



## Vitae RDF Planner – Accessibility Statement

This accessibility statement covers the aims and approach that Vitae has taken to accessibility for the Vitae RDF Planner.

### Overview

Vitae recognise that many different forms of disability affect access to the web and we have been proactive in ensuring that the RDF Planner meets user needs. Making a website accessible means adhering to established and carefully developed standards to ensure all users can access the RDF Planner successfully.

### Our aims

Our principal aim for accessibility is to ensure that the RDF Planner, wherever possible, meets the needs of our disabled users and offers an accessible and inclusive environment. Strategically aligned to Vitae initiatives such as [Every Researcher Counts: equality and diversity in researcher careers in HEIs](#) and [PREMIA](#), we have aimed, wherever possible, to adhere to the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 AA standard.

### Our approach

To date, our approach to developing the RDF Planner has been to ensure its design is usable, intuitive and simple for as many of RDF Planner users as possible.

Our community focused approach to development aims to provide an effective feedback mechanism by which our network of users can easily contribute development ideas and report experiences of using the application. User feedback is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure issues are resolved and development ideas are effectively prioritised.

Vitae commissioned [AbilityNet](#) to conduct a comprehensive accessibility compliance review of the RDF Planner. Recommendations from this review have been implemented to ensure, wherever possible, the RDF Planner is compliant with the W3C WCAG 2.0 AA standard.

As a quality assurance measure, all new feature releases and changes to the RDF Planner undergo the following:

- Cross Browser testing for Internet Explorer (version 8, 9 and 10), Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari.
- Validating HTML against W3C WCAG 2.0 standards using [WAVE accessibility tool](#).
- Ensuring PDFs are well formatted and undergo accessibility tests.
- All multimedia based resources and support have alternative formats e.g. transcripts.

### Contacts

If you have any questions, or if you wish to provide feedback related to the accessibility of the Vitae RDF Planner, please contact [rdfplannerhelpdesk@vitae.ac.uk](mailto:rdfplannerhelpdesk@vitae.ac.uk).

## Researcher Development Framework Planner

A representative number of pages were checked from the <http://www.rdfplanner.net/> for accessibility compliance.

The site reaches a high level of accessibility by following conventions and standards, and as such will provide users with an accessible experience.

They were subjected to both a low level code audit, checking adherence to the internationally recognised Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) version 2 (<http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>) and a high level test using a range of assistive technologies (ATs). Used together, these approaches can provide a comprehensive overview of site's accessibility status.

While the code audit raises issues usually of a more semantic nature, the expert AT test complements this by typically highlighting real world accessibility problems, often not covered by the official guidelines.

Standards and conventions have clearly been followed when implementing this website and this was shown by the relatively few number of accessibility issues found. Those that were found were promptly and satisfactorily addressed.

A key requirement of both the guidelines and AT testing, is that any information conveyed by non-text content (e.g. images, video, animations etc), is also available as text. The site is primarily text based, text being an inherently accessible medium, with any images having appropriate alt text.

Another key requirement is that is that pages are coded semantically, that is that headings are coded as headings (not simply as larger text), lists are coded using appropriate HTML elements and so on. Done in this way, the underlying structure of pages properly reflects the visual appearance of those pages, and allows both browsers and assistive technologies to properly display the content to users. In this case, all content was well coded, using appropriate elements throughout, and following recognised standards.

From the audit and subsequent recheck of the site, the site can be confirmed as complying with both the priority1 and priority 2 guidelines as specified in the web content accessibility guidelines (<http://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG20/>). This provides assurance that a base standard of accessibility has been met.

The review was completed on **12 April 2013**. Websites are subject to change and at the time of review the templates were found to meet the required accessibility standards.