

PERRLA Online

Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition – based on VPAT[®] Version 2.5

Name of Product / Version	PERRLA Online (web application), October 2026 release
Report Date	October 13, 2026
Product Description	Online academic paper editor for APA 7, MLA 9, and Turabian 9 formatting, with reference management, citation tools, a PDF reference annotator, and related productivity features.
Contact Information	PERRLA, LLC – admin@perrla.com
Evaluation Methods Used	See <i>Evaluation Methods</i> below.

Notes

- This report is a **first-party self-assessment** produced by the PERRLA engineering team. It is not an independent third-party audit. It supersedes the November 2021 third-party ACR (TestPros, Inc.).
- **Revision.** This edition, dated October 13, 2026, revises the report of July 29, 2026. It adds the features released since July: the Writing Timeline and the paper writing record, the redesigned store and storage plans, the in-sentence citation picker, narrative citations, spelling and style checks with a personal dictionary, the Navigator, and live updates when a paper is open in more than one place. Issues found while reviewing them were fixed before this edition: low-contrast text and borders in the store and on checkboxes; error notifications that could fail to appear; a summary on the writing record exposed as a table without cells; notifications with an action that closed on a timer; icon buttons and ribbon links whose spoken names were symbols or split in two; reference actions without item-specific names; and, in the shared date picker, a calendar that could not be operated from the keyboard. No conformance rating changed.
- **Assessed configuration:** the October 2026 release, in which PERRLA's current paper editor is the default for all new papers. A legacy editing surface remains available only for papers created before the current editor became the default; it is being retired and is excluded from this assessment. All new papers use the assessed editor.
- **User-authored content:** conformance is claimed for the product's own interface and product-generated content. Papers are user-authored documents; the supported figure-insertion flow automatically writes the author's figure title into the image's text alternative and keeps it in sync with caption edits, but content an author pastes directly (for example, raw images) is the author's own. An alt-text authoring affordance for pasted images is on the product roadmap.

Evaluation Methods

- **Manual screen-reader testing** across three screen readers and five screen-reader/browser pairings: **JAWS 2026** with Chrome (Windows 11), **NVDA** with Chrome and Firefox (Windows 11), and **VoiceOver** with Chrome and Safari (macOS). Spoken output was captured and archived as evidence.
- **October 2026 review** of everything released since July: the standing automated suite, source review, and manual checks with JAWS and Chrome on Windows 11 of the citation picker, the Navigator and the ribbon. Components shared with PERRLA for Word (forms, date picker, notifications, the store) were also tested with JAWS in Word on Windows and with VoiceOver in Word for Mac in October 2026.
- **Manual keyboard-only testing** of representative flows, including the paper editor's citation/reference interaction model, toolbars, dialogs, and drawers.
- **Automated accessibility testing** run as a standing regression suite: axe-core scans, Playwright keyboard/semantics specs, a simulated screen reader asserting exact announced phrases, an automated NVDA-driven suite capturing real spoken output, and an automated reflow suite measuring the interface at a 320 CSS px viewport.
- **Static source-code review** of the application and its shared component library, including computed color-contrast ratios for all changed text and UI colors in both light and dark themes.

Applicable Standards / Guidelines

Standard / Guideline	Included in Report
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2	Level A – Yes Level AA – Yes Level AAA – No
Revised Section 508 standards (2017)	No
EN 301 549	No

Because WCAG 2.2 incorporates the success criteria of WCAG 2.0 and 2.1, the tables below also describe the product's conformance with WCAG 2.0 and 2.1 Levels A and AA.

Terms

The terms used in the Conformance Level column are defined as follows:

- **Supports:** The functionality of the product has at least one method that meets the criterion without known defects or meets with equivalent facilitation.
- **Partially Supports:** Some functionality of the product does not meet the criterion.
- **Does Not Support:** The majority of product functionality does not meet the criterion.
- **Not Applicable:** The criterion is not relevant to the product.
- **Not Evaluated:** The product has not been evaluated against the criterion.

Summary: Every applicable WCAG 2.2 Level A and Level AA success criterion is rated **Supports**. No criterion is rated Partially Supports or Does Not Support.

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content	Supports	All product images and icon-only controls carry text alternatives; decorative images and icons are hidden from assistive technology. A complete inventory of product images was audited. Figures inserted through the editor's supported flow automatically receive the author's figure title as their text alternative, kept in sync with caption edits.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded)	Not Applicable	The product presents no prerecorded audio-only or video-only content.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded)	Not Applicable	No prerecorded synchronized media in the product interface.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded)	Not Applicable	No prerecorded synchronized media in the product interface.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships	Supports	Structure is exposed programmatically throughout: a main landmark, labeled navigation and regions, real headings (including inside the paper document), lists, grouped toolbars, radio groups, combobox semantics on autocompletes, and label/error associations on form fields. Verified with JAWS, NVDA, and VoiceOver – heading lists and landmark navigation enumerate the document structure correctly on all three.

1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence	Supports	Reading and DOM order match the visual presentation across views.
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics	Supports	Instructions do not rely solely on shape, size, or on-screen location.
1.4.1 Use of Color	Supports	Color is never the only visual means of conveying information: selected states add a visible outline ring, highlighted "commonly used" fields pair color with a star glyph, explanatory text, and an assistive-technology description, and every validation state includes a text message.
1.4.2 Audio Control	Not Applicable	No auto-playing audio.
2.1.1 Keyboard	Supports	All functionality is keyboard-operable. In-document citations and references open a fully keyboard-navigable actions menu (Alt+Enter or Shift+F10; arrow keys, Home/End, Enter, Escape); editor toolbars implement the standard WAI-ARIA toolbar keyboard pattern; dates can be typed into labeled month, day and year fields or picked from the calendar, where arrow keys move by day and week and Page Up and Page Down change the month. Verified by keyboard-only passes and with JAWS, NVDA, and VoiceOver.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap	Supports	No keyboard traps. Dialogs and menus close with Escape or Tab and restore focus to the invoking control. Inside the paper, Tab inserts a tab as in a word processor; Shift+Tab moves focus out of the paper, and the arrow keys move between the paper's sections. Verified manually on all three screen readers and guarded by automated tests.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts	Supports	All application shortcuts require a modifier key (Ctrl/Cmd combinations). Typing an opening parenthesis (APA, MLA) or # (Turabian) in the paper offers the citation picker; this responds only while the paper's writing area has focus, which the criterion permits, and Escape closes the picker.

2.2.1 Timing Adjustable	Supports	No time limits are placed on user activity. Notifications that offer an action stay until used or closed, and timed notifications pause while hovered or focused.
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide	Supports	No essential auto-updating or scrolling content. The only persistent animations are loading/sync activity indicators, and all animation is suppressed for users who request reduced motion.
2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold	Supports	No content flashes more than three times per second.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks	Supports	A "Skip to main content" link is the first focusable element on every page and moves focus past the header and navigation to the main content region.
2.4.2 Page Titled	Supports	Every route sets a descriptive, unique page title.
2.4.3 Focus Order	Supports	Focus order is logical. Dialogs, menus, and editing panels move focus in on open and restore it to the invoking control on close – including the editor's reference/citation panels, which return focus to the exact item in the document. Verified with NVDA and VoiceOver.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context)	Supports	Links identify their purpose. Repeated per-row action links (menus, select toggles, file and version actions) carry item-specific accessible names built from the row's content, with the visible text preserved as the prefix of the accessible name.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures	Supports	No path-based or multipoint gestures are required.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation	Supports	Activation occurs on the up-event.
2.5.3 Label in Name	Supports	A systematic audit compared every accessible name against its visible label across the product and its shared component library; all controls' accessible names contain their visible text.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation	Not Applicable	No device-motion or user-motion actuated functionality.

3.1.1 Language of Page	Supports	The page language is declared (lang="en").
3.2.1 On Focus	Supports	Receiving focus does not trigger an unexpected change of context.
3.2.2 On Input	Supports	Changing a form control value does not automatically cause an unexpected change of context.
3.2.6 Consistent Help (WCAG 2.2)	Supports	"Help Center" and "Contact Support" links appear in the same relative order in the primary navigation on every page, including the editor, and are keyboard-reachable.
3.3.1 Error Identification	Supports	Input errors are identified in text, programmatically associated with their field (aria-invalid plus a linked error message), and announced on appearance. Error state is cleared when the input is corrected. Verified end-to-end with NVDA.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions	Supports	All inputs have labels, including individually labeled month/day/year date fields (the label is spoken first, with the placeholder as supplementary). Verified with JAWS, NVDA, and VoiceOver.
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (WCAG 2.2)	Supports	Multi-step flows preserve previously entered information.
4.1.1 Parsing	Supports	Removed in WCAG 2.2 and considered always satisfied; included for completeness.

4.1.2 Name, Role, Value	Supports	All interface components expose their name, role, and value: dialogs carry dialog semantics; toolbar toggles report pressed state; menus are real menus; disclosure buttons report expanded state; every editing surface (paper body, title page, abstract, references, each appendix and custom section) carries an explicit accessible name; and per-item action toggles are uniquely named. Verified with JAWS, NVDA, and VoiceOver. One assistive-technology limitation is documented for transparency: JAWS voices the name, but not the role, of non-focusable inline citation elements inside the editing surface; NVDA and VoiceOver voice both name and role from the identical markup, confirming the information is programmatically determinable.
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Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live)	Not Applicable	No live synchronized media.
1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded)	Not Applicable	No prerecorded video content.
1.3.4 Orientation	Supports	Layout is responsive and not locked to a single orientation.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose	Supports	Every field that collects information about the user declares the appropriate HTML autocomplete purpose token (name, email, username, passwords, organization, payment card fields, billing postal code), enabling autofill and personalization tools.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)	Supports	Text contrast was measured against its actual backgrounds in both light and dark themes, including placeholder text, hint text, and editor prompts; all text meets or exceeds 4.5:1 (large text 3:1).

1.4.4 Resize Text	Supports	Text resizes to 200% without loss of content or functionality; verified visually at 200% browser text zoom.
1.4.5 Images of Text	Supports	The interface uses real text; images of text are limited to the brand logo (exempt).
1.4.10 Reflow	Supports	The application interface reflows to a 320 CSS pixel width (equivalent to a 1280 px window at 400% zoom) without two-dimensional scrolling: menu bars, toolbars, and notifications wrap and remain fully operable. Verified by an automated test suite measuring the interface at a 320 CSS px viewport. The paper page preview itself – a fixed-geometry print-format document (8.5×11 in) whose pagination, margins, and running heads mirror the exported Word/PDF output – falls under this criterion's exception for content that requires two-dimensional layout for usage or meaning; the editor additionally provides Fit-to-Width and zoom controls (with automatic fit on narrow viewports) that scale the entire page into view.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast	Supports	Boundaries of user interface components and meaningful graphics meet 3:1 against adjacent colors in both light and dark themes; all component borders, state indicators, and swatches were measured and adjusted where needed.
1.4.12 Text Spacing	Supports	Applying the criterion's line-height, letter-, word-, and paragraph-spacing overrides causes no clipped or overlapping text; verified with the standard text-spacing test.
1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus	Supports	Tooltips appear on both hover and keyboard focus, are dismissible with Escape without moving the pointer or focus, are hoverable, and persist until dismissed.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways	Supports	Content is reachable through persistent navigation and in-list search.

2.4.6 Headings and Labels	Supports	Headings and labels are descriptive; heading levels are sequential across all pages and panels, and every interactive control carries a descriptive accessible name. Confirmed by screen-reader heading navigation.
2.4.7 Focus Visible	Supports	Every keyboard-operable control shows a visible focus indicator, including links, toolbar buttons, search fields, and menu items; within the editing surface the visible text caret is the focus indicator. Verified by a keyboard walk-through.
2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum) (WCAG 2.2)	Supports	Focused controls are never hidden behind the fixed header; scroll positioning keeps the focused element in view. Verified by a keyboard pass.
2.5.7 Dragging Movements (WCAG 2.2)	Supports	Every dragging interaction has a single-pointer, non-drag alternative – reorder menus and keyboard shortcuts for list/section reordering, keyboard-operable panel resize splitters, buttons alongside drag-to-insert rows, and standard file pickers alongside drop zones.
2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) (WCAG 2.2)	Supports	Interactive targets meet the 24×24 CSS pixel minimum (or qualify for the spacing exception); all icon controls were audited and enlarged where needed.
3.1.2 Language of Parts	Supports	The interface is English; there is no mixed-language interface content requiring per-part language attributes.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation	Supports	Navigation appears in a consistent relative order across pages, and the current location is exposed to assistive technology.
3.2.4 Consistent Identification	Supports	Components with the same function are identified consistently.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion	Supports	Error messages name the expected input or format (for example, an email example, a ZIP code example, valid date ranges), corrective suggestions such as a suspected email typo are offered and announced politely, and all messages are programmatically associated with their fields. Verified end-to-end with NVDA.

3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data)	Supports	Destructive actions are gated behind explicit confirmation.
3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum) (WCAG 2.2)	Supports	No cognitive-function-test CAPTCHA is required; paste is permitted in credential fields; password managers can autofill (proper autocomplete tokens); and single sign-on (Google / Microsoft) provides an authentication path that does not rely on recalling or transcribing a secret.
4.1.3 Status Messages	Supports	Status messages (save confirmations, toasts, in-document announcements) use live regions and are announced without receiving focus. Confirmed audibly on JAWS, NVDA, and VoiceOver, including verification that focus does not move. Routine background auto-save is deliberately not announced to avoid flooding screen-reader users; save failures are announced.

Legal Disclaimer

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