Koha Accessibility Hackathon

What we want to cover today?

- Set the background
- Define some principles and processes around accessibility
- Gauge interest globally for accessibility
- Discuss requirements for other regions
- Push through some accessibility bugs!

Background - Koha

- Koha has a long history of trying to keep up with accessibility standards; We've had our highs and lows:
  - The Highs
    - July 2020 our first ACC guideline was added to the coding guidelines
    - October 2020 we created the 'Accessibility advocate' community role
    - KohaCon20 showed some focus towards accessibility
    - We are facing an increasing amount of scrutiny over accessibility, with rigorous external testing taking place more often since 2019.
  - The Lows
    - We no longer adhere to even A level WCAG 2.1 guidelines in the OPAC and the Staff client hasn't been thoroughly tested in as long as I can remember.
    - Koha is very flexible, this unfortunately makes it very easy to "shoot oneself in the foot" accessibility wise if great care isn't taken when using content blocks and preferences.
    - Accessibility has been worked on piecemeal without a strong ongoing focus and little strong ongoing leadership to date.

PTFS Europe perspective

- In the UK we are bound by strict legislation on public sector websites
- The accessibility regulations came into force for public sector bodies on 23 September 2018
  - meet the international WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility standard – although there may be valid legal reasons for not meeting accessibility standards
  - publish an accessibility statement that explains how accessible your website or mobile app is
- EVERY UK tender has a mandatory requirement on accessibility
- We regularly get assessed against this standard

Case study – The British Museum, London

- External audit carried out by The Shaw Trust
- The website is manually tested by an in-house team of experienced pan-disabled testers, many of which use assistive technologies. The team is made up of individuals with different disabilities to cover the widest range of accessibility barriers as possible.
- Testing on a wide range of assistive technologies including JAWS and NVDA screen readers, Dragon voice activation software and ZoomText magnification. They test the true accessibility of a wide range of web platforms against Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)
- Some automated tools do not test every WCAG criterion, and it can be difficult to determine the quality of accessibility solutions

Case study – The British Museum, London

- The British Museum (Library) website met 6 of the 18 (33%) applicable success criteria required for level A conformance and 6 of the 14 (43%) applicable success criteria required for level AA conformance.
- HTML Customisations can break accessibility (how do we handle that? Warnings?)
- We have no Accessibility Statement in Koha
- Quality of catalogue records can put you in breach of standards!

Accessibility in Koha

- We have fixed a lot in 22.11 as a result of this report!
- We have had a LOT of regression since earlier versions of Koha
- We'd welcome ideas on how we prevent regression!
- Where does this leave the accessibility of the staff interface (intranet)?

Is there interest in funding accessibility support?

- Legislation is coming to a country near you soon!
  - https://www.whoisaccessible.com/guidelines/international-web-accessibility-laws-and-policies/
  - Public Sector and Government organisations – where libraries often reside – are the first to have mandatory compliance requirements
  - Most national legislation either references WCAG or is based on the principles of WCAG – background on WCAG
- WCAG 2.2 is nearly on us and…
- WCAG 3.0 will follow not far behind
- Keeping up is an issue but…
- Compliance easier for all if we all work towards the same goal

Is there interest in funding accessibility support?

- Some organisations in the community already co-fund QA processes
- Many support companies and libraries in the community co-fund development
- Is there an appetite to pool resources around accessibility compliance?
  - What would be the agreed goal? WCAG 2.x?
  - What would we fund? Eg annual Shaw Trust audit – up to €10k/year
  - How would we respond to an external audit?
  - How would we co-ordinate the work?
- UK context means that PTFS Europe would be happy to lead on this

WCAG 2.1 (AA) – High level failings

Four key areas were identified as failing:

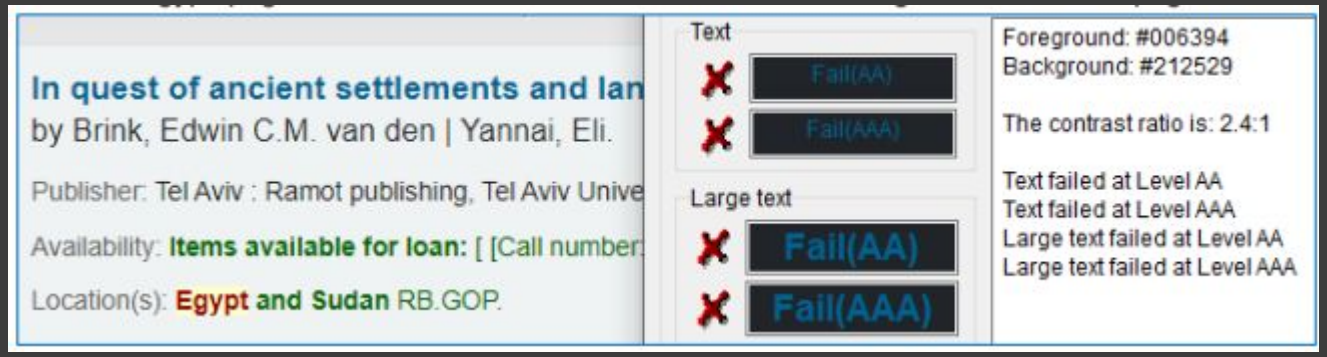
- Insufficient colour contrast
- Language changes not coded
- Obscured text
- Responsive design

Insufficient Colour Contrast

The minimum colour contrast ratio between the foreground and background should be at least 4.5:1. For large text, the ratio can be lowered to 3:1. Text is considered large if it is

- *greater than 18 point (approx. 24px) or*
- *greater than 14 point (approx. 18.6px) if bolded (font-weight:700 or more).*

For interactive elements, the contrast between the element and the background should be 3:1.



This has been fixed in bug 26765, released in 23.05.00 and 23.11.03!

Can we catch regressions at QA?

Language changes not coded

Each time the language changes on a page, the word, sentence or paragraph must have the correct language attribute attached. For example:

* This paragraph is written in English. *

* Ce paragraphe est écrit en français. *

Example finding from the report:

Language changes not coded

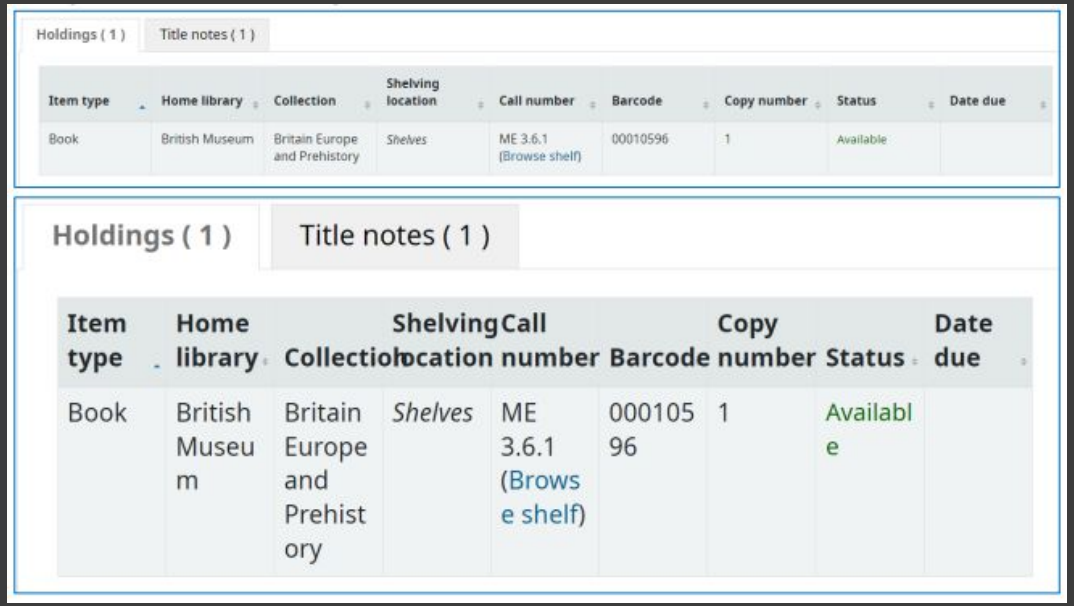
These are details from within a bibliographic record - do these bib records contain language data for the fields displaying in alternate languages?

There 'might' be some MARC21 way around this cataloguing wise (and we'd need to add XSLT to understand that field and add lang="" attributes to said fields)

Alternatively, we can add an exception to the accessibility statement to state we know there's an issue and a fix is a longer term goal.

Obscured Text

When increasing the text size/page magnification, there is overlapping text in some table headers:

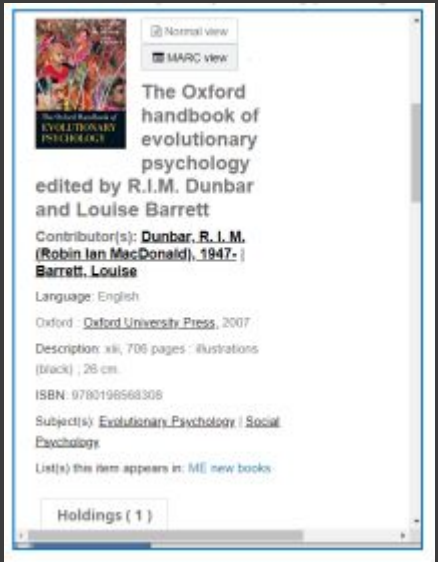


This still appears to be an issue in the current master branch.

Question:
Should we add “zoom level” tests to our QA process/Guidelines?

Responsive design

Users with visual impairments often enlarge web content to make it easier to see. When content is enlarged to 400% zoom or viewed on a screen with a width of 320 CSS pixels, content should be presented to a user with no loss of information or functionality, and without requiring scrolling in two dimensions.



Left Image = Before
Right Image = After

Appears to be fixed in current master branch

Workshop output

- Define how to integrate more accessibility checks into QA process
- Resolve (and agree) on outstanding accessibility issues
- Define an accessibility statement for Koha

Suggestions for what to look at now...

- Bug 23003 - Accessibility improvements (Bugs to work on are all linked to this collector bug) - Lots of bugs here that can be worked on
- Discuss recommended cataloguing practices for multilingual catalogue records.
- Bug 34543 - Content block accessibility helpers (Investigating TinyMCE and accessibility options we can add here to encourage better practice in the HTML Customisations blocks)
- Electing someone to the ‘Accessibility advocate role’
- Bug 34556 - Add a template ‘Accessibility Statement’ using the “Pages” feature as part of the example data available from the installer?
- Matt’s list of bugs in the queue
- Bug 34555 - Add regression test for 'insufficient contrast' accessibility failures

Accessibility statements

https://www.ub.lu.se/accessibility-lubcat

Koha Accessibility Hackathon