

## Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT)

**Date: October 2013**

**Name of Product: MERLOT (Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching)**

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The scope of this VPAT covers [www.merlot.org](http://www.merlot.org). It does not cover info.merlot.org, contentbuilder.merlot.org, or MERLOT administrative or Editorial functions.

Refer to the [ITIC Best Practices](#) for filling out the following form.

Summary Table		
Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
Section 1194.21 <a href="#">Software Applications and Operating Systems</a>	Supports	1194.21 (a) and (l) are with exception.
Section 1194.22 <a href="#">Web-based internet information and applications</a>	Supports with Exceptions	
Section 1194.23 <a href="#">Telecommunications Products</a>	Not Applicable	
Section 1194.24 <a href="#">Video and Multi-media Products</a>	Not Applicable	
Section 1194.25 <a href="#">Self-Contained, Closed Products</a>	Not Applicable	
Section 1194.26 <a href="#">Desktop and Portable Computers</a>	Not Applicable	
Section 1194.31 <a href="#">Functional Performance Criteria</a>		
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Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems		
* Refer to ( <a href="http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/1194.21.htm">http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/1194.21.htm</a> ) for details on the guidelines listed below.		
Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(a) When software is designed to run on a system that has a keyboard, product functions shall be executable from a keyboard where the function itself or the result of performing a function can be discerned textually.	Supports with exceptions	MERLOT provides keyboard support to navigate between fields and links through tabbing. The MERLOT UI provides support for all functionality from the keyboard except for workspace which is limited to Editorial board staff and not the general user.

**Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems**

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<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Supporting Features</b>	<b>Remarks and explanations</b>
<p>(b) Applications shall not disrupt or disable activated features of other products that are identified as accessibility features, where those features are developed and documented according to industry standards. Applications also shall not disrupt or disable activated features of any operating system that are identified as accessibility features where the application programming interface for those accessibility features has been documented by the manufacturer of the operating system and is available to the product developer.</p>	<p>Supports</p>	<p>MERLOT does not disable OS accessibility features.</p>
<p>(c) A well-defined on-screen indication of the current focus shall be provided that moves among interactive interface elements as the input focus changes. The focus shall be programmatically exposed so that Assistive Technology can track focus and focus changes.</p>	<p>Supports</p>	<p>MERLOT provides a well-defined on-screen indication of the current focus that moves among interactive interface elements. Depending on the browser, these could be more or less prominent.</p>
<p>(d) Sufficient information about a user interface element including the identity, operation and state of the element shall be available to Assistive Technology. When an image represents a program element, the information conveyed by the image must also be available in text.</p>	<p>Supports with Exceptions</p>	<p>MERLOT elements (form controls, JavaScript controls, etc..) convey sufficient information about name, role, and state for the MERLOT home page and second level pages. "Old" MERLOT pages have not been changed to date to provide such information.</p>
<p>(e) When bitmap images are used to identify controls, status indicators, or other programmatic elements, the meaning assigned to those images shall be consistent throughout an application's performance.</p>	<p>Supports</p>	<p>All bitmap images used for a control, are used consistently across pages. This includes arrows for opening and closing sections. control.</p>
<p>(f) Textual information shall be provided through operating system functions for displaying text. The minimum information that shall be made available is text content, text input caret location, and text attributes.</p>	<p>Supports</p>	<p>MERLOT has moved all text off of images, other than the MERLOT logo. Where text is used, MERLOT is using standard text objects to enable a person to navigate.</p>

**Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems**

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Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(g) Applications shall not override user selected contrast and color selections and other individual display attributes.	Supports	MERLOT doesn't override user selected contrast and color selections or other individual display attributes if the user is using a browser with the ability to override web page colors. The exception to this inheritance and inline style is the login and help links. The Translation Widget is not under our control to modify.
(h) When animation is displayed, the information shall be displayable in at least one non-animated presentation mode at the option of the user.	Supports with exception	MERLOT does not display animation on the site with the exception of the news tile on the home page. There is a play/pause button for the tile to stop the animation. The exception is the use of the play/pause button for news feed on the home page when style sheets are disabled and the RSS tile on the Search page.
(i) Color coding shall not be used as the only means of conveying information, indicating an action, prompting a response, or distinguishing a visual element.	N/A	MERLOT does not provide color coding to convey information or indicate actions that prompt a response.
(j) When a product permits a user to adjust color and contrast settings, a variety of color selections capable of producing a range of contrast levels shall be provided.	N/A	MERLOT does not require nor have the capability for users to adjust color/contract settings within the website.
(k) Software shall not use flashing or blinking text, objects, or other elements having a flash or blink frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	Supports	MERLOT does not use flickering or blinking.

**Section 1194.21 Software Applications and Operating Systems**

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Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(l) When electronic forms are used, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	Supports with exceptions	Wizards or electronic forms within MERLOT allow users to tab through fields and navigation buttons for completion and submission as well as using HTML label elements for form elements so assistive technology can identify the purpose of the form element. Pages that don't consistently provide name information for form controls include pages that are still being updated: Advanced search pages (material and member) and wizards (join, contribute, create personal collection, learning exercise and rating).

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**Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet information and applications**

\* Refer to ( <http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/1194.22.htm> ) for details on the guidelines listed below.

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(a) A text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt", "longdesc", or in element content).	Supports	All functional images have descriptive alt tags Decorative images either have a null alt tag or are put in the style sheet and not exposed to AT.
(b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.	N/A	The MERLOT site does not deliver multimedia.
(c) Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup.	N/A	MERLOT does not make use of color to convey meaning.
(d) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.	Supports	MERLOT pages have a structure such that style sheets are not required to be readable.

**Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet information and applications**

\* Refer to ( <http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/1194.22.htm>) for details on the guidelines listed below.

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.	N/A	MERLOT does not require access to server side image maps.
(f) Client-side image maps shall be provided instead of server-side image maps except where the regions cannot be defined with an available geometric shape.	N/A	MERLOT does not use client-side image maps.
(g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.	Supports with exceptions	MERLOT does not use data tables except on the Advanced Search materials page and member profile page. These pages are in the process of being updated to address this issue.
(h) Markup shall be used to associate data cells and header cells for data tables that have two or more logical levels of row or column headers.	N/A	MERLOT does not contain data tables with multiple levels of headings
(i) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation	N/A	MERLOT does not use frames.
(j) Pages shall be designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz.	Supports	MERLOT does not create flickering content; however, the news tile does have animation.
(k) A text-only page, with equivalent information or functionality, shall be provided to make a web site comply with the provisions of this part, when compliance cannot be accomplished in any other way. The content of the text-only page shall be updated whenever the primary page changes.	N/A	MERLOT does not have the need to create a text-only page
(l) When pages utilize scripting languages to display content, or to create interface elements, the information provided by the script shall be identified with functional text that can be read by Assistive Technology.	Supports	Scripted interface elements have been implemented to work with Assistive Technology, including the JavaScript-based language selection tool at the bottom of the landing page which is operable via keyboard alone. The JavaScript controls that expand/collapse the advanced search sections are operable via keyboard alone as well.

**Section 1194.22 Web-based Internet information and applications**

\* Refer to ( <http://www.access-board.gov/sec508/guide/1194.22.htm>) for details on the guidelines listed below.

Criteria	Supporting Features	Remarks and explanations
(m) When a web page requires that an applet, plug-in or other application be present on the client system to interpret page content, the page must provide a link to a plug-in or applet that complies with 1194.21(a) through (l).	N/A	MERLOT does not utilize or require applets or plug-ins on the client system. Resources listed in MERLOT may utilize or require such applets and are the responsibility of the site which hosts that resource.
(n) When electronic forms are designed to be completed on-line, the form shall allow people using Assistive Technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of the form, including all directions and cues.	Supports with exceptions	Forms elements in MERLOT convey information to the user to allow form completion using assistive technology. They convey information about name role and state. Each field has an instruction for the user. The exception to this are check boxes on the Advanced search pages.
(o) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.	Supports	A skip navigation link is provided at the top of each page to skip the header content.
(p) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.	N/A	MERLOT does not require timed responses

Note to 1194.22: The Board interprets paragraphs (a) through (k) of this section as consistent with the following priority 1 Checkpoints of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0 (WCAG 1.0) (May 5 1999) published by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium: Paragraph (a) - 1.1, (b) - 1.4, (c) - 2.1, (d) - 6.1, (e) - 1.2, (f) - 9.1, (g) - 5.1, (h) - 5.2, (i) - 12.1, (j) - 7.1, (k) - 11.4.

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**Section 1194.31 Functional Performance Criteria**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Supporting Features</b>	<b>Remarks and explanations</b>
(a) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user vision shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are blind or visually impaired shall be provided.	Supports with exception	MERLOT can be used with a screen reader. MERLOT provides tool tips which are also read as part of a text field tag. As well as using the aria-label and aria-labeled by attributes for items that need a readout from a screen reader but don't need a tooltip that would confuse sighted users. Exceptions are on the Advanced search material page and Step 5 of the Contribute Wizard.
(b) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require visual acuity greater than 20/70 shall be provided in audio and enlarged print output working together or independently, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are visually impaired shall be provided.	Supports with exception	Assistive Technology used by people who are visually impaired should work with the site; however, it has not been verified that text can be read when magnified to 200%. Text may be enlarged using the browser's text size function to view the site pages. The MERLOT Home page is the exception. There is a navigation bar with redundant links that scale better than the home page tiles. Pages that don't degrade gracefully are the home page and second level pages plus the hit list page.
(c) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user hearing shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people who are deaf or hard of hearing shall be provided	N/A	MERLOT does not require hearing to access any pages on the site.
(d) Where audio information is important for the use of a product, at least one mode of operation and information retrieval shall be provided in an enhanced auditory fashion, or support for assistive hearing devices shall be provided.	N/A	Audio information is not required for the use of MERLOT.
(e) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require user speech shall be provided, or support for Assistive Technology used by people with disabilities shall be provided.	N/A	MERLOT does not require user speech to access any pages on the site.
(f) At least one mode of operation and information retrieval that does not require fine motor control or simultaneous actions and that is operable with limited reach and strength shall be provided.	Supports with exceptions	MERLOT provides support for keyboard access to most features at www.merlot.org. See 1194.22(L) for exceptions.

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**Section 1194.41 Information, documentation, and support**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Supporting Features</b>	<b>Remarks and explanations</b>
(a) Product support documentation provided to end-users shall be made available in alternate formats upon request, at no additional charge.	Supports	All help documentation is online and can be emailed to a user if requested.
(b) End-users shall have access to a description of the accessibility and compatibility features of products in alternate formats or alternate methods upon request, at no additional charge.	Supports	Accessibility features are available online in HTML format and can be provides upon request.
(c) Support services for products shall accommodate the communication needs of end-users with disabilities.	Supports	Contact information for MERLOT is a link in the footer which is to a text-based email. Additional contact information is available in Help, under Contact MERLOT. This should meet the needs of most persons with disabilities.

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