

Preliminary Accessibility Assessment

Brass Bulletin | 15 September 2026

This document discloses the accessibility evidence currently available for Brass Bulletin. It is a preliminary assessment, not a completed VPAT or Accessibility Conformance Report (ACR), and does not claim full WCAG or Section 508 conformance.

Publication and restoration

The Craft CMS website at <https://brass-bulletin.com> progressively restores historical articles as searchable text read directly on the web with illustrations. Scanned magazine PDFs preserve the original layouts; they are separate from this article restoration work. Not every historical article, page, image or musical example has an equivalent web version. The service also includes newly written articles from 2026 onward. Completion of historical article digitization is planned for February 2028; this is not an accessibility remediation deadline.

Scope and methods

Testing on 15 September 2026 covered selected public and local development pages, keyboard interaction, browser accessibility trees, screenshots, computed styles, and local PDF and media inspection. Public checks covered the homepage and Contact page. Broader local checks covered article browsing and reading, an issue page, Stories, institutional information and the initial subscription form. Codex assisted the review; it was not independent third-party certification. The Codex in-app browser and Firefox on macOS were used; exact versions were not fully recorded. No complete automated standards audit or actual VoiceOver, NVDA or JAWS spoken-output test was completed.

Interface evidence

Local corrections address navigation dialog names, visible keyboard focus, search labels and status announcements, contact-field purposes and low-contrast article navigation and copyright text. Video labels use the associated article or story title. Image templates prefer supplied Craft alternative text; missing descriptions are not generated automatically. Sample checks verified these local corrections. Selected pages were inspected at 320 CSS pixels wide and the article index at 200% zoom, without obvious clipping in the inspected regions. These are sample findings, not site-wide ratings. The fixes require live-site verification; local results do not establish production behavior.

Historical PDFs

Full magazine PDFs are subscriber-only scans; Journal PDFs and special inserts are free scans. The initial review found no extractable text, structure tags or declared language in 14 local public-folder PDFs totaling 182 pages. An OCR pilot for issue 24 provides extractable text on 52 of 56 pages, but lacks tags and language metadata; sampled text has recognition and reading-order problems. These PDFs must not be regarded as fully accessible. OCR alone does not establish accessibility.

Images and media

Some meaningful images retain generic descriptions such as “Example 1.” Complex musical notation may need extended explanations or accessible transcription; equivalent descriptions of sampled figures remain unverified. Sample videos contain embedded quotation text, but completeness and synchronization with audio were not verified. No separate caption tracks were found in inspected assets and players. This does not determine whether the visible text meets caption requirements. Media alternatives and audio description remain unverified.

Remaining evaluation and assistance

Further work is needed on actual screen-reader output, broader keyboard and mobile flows, form errors, signed-in features, institutional IP/proxy access, PDF reading order and media alternatives. A complete institutional journey and all third-party components were not evaluated. Institutions may use this disclosure to assess suitability and discuss specific access needs. Any alternative-format service, response time, remediation scope or deadline must be agreed separately in writing. No archive-wide PDF remediation or historical-content exemption is asserted. Original facsimiles will remain available; OCR and targeted improvements may be prioritized against identified needs and agreed requirements. This assessment will be reviewed as new evidence and material changes become available.

Contact

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