The following VPAT provides a sample format used to evaluate IT Standards applicable to Web-Based Internet Information and Applications established in Section 4.3 of the official IT Standards**.** The standards are based on the Federal Section 508 Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Standards developed by the Access Board as well as the access guidelines, version 1.0, developed by the Web Accessibility Initiative of the World Wide Web Consortium. These provisions ensure access for people with visual, hearing, motor and cognitive disabilities who rely on various assistive products to access computer-based information, such as screen readers. Screen readers translate the computer screen display into automated audible output and refreshable Braille displays. Certain conventions, such as verbal tags or identification of graphics and format devices, such as frames, are necessary so that these devices can "read" them for the user in a sensible way. The standards do not prohibit the use of Web site graphics or animation. Instead, the standards help ensure that such information is also available in an accessible format. Generally, this means use of text labels or descriptors for graphics and certain format

Responses to "Meet Standard and How" and "Not Applicable and Why" should be completed in detail. Simple "yes" or "comply" answers provide insufficient information necessary to conduct an informed assessment.

Product Name/Description: Britannica Online

Date VPAT Completed: 06-13-2011

Supplier Name: Britannica Digital Learning

Name of Person Completing Form: Rick Lumsden

Telephone Number: (312) 347-7363

Web-based Internet information and applications - IT Standards Section 4.3
Voluntary Product Accessibility Template
Criteria: (a) A meaningful text equivalent for every non-text element shall be provided (e.g., via "alt", "longdesc", or in element content) except for captioning of audio information which shall comply with (b) of this section.
Supporting Features: Supports with Exceptions
Remarks and explanations: Visual components of Britannica Online typically include text support. This ranges from captions on pictures and illustrations to audio compents and text transcripts for all interactive lessons. Navigation elements in Britannica Online include "alt" tags.

Criteria: (b) Equivalent alternatives for any multimedia presentation shall be synchronized with the presentation.
Supporting Features: Supports with Exceptions
Remarks and explanations: Multimedia lessons include text transcripts for all audio narration. However, video clips and full-length videos do not include text transcripts.

Criteria: (c) Web pages shall be designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color, for example from context or markup. Ensure that foreground and background color combinations provide sufficient contrast when viewed by someone having color deficits or when viewed on a black and white screen.

Supporting Features: Supports with Exceptions

Remarks and explanations: Navigation and content are not dependent on color. For instance, while each level of Britannica Online School Edition is identified by color, they are also distinguished by text and graphic elements.

Criteria: (d) Documents shall be organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet.

Supporting Features: Supports

Remarks and explanations: Britannica Online content is readable without an associated style sheet.

Criteria: (e) Redundant text links shall be provided for each active region of a server-side image map.

Supporting Features: Supports with Exceptions

Remarks and explanations: Image maps in Britannica Online typically have redundant text links in most places. However, coverage is not 100%.

Criteria: (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.

Supporting Features: Supports

Remarks and explanations: Image map coordinates in most images are viewable in the browser source code and are readable with assistive technology.

Criteria: (g) Row and column headers shall be identified for data tables.

Supporting Features: Supports

Remarks and explanations: All data tables in Britannica Online School Edition include column headers.

Criteria: (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.

Supporting Features: Supports

Remarks and explanations: Standard table rendering mark-up is included in all tables so that they assemble correctly. However, no special mark-ups are added specifically for assistive technology.

Criteria: (i) Frames shall be titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation

Supporting Features: Not Applicable

Remarks and explanations: With the exception of a small number of older interactive lessons, frames are not used used in Britannica Online.

Criteria: (j) Pages and elements shall be designed so that screen flicker does not occur between frequencies 2 Hz and 55 Hz.

Supporting Features: Supports

Remarks and explanations: Britannica uses standard Web imaging and have had no reported occurances of screen flickering.

Criteria: (k) A text-only page, with equivalent information or functionality, shall be provided to make a web site comply with the provisions of these standards when compliance cannot be accomplished in any other way. The content of the text-only page shall be updated whenever the primary page changes. The non-accessible version must be as accessible as possible.

Supporting Features: Supports through Equivalent Facilitation

Remarks and explanations: Britannica sites allow nearly complete functionality with adaptive software without providing an alternate interface.

Criteria: (l) When pages utilize scripting or other programmatic elements to display content, the information provided by the script shall also be provided in an equivalent text format that can be processed and interpreted by assistive technology. When pages utilize scripting or other programmatic elements to create user interfaces, user interaction shall be input device independent.

Supporting Features: Supports

Remarks and explanations: Pages do not utilize scripting or other hidden programatic elements to display content.

Criteria: (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 Oklahoma Software Applications and Operating Systems standards (a) through (l).

Supporting Features: Supports

Remarks and explanations: Most features of Britannica Online do not require plug-ins. Some multimedia elements do require standard plug-ins that are freely avaialble on the Web. Links to downloads of these plug-ins are provided on the Britannica Online site.

Criteria: (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.

Supporting Features: Not Applicable

Remarks and explanations: Electronic forms are not required for use of Britannica Online.

Criteria: (o) A method shall be provided that permits users to skip repetitive navigation links.

Supporting Features: Not Applicable

Remarks and explanations: Britannica Online is designed to minimize any use of repetitive navigation.

Criteria: (p) When a timed response is required, the user shall be alerted and given sufficient time to indicate more time is required.

Supporting Features: Not Applicable

Remarks and explanations: Timed responses are not required during use of Britannica Online.

Criteria: (q) Use valid, industry recognized web programming standards including a document type definition or the equivalent.

Supporting Features: Supports

Remarks and explanations: Britannica uses valid, industry recognized web programming standards. Document type definitions are used to ensure that Britannica's content is well formed and industry standard.

Criteria: (r) Identify the primary natural language of the document.

Supporting Features: Supports

Remarks and explanations: EN (English)

Criteria: (s) A link to the agency's Web site accessibility policy (if existing) and contact information for compliance issues related to the accessibility of electronic and information technology shall be included on home pages and other key pages.

Supporting Features: Supports

Remarks and explanations: Links to Britannica's corporate statement on accessibility and contact information are posted on each page in the Help link. Accessibility policy: http://help.eb.com/bolsek12/us/Accessibility_Policy.htm   Contact information: http://help.eb.com/bolsek12/us/Contact_Us.htm