

As a rule, EPUB creators must re-evaluate their content whenever they make substantive changes to the structure and functionality of an EPUB publication, such as:

- modifications to the nature or order of markup in [EPUB content documents](#);
- additions or modifications to images that convey information;
- modifications to formatting that affects the readability (e.g., contrast); and
- additions or modifications to interactive controls, forms, etc.

If the EPUB publication includes substantively the same markup and content as the previous release, the EPUB creator may only need to evaluate the new modifications to re-confirm conformance.

If an updated version of this specification or [wcag2] has been published since the last release of the EPUB publication, however, this specification also recommends performing a new evaluation to ensure conformance to the latest standards. EPUB creators may not have to perform a full re-evaluation even in this case (i.e., they may only need to check new or modified success criteria unless the standards undergo major changes to methodology or conformance).

Conversely, EPUB creators do not need to perform a re-evaluation when making non-substantive changes, such as:

- fixes for typographic errors in the text (i.e., no markup is changed);
- additions or modifications to decorative images;
- modifications to the formatting that do not affect the understanding of the content or change the text display; and
- modifications to [package document](#) metadata.

Individuals qualified to assess the accessibility of EPUB publications should make the determination of whether changes are substantive or not. An editor, for example, may not realize the impact of seemingly minor formatting changes.

Even in the case of non-substantive changes, this specification recommends an updated evaluation (full or partial) if the accessibility standards have changed.

EPUB creators should consider even more progressive approaches than those described here. Waiting for content changes before reviewing and updating the accessibility of EPUB publications can leave

them lacking recent improvements. For example, a publisher might prioritize periodic reviews of their top-selling EPUB publications to ensure they remain maximally usable to the widest possible audience.

§ 4. Optimized publications

This section is non-normative.

Although WCAG [wcag2] provides a general set of guidelines for making content broadly accessible, conformant content is not always optimal for specific user groups. Conversely, content optimized for a specific need or reading modality is often not conformant to WCAG exactly because it targets a specific audience.

For example, an [EPUB publication](#) with synchronized text and audio can contain a full audio recording of the content but limit the text content to only the major headings. In this case, the EPUB publication is consumable by users who needs to hear the content (i.e., they can listen to the full publication and can navigate between headings), but it is not usable by anyone who cannot hear the audio.

In other words, when an [EPUB creator](#) optimizes an EPUB publication for a specific reading modality, the failure to achieve a WCAG conformance level does not make it any less accessible to the intended audience.

Defining requirements for optimized publications is outside the scope of this specification, as is formally recognizing other standards and guidelines that address these specific needs. The general model of this specification can be used as a basis for identifying how an EPUB creator has optimized their content, however.

In particular, if an EPUB publication meets the requirements of an optimization standard, the following best practices are recommended:

- The EPUB publication should meet the [discovery metadata requirements](#) of this specification so its accessible properties are machine-readable.
- The EPUB publication should identify the standard or guidelines it follows in a `conformsTo` property in accordance with [dcterms] so this information can be made available to users.
- If the standard does not define conformance values for the `conformsTo` property, EPUB creators should use a URL [url] to where the standard is publicly available so users can look up the specific details of the standard.

- If the identifier is not sufficient for a user to understand conformance (e.g., the guidelines are not publicly available), EPUB creators should provide additional information about they have optimized the content in the [accessibility summary](#).

When creating guidelines for optimized EPUB publications, it is recommended that these practices be integrated as a formal requirement for conformance.

NOTE

Refer to the [Guide to Optimized Publication Standards](#) for a non-normative list of standards.

EXAMPLE 10: Expressing conformance to an optimization standard

In this example, the conformance statement indicates the EPUB 3 publication conforms to the DAISY Navigable Audio-only EPUB 3 Guidelines [[daisyaudio](#)].

```
<metadata ...>
...
  <link
    rel="dcterms:conformsTo"
    href="https://daisy.org/info-help/guidance-
training/standards/navigable-audio-only-epub3-guidelines/" />
...
</metadata>
```

EXAMPLE 11: Describing conformance in a summary

In this example, the accessibility summary for an EPUB publication explains that it is optimized for braille rendering.

```
<metadata ...>
  ...
  <meta property="schema:accessibilitySummary">
    This publication is optimized for braille readers. It will not
    be
      usable by persons who cannot read braille. The publication is
    designed
      for braille reading devices capable of displaying 6-character
    cells and
      40-character line lengths. The text is not contracted, and
    follows
      Unified English Braille formatting conventions. All characters
    are
      encoded using the Unicode braille character set.
  </meta>
  ...
</metadata>
```

EXAMPLE 12: Summary for a publication optimized for audio rendering

```
<metadata ...>
  ...
  <meta property="schema:accessibilitySummary">
    This publication is an audio book. It will not be usable by
    persons who
      cannot hear the audio. The publication is recorded by a
    professional
      narrator. There is navigation to the beginning of each chapter.
    The text
      of the publication is not included. Images are not included,
    but the
      photo captions are narrated at the end of the chapter where
    they occur.
  </meta>
  ...
</metadata>
```

§ 5. Distribution

This section is non-normative.

NOTE

Although [EPUB creators](#) do not have to follow the recommendations in this section to conform to this specification, some jurisdictions require EPUB creators to follow similar practices. [Directive 2019/882](#), for example, includes similar requirements for digital publications distributed in the European Union.

The creation of accessible [EPUB publications](#) does not guarantee that the publication will be obtainable or consumable by users in an accessible fashion. Depending on how EPUB creators distribute their EPUB publications, other factors will influence their overall accessibility. For example, an accessible interface for locating and obtaining content is an essential part of the distribution process, as is the ability to search and review accessibility metadata.

While much of the distribution process is outside the control of EPUB creators, so outside the scope of this specification, there are factors an EPUB creator can control. For example, while an EPUB creator typically does not control the accessibility of the digital rights management (DRM) scheme applied to their EPUB publications, they do control what usage rights to apply to their EPUB publications. So even though a DRM scheme may allow an Author to block access to the text of the publication, the EPUB creator needs to take care not to apply such a restriction as it could block the ability for [assistive technologies](#) to read the text aloud.

To minimize the effects of distribution on accessibility, this specification advises EPUB creators adhere to the following distribution practices:

- they must not impose restrictions that impair access by assistive technologies; and
- they must include accessibility metadata in the record format required for distribution of an EPUB publication (e.g., [\[onix\]](#) or [\[marc21\]](#)) when the format supports such metadata.

NOTE

A distributor may implement a digital rights management scheme that inherently impairs accessibility through no fault of the EPUB creator. Following the guidance in this section does not restrict EPUB creators from using such distributors. The intent is only that the EPUB creator not impair accessibility by activating a feature that would normally not be active.

§ 6. Privacy and security

The authoring of accessible content does not introduce any new privacy or security considerations for users. Meeting accessibility requirements is about optimally using the available technologies, and no new features are introduced by this specification.

The inclusion of accessibility metadata by [EPUB creators](#) similarly does not introduce security or privacy issues for the EPUB creator, as describing an [EPUB publication](#) only provides a general idea of its suitability for different user groups.

The use of accessibility metadata in [reading systems](#), bookstores and any other interface that can build a profile of the user, on the other hand, has the potential to violate the user's privacy. While it might seem helpful to store and anticipate the type of content a user is most likely to consume, for example, or how best to initiate its playback, developers should not engage in such profiling unless explicit permission is obtained from the user and a means of easily removing the profile is available.

Even in the case where a user assents to the application maintaining information about their accessibility needs, developers *SHOULD* ensure that this information is kept private (e.g., not share the information with third party advertisers or even with the original publisher).

Developers *SHOULD NOT* store or mine information about the types of searches a user performs when searching for content based on its accessibility characteristics. This information can be used to indirectly profile the abilities of users.

§ A. EPUB accessibility vocabulary

§ A.1 Overview

§ A.1.1 About this vocabulary

This vocabulary defines properties for describing the accessibility of [EPUB publications](#) in the [package document](#) metadata.

§ A.1.2 Referencing

The base URL for referencing this vocabulary is
<http://idpf.org/epub/vocab/package/a11y/#>.

This specification reserves the prefix "a11y:" for use with properties in this vocabulary. [EPUB creators](#) do not have to declare the prefix in the [package document](#).

§ A.1.3 Certifier properties

§ A.1.3.1 *certifiedBy*

Definition of the `certifiedBy` property

<i>Name:</i>	<code>certifiedBy</code>
<i>Description:</i>	Identifies a party responsible for the testing and certification of the accessibility of an EPUB publication .
<i>Allowed value(s):</i>	<code>xsd:string</code>
<i>Cardinality:</i>	One or more
<i>Example:</i>	

```
<meta
  property="ally:certifiedBy">
  Accessibility Testers Group
</meta>
```

§ A.1.3.2 *certifierCredential*

Definition of the `certifierCredential` property

<i>Name:</i>	<code>certifierCredential</code>
<i>Description:</i>	Identifies a credential or badge that establishes the authority of the party identified in the associated <code>certifiedBy</code> property to certify content accessible.
<i>Allowed value(s):</i>	<code>xsd:string</code>
<i>Cardinality:</i>	Zero or more
<i>Extends:</i>	<code>ally:certifiedBy</code>
<i>Example:</i>	

```
<meta
  property="ally:certifiedBy"
  id="certifier">
  Accessibility Testers Group
```

```

</meta>
<meta
  property="ally:certifierCredential"
  refines="#certifier">
  DAISY OK
</meta>

```

§ A.1.3.3 *certifierReport*

Definition of the certifierReport property

Name:	certifierReport
Description:	Provides a link to an accessibility report created by the party identified in the associated certifiedBy property .
Allowed value(s):	xsd:anyURI
Cardinality:	Zero or more
Extends:	certifiedBy
Example:	

```

<meta
  property="ally:certifiedBy"
  id="certifier">
  Accessibility Testers Group
</meta>
<link
  rel="ally:certifierReport"
  refines="#certifier"
  href="https://example.com/ally-report/">

```

§ B. Index

§ B.1 Terms defined by this specification

[assistive technology](#) §1.4

§ B.2 Terms defined by reference

[[EPUB-A11Y-TECH-11](#)] defines the following:

- Discovery Metadata Techniques
- Ensuring complete text coverage
- EPUB Accessibility Techniques
- Identifying escapable structures
- Identifying skippable structures
- Identifying the pagination source
- Include accessibility metadata in distribution records
- Provide a page list
- Provide page break markers
- Specifying the reading order
- Synchronizing the navigation document

[[WCAG2](#)] defines the following:

- conformance criteria
- conforming alternate version
- definition of assistive technology
- Full Pages
- Info and Relationships success criterion
- latest recommended version of WCAG 2
- Level A
- Level AA
- level AAA
- Multiple Ways success criterion
- principles
- set of web pages

[[XML](#)] defines the following:

- whitespace normalization

§ C. Change log

This section is non-normative.

Note that this change log only identifies substantive changes since [EPUB Accessibility 1.0](#) — those that may affect the conformance of EPUB publications.

For a list of all issues addressed, refer to the [working group's issue tracker](#).

▼ Substantive changes since the [Recommendation](#) of 2023-05-25

No substantive changes were made.

► Substantive changes since the [Candidate Recommendation](#) of 2022-05-12

► Substantive changes since [EPUB Accessibility 1.0](#)

§ D. Acknowledgements

This section is non-normative.

The journey to make publications accessible for all can sometimes feels like a long and winding road. It takes a special kind of person with strong dedication to the goal and an abundance of perseverance to keep going even when it seems like there are still miles to go and many hills to climb. Ben Schroeter was one such person, working tirelessly to help EPUB reach its potential as a universally accessible format. We miss him greatly and dedicate this document to his memory.

The following members of the EPUB 3 Working Group contributed to the development of this specification:

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