

Accessibility Conformance Report

WCAG Edition

(Based on VPAT® Version 2.5Rev)

Name of Product/Version:

Gale National Geographic Kids (NGMK)

Report Date:

September 4, 2025

Contact Information:

Gale Accessibility Council - accessibility@cengage.com

Evaluation Methods Used:

[Qualitest](#), an independent quality assurance testing company, was contracted by Cengage to test the product and document their findings in this VPAT. [Qualitest](#) thoroughly reviewed the Gale National Geographic Kids (NGMK) application for conformance to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2 Level A and Level AA using the following testing techniques:

Automated Testing: Axe automated plugin has been used for the initial scanning of different pages present in the application.

Manual Testing: This report has been generated based on the tests conducted via accessibility experts. The tools which have been used for testing are JAWS 2025, NVDA 2025, and Voiceover on Windows 11/Mac Platforms. Apart from these screen readers below assistive tools are used to validate the accessibility success criteria:

- Keyboard Controls
- Steve Faulkner Text Spacing Bookmarklet
- Color Contrast Analyzer
- Browser Zoom
- Dragon

Compatibility Matrix and Testing Scope:

Platform	Edge Latest	Chrome Latest	Safari
Win 11	NVDA 2025 Smoke QA	JAWS 2025 Full QA	
MAC 15.X			VoiceOver Full QA

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) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.1	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)
Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.2	Level A (Yes) Level AA (Yes) Level AAA (No)

Terms

The terms used in the Conformance Level information 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. This can only be used in WCAG Level AAA criteria.

WCAG 2.2 Report

Note: When reporting on conformance with the WCAG 2.x Success Criteria, they are scoped for full pages, complete processes, and accessibility-supported ways of using technology as documented in the [WCAG 2.2 Conformance Requirements](#).

Table 1: Success Criteria, Level A

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.1.1 Non-text Content (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most informative images and icons in the application include appropriate text alternatives, enabling visually impaired users to access equivalent information through screen readers and braille displays. However, there are a few exceptions where decorative icons are unnecessarily exposed to screen readers.
1.2.1 Audio-only and Video-only (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Not Applicable	There is no audio-only or video-only content available in the application.
1.2.2 Captions (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	The synchronized media content on the Video page includes accurate and timely captions, supporting accessibility for users who are deaf or hard of hearing.
1.2.3 Audio Description or Media Alternative (Prerecorded) (Level A)	Supports	Text transcript is provided for the available Pre-recorded video content as a media alternative.
1.3.1 Info and Relationships (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most elements in the application are correctly marked up with HTML semantics, enabling assistive technologies like screen readers to recognize their structure and relationships. However, there are a few exceptions where screen reader users encounter challenges in understanding the information,

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		structure, and relationships of certain elements that rely on visual representation.
1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence (Level A)	Partially Supports	Screen readers read most of the content available in the application in a logical sequence using arrow keys or other reading methods that perceive their meaning and context for visually impaired users. However, on the Video page , the screen reader's focus moves to hidden text that is not relevant and visible to users.
1.3.3 Sensory Characteristics (Level A)	Supports	There are several visual cues/symbols used in the application that convey specific meaning, and all these visual cues are provided with equivalent text alternatives for screen reader users.
1.4.1 Use of Color (Level A)	Supports	All information conveyed through color highlights is also presented with text labels and meaningful icons, ensuring it is accessible to users with color vision deficiencies.
1.4.2 Audio Control (Level A)	Not Applicable	There is no such audio available in the application that plays automatically as soon as any page is launched.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
2.1.1 Keyboard (Level A)	Partially Supports	The application has many interactive user interface components like buttons and links, and most of these elements are operable using a keyboard for screen reader/ keyboard users. However, there are a few exceptions where it is difficult for screen reader/keyboard-only users to access some of the interactive elements using a keyboard.
2.1.2 No Keyboard Trap (Level A)	Supports	The application ensures that both screen reader users and keyboard users can navigate freely without encountering focus traps. No element restricts users from moving forward or backward through the content using keyboard controls or screen reader navigation.
2.1.4 Character Key Shortcuts (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Single key character shortcuts are not used anywhere in the application.
2.2.1 Timing Adjustable (Level A)	Not Applicable	The application does not include any time-based functionality/activity that requires user interaction within a set time limit (e.g., session timeouts, quizzes, or auto-submissions).
2.2.2 Pause, Stop, Hide (Level A)	Not Applicable	The application does not feature any moving, blinking, or auto-updating content that would need to be paused or stopped for individuals with certain disabilities.

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2.3.1 Three Flashes or Below Threshold (Level A)	Not Applicable	There is no flashing/blinking content available anywhere in the application.
2.4.1 Bypass Blocks (Level A)	Supports	“Skip to main Content” link is available at the top of web pages that helps screen reader users and keyboard users to bypass the repetitive block of header content in a single activation to locate the page main content.
2.4.2 Page Titled (Level A)	Supports	All pages in the application have meaningful, descriptive titles that clearly convey purpose and assist users with navigation, including those using assistive technologies.
2.4.3 Focus Order (Level A)	Partially Supports	Focus order is logical for most of the interactive elements/widgets available in the application using the keyboard and keyboard interfaces. However, there are a few exceptions, where TAB order is incorrect for some components, and logical focus has not been maintained in some custom dialogs.
2.4.4 Link Purpose (In Context) (Level A)	Supports	All the links available in the application are provided with sufficient link text that clearly describes the purpose/target destination of these elements.
2.5.1 Pointer Gestures (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Accessibility testing for this application has been conducted primarily on desktop platforms. Mobile device testing, including assessments on iOS and

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
		Android platforms, was not part of the current audit scope.
2.5.2 Pointer Cancellation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	All the user interface controls available in the application activate a UP event. Even if the user accidentally clicks on a control, s/he can move away from its target area and lift up the pointer to abort the action.
2.5.3 Label in Name (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	The visible text labels of all interactive controls accurately match their accessible names. This alignment enables motor-impaired users to reliably activate these controls by speaking their visible text labels using speech recognition tools such as 'Dragon'.
2.5.4 Motion Actuation (Level A 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Accessibility testing for this application has been conducted primarily on desktop platforms. Mobile device testing, including assessments on iOS and Android platforms, was not part of the current audit scope.
3.1.1 Language of Page (Level A)	Supports	Application content is available in English language, and this language is programmatically defined using the lang = "en" attribute in the <html> tag on all the web pages.

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3.2.1 On Focus (Level A)	Supports	The application does not have any feature/functionality that initiates a change of context on receiving keyboard focus.
3.2.2 On Input (Level A)	Supports	Application does not have any such feature / functionality that initiates a change of context on changing the setting of any user interface component.
3.2.6 Consistent Help (Level A 2.2 only)	Supports	The application provides a Help link in the footer section, which is consistently available across all pages. This ensures users can reliably locate help when needed.
3.3.1 Error Identification (Level A)	Not Applicable	This criterion is not applicable because the product does not include user input fields or forms where errors could occur.
3.3.2 Labels or Instructions (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most form fields in the application are properly labeled with meaningful text labels, and relevant instructions are provided to assist users in completing them. However, there are some exceptions where labels or instructions are missing or not clearly associated with the corresponding fields.

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
3.3.7 Redundant Entry (Level A 2.2 only)	Not Applicable	The application avoids using repeated form fields that would require users to re-enter information unnecessarily.
4.1.1 Parsing (Level A) WCAG 2.0 and 2.1 – Always answer ‘Supports’ WCAG 2.2 (obsolete and removed) - Does not apply	Supports	For WCAG 2.0 and 2.1, the September 2023 errata update indicates this criterion is always supported. See the WCAG 2.0 Editorial Errata and the WCAG 2.1 Editorial Errata .
4.1.2 Name, Role, Value (Level A)	Partially Supports	Most of the components present in the application have proper name/label/role/state and value, which helps screen reader users to know the actual purpose and nature of these components. However, there are a few exceptions where name, role, and value attributes are inappropriate for web elements.

Table 2: Success Criteria, Level AA

Notes:

Criteria	Conformance Level	Remarks and Explanations
1.2.4 Captions (Live) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	There is no live multimedia content available in the application.

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1.2.5 Audio Description (Prerecorded) (Level AA)	Does Not Support	Prerecorded synchronized media content on the Video page does not consistently include audio descriptions of visual information.
1.3.4 Orientation (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	Accessibility testing for this application has been conducted primarily on desktop platforms. Mobile device testing, including assessments on iOS and Android platforms, was not part of the current audit scope.
1.3.5 Identify Input Purpose (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Not Applicable	The product does not include user interface components that collect personal information or inputs where the purpose can be programmatically determined using autofill or personalization features.
1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum) (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Application has a sufficient contrast ratio i.e., 4.5:1 (For regular text) and 3:1 (For large text) for most of the color combinations used in the web pages. However, there are a few exceptions on the Video page where the color contrast ratio fails for the Increase font size, Decrease Font size, and other same level menu buttons.
1.4.4 Resize text (Level AA)	Supports	All of the page content remains operable and accessible when the text is resized up to 200% using browser zoom, aiding users with mild or low vision in viewing the application at an enlarged scale

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1.4.5 Images of Text (Level AA)	Not Applicable	The application does not use images of text; instead, regular text, HTML, and CSS are employed to present all meaningful content visually. There is a logo in the header, but logos are exempt from this success criterion.
1.4.10 Reflow (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially Supports	Most web pages in the application properly reflow into a single vertical column when the viewport width is reduced to 320px, supporting users on small screens. However, there are few exceptions where the content becomes truncated or cut off when zoomed up to 400%.
1.4.11 Non-text Contrast (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	The application provides sufficient contrast for different active user interface components. Non-Text UI elements such as buttons, input form fields, etc. have a contrast ratio of at least 3:1 to their adjacent colors.
1.4.12 Text Spacing (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	This success criterion has been validated for persons with low vision and reading disabilities using Steve Faulkner's Text Spacing Bookmarklet, and all the application content is easily readable and accessible after adjusting the text spacing using this tool.

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1.4.13 Content on Hover or Focus (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Supports	Most of the additional content that appears on keyboard focus or mouse hover is hoverable, dismissible, and persistent.
2.4.5 Multiple Ways (Level AA)	Supports	The application provides multiple ways to locate content, such as a search function and navigation menus. This ensures that users can easily find information using the method that best suits their needs, supporting accessibility for users with different preferences and abilities.
2.4.6 Headings and Labels (Level AA)	Partially Supports	Headings and labels throughout the application are generally descriptive, providing clear context and purpose. Most user interface components are appropriately labeled. However, the Visual and the programmatic name of the context menu on the Video page is not descriptive.
2.4.7 Focus Visible (Level AA)	Supports	A visible focus indicator is consistently present as users navigate through interactive elements using the keyboard. This ensures that users relying on keyboard navigation can clearly identify which element currently has focus, supporting efficient and accessible interaction throughout the interface.
2.4.11 Focus Not Obscured (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Supports	The platform ensures that when a component receives keyboard focus, the focus indicator is not hidden or obscured by other content. Visual focus is

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		consistently visible as users navigate through interactive elements.
2.5.7 Dragging Movements (Level AA 2.2 only)	Not Applicable	Application does not have any author created draggable components.
2.5.8 Target Size (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Partially Supports	All the interactive elements available in the application have a target size of 24 by 24 or above for the pointer inputs, that helps users with dexterity impairment to activate these controls independently while using specialized inputs or touch interfaces. However, there is an instance on the Home page when the search button has 30 X 20 target size beside the search edit box.
3.1.2 Language of Parts (Level AA)	Not Applicable	Application uses only one language “English” throughout web pages. There is no passage or phrase available in another language where the language of that content needs to be defined.
3.2.3 Consistent Navigation (Level AA)	Supports	Repeated components like navigation bars are occurring in the same order on every page of the application that helps users predict the location of these user interface elements after navigating to a new web page.

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3.2.4 Consistent Identification (Level AA)	Supports	Elements that have the same functionality across multiple pages in the application have the same labels or the same accessible name.
3.3.3 Error Suggestion (Level AA)	Not Applicable	This criterion is not applicable because the product does not include any user input mechanisms or forms where errors could occur.
3.3.4 Error Prevention (Legal, Financial, Data) (Level AA)	Not Applicable	This success criterion is related to legal commitment, financial data, etc. which involves serious risk, if no option is provided for the user to review or revert to the data before submission. However, this application does not have any such forms, where such risk is associated.
3.3.8 Accessible Authentication (Minimum) (Level AA 2.2 only)	Not Applicable	This test pass does not include any screens or workflows that require user authentication. As no login, CAPTCHA, or other authentication mechanisms are present in the evaluated scope.
4.1.3 Status Messages (Level AA 2.1 and 2.2)	Partially Supports	Most of the dynamic changes and alerts are automatically identified by assistive technology (Screen readers). However, there are a few exceptions where changes and alerts are not announced automatically.

Legal Disclaimer

The information provided in this document is in good faith based on the Gale database at the time of the review and does not represent a legally binding claim. Please contact us to report any accessibility errors or for re-evaluation and correction, if necessary.