Pure Portal accessibility updates (28.10.2021, version 5.21.0)

Elsevier has improved many existing features to now align with the WCAG 2.1 AA standards. The main improvements focus on:

- Introducing semantic HTML: semantic HTML allows screen readers to better signpost our pages for better navigation. It also improves SEO (Search engine optimization).
- Keyboard accessibility: using the portal with keyboards only has been improved significantly and keyboard traps have been removed.
- Screen reader accessibility: information is now conveyed more correctly as we revised some WAI-ARIA labels and removed others, letting the browser handle these elements with its native behavior.
- Visual contrast: enhancements to links and buttons make it much easier to distinguish between normal text and links thanks to underlines, hover/focus color changes, and other styling methods.

They will update the Pure Portal Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) within the next month. This will reflect the latest changes. The current VPAT can be found via the 'Accessibility Statement' page of your Portal, via the link in the footer.

Here is a more detailed list of the improvements introduced in this release.

**General accessibility:**

- 'Similar profile' popup is now accessible.
- Default focus is set on search input.
- All dropdowns have received a major overhaul, including keyboard navigation, roles and improved WAI-ARIA.
- All navigations have also received an overhaul regarding WAI-ARIA and keyboard navigation.
- Tooltips are labelled as such in accordance with WCAG standards.
- Search filter inputs are now categorized with 'fieldset' and 'legend' tags.
- 'Fingerprint' headline on content pages now only contains the 'Fingerprint' text and not the description underneath.
- Collaboration map for Community Portals now has the 'Select country from list' button.
- The 'scope' attribute that identifies whether a cell is a header for the row, column, or group of rows/columns, is now added to tables.

**Keyboard accessibility:**

- Graphs on profile pages can now be accessed with keyboard.
- 'Cite this' keyboard trap has been resolved: it is now possible to SHIFT + TAB outside of the box.
- 'Scroll to top' button now works with pressing ENTER.
- Search filter check boxes can now be activated with pressing SPACE.
Screen reader accessibility:

- The count in the main navigation (e.g. Research output 127) is now conveyed to screen readers.
- Fingerprint percentage is now communicated to screen readers.