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Digital publishing — EPUB accessibility — Conformance and discoverability requirements for EPUB publications

Edition numérique — EPUB accessibilité — Exigences de conformité et de découverte pour EPUB publications



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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) and IEC (the International Electrotechnical Commission) form the specialized system for worldwide standardization. National bodies that are members of ISO or IEC participate in the development of International Standards through technical committees established by the respective organization to deal with particular fields of technical activity. ISO and IEC technical committees collaborate in fields of mutual interest. Other international organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO and IEC, also take part in the work.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO and IEC shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents) or the IEC list of patent declarations received (see patents.iec.ch).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 34, *Document description and processing languages*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

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Introduction

This document, EPUB accessibility, addresses two key needs in the EPUB® ecosystem:

— discoverability of the accessible qualities of EPUB publications;

— evaluation and certification of accessible EPUB publications.

The provision of accessibility metadata facilitates informed decisions about the usability of an EPUB publication. Consumers can review the qualities of the content and decide whether an EPUB publication is appropriate for their needs, regardless of whether it meets the bar of being certified broadly accessible. At a minimum, all EPUB publications that conform to this document meet the accessibility metadata requirements described in Clause 6.

Although it has always been possible to create EPUB publications with a high degree of accessibility, this document also sets formal requirements for content to be certified as accessible. These requirements provide authors a clear set of guidelines to evaluate their content against and allow certification of quality. An accessible EPUB publication is one that meets the accessibility requirements as described in Clause 7.

The document also establishes how to identify content that is optimized for specific user needs so cannot meet broad accessibility requirements. The requirements for optimized publications are described in Clause 8.

This document does not target a single version of EPUB. It is designed to be applicable to EPUB publications that conform to any version or profile (e.g. EPUB 2[5] or ISO/IEC 23736-1), including future versions of the standard.

Ideally, these guidelines will be instructive in evaluating any digital publication built on Open Web technologies, although ensuring such application is outside the scope of this document.

NOTE For additional background on the decisions that went into this document, refer to EPUB Accessibility Frequently Asked Questions[6].

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Digital publishing — EPUB accessibility — Conformance and discoverability requirements for EPUB publications

1 Scope

This document specifies content conformance requirements for verifying the accessibility of EPUB publications. It also specifies accessibility metadata requirements for the discoverability of EPUB publications.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 15836-2, *Information and documentation — The Dublin Core metadata element set — Part 2: DCMI Properties and classes*

ISO/IEC 23736-2, *Information technology — Digital publishing — EPUB 3.0.1 — Part 2: Publications*

ISO/IEC 40500, *Information technology — W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0*

RFC 3987, Internationalized Resource Identifiers (IRIs). M Duerst, et al. January 2005. Available at https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3987

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 23736-2 and ISO/IEC 40500 apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at http://www.electropedia.org/

4 Success techniques

This document takes an abstract approach to the accessibility requirements for EPUB publications, similar to how WCAG 2.0 (ISO/IEC 40500) separates its accessibility guidelines from the techniques to achieve them. This approach allows the guidelines to remain stable even as the format evolves.

To facilitate this approach, the companion EPUB Accessibility Techniques[7] document outlines conformance techniques. These techniques explain how to meet the requirements of this document for different versions of EPUB.

5 Application to older versions

This document is designed to be applicable to any EPUB publication, even if the content conforms to an older version of EPUB that does not refer to this document (e.g. EPUB 2[5]).

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