# MINUTES - LPD/SC meeting Brussels, Belgium

**SC1: 26 February 2018; 9:00 – 17:00 (Muntpunt Library/Luisterpunt Bibliotheek)**

**SC2: 27 February 2018, 09:00 – 15:00 (Muntpunt Library)**

1. **Opening and Welcome**

The Chair of the LPD Section, Kirsi Ylänne, welcomes all standing committee members to the meeting.

1. **Apologies**

Virginia Inés Simón (REDCPD, Argentina)

1. **Introductions and Attendance list**

*In attendance:*

Mike Marlin (Braille & Talking Book Library California State Library, American Library Association– USA)

Kirsi Ylänne (Celia Library, Finland)

Kristina Passad (MTM, Sweden)

Karen Keninger (NLS , USA)

Jelena Lesaja (Croatian Library for the Blind, Croatia)

Yasmine Youssef (Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt)

Anthea Taylor (Vision Australia)

Ingvild Aanensen (NLB, Norway)

Christian Felsmann (German Central Library for the Blind, Germany)

Flora van den Berg (Bibliotheekservice Passend Lezen , The Netherlands)

Hiroshi Kawamura (ATDO, Japan)

*Observers:*

Geert Ruebens (Flemish Library for Audiobooks and Braille, Belgium)

Saskia Boets (Flemish Library for Audiobooks and Braille, Belgium)

Diego Anthoons ((Flemish Library for Audiobooks and Braille, Belgium)

Francisco Martinez (ONCE, Spain)

Bárbara Martín (ONCE, Spain)

Koen Krikhaar (Dedicon, The Netherlands)

Richard Orme (DAISY Consortium, UK)

Monica Halil (ABC, Switzerland)

Lisa Wadors (Benetech, USA)

Victoria Owen (University of Toronto, Canada)

Teresa Hackett (EIFL, Lithuania)

1. **Accepting the agenda / adding last minute items**

The meeting accepted the agenda.

1. **Minutes of meeting**

The meeting accepted the minutes of Poland meeting with the addition of few names to the list of Guidelines working group.

1. **Some words from Luisterpuntbibliotheek. (Geert)**

Geert thanks the committee for accepting the invitation. And he wishes all a successful meeting. He explains the schedule of the three days; first half of the LPD meeting is in Muntpunt Library, then the LPD group will visit Luisterpunt library, then meeting will continue there. And the second day of the LPD meeting will resume in Muntpunt once again, afterwards LPD committee will take a tour of the library. The third day the symposium will be held, and Geert confirms there’s a lot of interest, 63 librarians have signed up to participate, most are coming from outside Belgium.

1. **SC membership matters**

Kirsi reminds everyone that the call for new members for the new term (2019-2022) will be open by the end of this year. So for those whose term ends 2019, don’t miss the deadline announced by IFLA. Kirsi will follow up the deadlines and remind everyone.

1. **News from Egypt: what has happened after MT symposium in 2017**

There was a hearing early January in the parliament with representatives from the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the parliament has initially agreed the ratification of the treaty and has requested a report from the Ministry of Culture. Once, the report is submitted to the parliament, it shall get final approval. We are hoping this will be finalized before the end of 2018.

1. **Plan guidelines for library services for persons with print disabilities. Symposium on 28 Feb in Brussels**

The symposium is the first step in the preparation of the guidelines. Saskia gave a brief to the committee on the program of the symposium:

-The program is open to other target groups other than the print disabled, focusing on new types of guidelines, and new types of target groups, like the deaf, persons suffering from Dementia and also new comers.

-The symposium will be live streamed through the YouTube channel of Luisterpunt Bibliotheek.

- LSN posted information about the symposium, so we are expecting more audience to follow it online.

-There will be sign language interpretation, as some members who are HOH will be attending. The symposium will help us answer the questions: what what kind of guidelines are needed, who should these guidelines be aimed for, and whether we produce new guidelines, for the print disabled or target wider audience.

-Kirsi and Yasmine will work on a proposal to IFLA and discuss it with the committee in Kuala Lumpur. Either update the current or start a new one. Committee will decide in Kuala Lumpur. Action Item 1

-Kirsi also suggests continuning the discussion on the guideline through Basecamp.

1. **News from LSN about the WLIC Satellite in Singapore August 2018**

-LSN and Children and Young Adults sections are organizing a satellite conference on the 23rd of August 2018. One day before the beginning of the conference, Kirsi is encouraging LPD members to participate if possible. Misako confirms there are so many flights on Thursday night to make it before the WLIC.

-Deadline to submit paper proposal for the conference ends on the 28th of February.

-Currently, LSN are working on a survey on library programs and services for people who are deaf and hard of hearing, the survey is open till the end of March.

-They are also writing Guidelines on library services for people who are deaf, HOH and deaf blind. The survey is conducted to gather examples of library services and programs that meet the needs of people who are deaf or HOH.

-Kirsi will send the link to the survey to the committee, and encourages members to participate and encourage their networks to do so. Action Item 2

-The dissemination of guidelines of library services to people who suffer from homelessness.

-They are working on an accessibility report to IFLA conference they will finalize the report in their midterm meeting in March and would like to send it to LPD for review before sending it to IFLA. Kirsi will add it to Basecamp.

1. **A proposal of arranging a library visit to the Malaysian library for the blind (Karen)**

Karen has suggested earlier to the committee to arrange for a group visit to the Malaysian Library for the Blind during the Congress. She contacted the library, and is still waiting for a response from them. Karen will coordinate the visit and inform the LPD committee of the date and time of the tour. Action Item 3

1. **WLIC 2018 session in Kuala Lumpur**

-Deadline for submitting the details is 1st of April.

-Victoria Owen will speak about the Marrakesh treaty guidelines. Kirsi also asked Monica for a representative from ABC to speak on their behalf. Hiroshi will speak about disseminating the Marrakesh Treaty in the South Eastern Asian region.

1. **Mid-term meeting in 2019:**

Kirsi suggests that the 2019 mid-term meeting be held in Helsinki. This will be a good opportunity to visit the new central library which will open in December 2018. Kirsi is also suggesting organizing a one-day seminar and she will send a proposal to the committee. The theme will revolve around accessible reading. The committee will decide on the location and dates of the meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

1. **WLIC 2019 session in Athens**

The committee discussed ideas for the Athens session theme. Karen suggests a theme around technology and what’s new in e-books. And Kirsi also suggests discussing the European Accessibility Act that should cover e-books and e-readers, and from there discuss technology, and other legislations around the world on accessibility. The theme will be decided in Kuala Lumpur meeting.

1. **WLIC Satellite Meeting in 2019**

Kirsi suggests collaborating with LSN for a satellite meeting in Athens and committee agrees to approach LSN for a potential collaboration. We still don’t have a local contact in Greece to arrange the satellite meeting. Kirsi and Yasmine will contact the library of the Blind and also search potential local hosts. Action item 4

1. **IFLA Global Vision, next steps**

The president’s meeting and the Global vision workshop will be held in March in Barcelona, all officers are invited. Kirsi and Yasmine will be attending on behalf of LPD. The theme of the president’s meeting: leading the way: libraries as motors for change. The IFLA global vision report, results from last year’s discussion and voting will be launched there. The officers’ workshop is the kick off the second round of Global vision workshops, and will be followed by six regional workshops.

Kirsi suggests using Zoom for the online discussed and basecamp for gathering answers and votes instead of using a Facebook group. Mike confirms it’s accessible and the committee agrees to use it. Kirsi also suggests uploading all LPD documents on basecamp instead of sending them through email.

IFLA will renew their website and it will be launched before the WLIC in Kuala Lumpur, Kirsi encourages the committee to review the new website once launched and check it’s accessibility. She has already approached IFLA HQ asking them to review the template of both the action plan and annual report as they are not fully accessible and is hoping for a positive feedback from their side.

1. **Communication update: Social Media strategy**

Kristina updates the committee on the progress of social media activity after the implementation of the new strategy.

Last year three newsletters were published, two of them were translated into Spanish and one was translated into Arabic.

This year the number of members of the Facebook group has increased by 10%. Now the Facebook group has reached 75. And the Facebook page has reached 153 members. And the newsletter has 122 subscribers. On Twitter followers have increased from 86 last year to 118.

Kristina asked for ideas to for the newsletter, Yasmine suggests news about the symposium, Mike also suggests an article about lib guides. Kristina thinks it should out as soon as possible, and asked LPD committee to write about their impressions about the symposium. The deadline is 15th of March to submit articles about the symposium. Action item 5.

1. **Plan more active communication in Latin America. A proposal by Virginia Ines Simon and Mónica Urzúa Cerpa**

Virginia and Monica worked on a proposal for a communication plan for Latin America. The committee discussed the suggestion included in the plan to use the same Facebook and twitter accounts for English and Spanish content. It’s not clear in the proposal whether they will be translating Spanish content back to English. The Committee is not sure this will be practical but all agree to try out this practice. So committee agrees that it’s better to set up separate accounts for the Spanish speaking community, and it’s been agreed to ask Monica to do it. Monica with the help of Virginia will be responsible for running the Spanish content through the social media accounts of LPD. Reports on implementing plan are expected at SC meetings. Action item 6.

1. **ABC update.**

Monica Halil Lövblad (WIPO) gave the committee a brief presentation on the latest updates on the three main areas:

**Global Book Service:**

We currently have 29 Authorized Entities in the service, with over 376,000 books. 165,000 books lent to patrons, 11,00 digital files downloaded and 24,000 authorizations obtained from copyright owners.

Tiflonexos from Argentina (30,000 Spanish titles) and Fundacion Braille de Uruguay (4000 Spanish title) joined recently. With the addition of the catalogues of Tiflonexos and FBU of Uruguay, the number of Spanish language books will increase to 35,200.

Top Users of Service are: AVH – France (2500 downloads), BF – New Zealand (2300 downloads)

CNIB – Canada (1700 downloads), VA – Australia (1000 downloads), SALB – South Africa (750 downloads)

Some new features have been added to the books service: FTP / Bulk download and upload of digital files and Implementation of Spanish and French UI. And they are currently developing other features such as Subject and audience categories, a new B2B2C Pilot and Advance search fields.

**Capacity Building :**

ABC has provided training and technical assistance to organizations in the following countries: Argentina, Bangladesh, Botswana, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Uruguay. ABC is in the process of establishing projects in Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Colombia, Mexico and Nigeria.

**Inclusive Publishing:**

ABC promotes the production of “born accessible” works by publishers, that is, books that are usable from the start by both sighted persons and the print disabled through its support of the ABC Charter for Accessible Publishing, which contains eight high-level aspirational principles relating to digital publications in accessible formats that publishers are invited to sign.

We went out with a large procurement process. Now have three companies that can provide training and technical assistance – and we hope to provide training in EPUB3 and DAISY to NGOs, publishers and the Departments of Education.

ABC International Excellence Award – record number of nominees this year. Short list is out. This year ABC again organized the ABC International Excellence Award for Accessible Publishing. The awards are presented annually at the London Book Fair recognize these organizations for outstanding achievement in the advancement of the accessibility of digital publications.

Two guides were released in 2016 to supplement the existing online resources on accessible publishing located on the ABC website: Accessibility Guidelines for Self-Publishing Authors and Starter Kit for Accessible Publishing in Developing Countries**.**

1. **A proposal of arranging a meeting for ASEAN during WLIC 2018 in Kuala Lumpur.**

There’s a suggesiton to hold a meeting for Asian and Oceania countries during the Kuala Lumpur congres, and Anthea will share more information with the comittee once details are confirmed.

1. **DAISY Consortium News. Richard Orme**

Richard updates the committee on the latest activities of the consortium in their main three domains:

-First supporting specialist libraries, through standards, technologies and some services. New versions of OBI and TOBI have been released. OBI is used in developing countries, as it´s easy for low resource settings to produce DAISY books. Also, a new version of pipeline was released, the software is used by libraries to help them use the files they have already created and move them to other formats.

-Creating a common protocol so that apps and devices can connect to a library to be able to go online, and this is the DAISY online protocol, to make it easy for technology manufactures, to connect to libraries. Different libraries are implementing online delivery instead of physical distribution of CDS. This is, how to do it in a way that works for their patrons and is achievable for the library and its services.

-They are also working on the rise of intelligent speakers, like Amazon Echo , Alexa and the Google assistant. These technologies are designed to simplify technology and make it more user friendly. These devices can be used to search a library and play audio books. Several DAISY members are now experimenting with these intelligent speakers, to find a good way for people who are not comfortable with using an app, to be able to have an online device that´s very friendly and easy to use, to get access to their special libraries. NFB did a demonstration in Baltimore, of their news line service, and it´s really effective. Many DAISY libraries are looking into making use of this technology. Google is also willing to collaborate with specialist libraries, to build this sort of technology, and make use of mainstream technology, as it´s more effective.

-The second theme of what they do in DAISY is enabling mainstream solutions for publishing. It´s not about the DAISY format, but about enabling reading for people with print disabilities, and that´s way the board took a decision a few years ago, to discontinue the development of the DAISY standard, and to start building the DAISY features into the mainstream standard and this what has been achieved with EPUB standard. It has been a success, because all publishers and technology companies publish in EPUB and create and develop EPUB solution, so all accessibility features are now in mainstream devices. The Consortium is now working with DAISY members and other collaborators. They have developed a protocol that evaluates these apps for accessibility features and then they feed them back to the apps’ developers. People with print disabilities are involved in these evaluations. This has helped so many reading solutions to improve in terms of accessibility.

The protocol is a website called [www.epubtest.org](http://www.epubtest.org) . You can download an EPUB book from the website and then start the testing process. In the last 18 months there have been evaluations of about 140 different groups of reading systems and apps. Since the data is unfriendly, they are now writing articles about the reviews to make them more friendly. DAISY consortium is in search for more volunteers to do some testing reading systems.

DAISY launched a software called ACE (Accessibility checker for EPUB) this tool can be used by publishers to know whether their EPUB files are accessible enough or not. The consortium worked with publishers, to make sure that they cater to publisher’s needs. Hachette livre, has implemented it in their production chain as well as Random house, are now using it as part of their digital production work flow. It also can be useful for libraries, to check that the books they purchase are conformant with the EPUB accessibility specifications. As well as the tool, DAISY has also created ACE SMART, a web based form that helps publishers do an accessibility check manually.

The third item is extending reading to communities that don’t have access to accessible reading due to low resources.

1. **WBU news**

-Chris Friend is retiring, and Bárbara Martín is replacing him. And she will be representing the WBU in the LPD committee as an observer.

-It is expected that by October the number of countries that have ratified increases to 60. The WBU has two implementation guides, the first was done by experts in copyright and human right law. It can be accessed through the WBU webpage. It's been translated into French, Spanish and Russian. The European Blind Union is working on translating it into other languages; Portuguese, Hungarian and Czech and they are working on the Arabic translation too. The second one is a pocket guide, it's also available on the website in English and French.

-Last April, the WBU held a workshop about the Marrakesh treaty. Participants represented 18 different countries from the six regions that are members of the WBU, and the aim of the workshop was to guarantee that people were aware of the Marrakesh treaty so that they would spread the word and make it easier to understand the treaty and how to use it at all levels into their own countries.

-They have been working also through their communication channels such as twitter and Facebook. The official languages of their social media are English, French and Spanish. And it's has been doing a great job in a very small period.

-The WBU is represented in the ABC board representing the blind perspective, along with Perkins, Sight Savers and ICEVI.

-WBU has collaborated in the IFLA Guide for the Marrakesh treaty with funding.

-World Blind Union has received an award on "Marrakesh Treaty Ratification and Implementation Campaign” from ZeroProject, an initiative of the Essl Foundation which focuses on the rights of persons with disabilities globally. WBU was selected jointly with WIPO as an Innovative Policy of the Zero Project 2018! The awards were presented at Zero Project Conference 2018 on "Accessibility" held in Vienna, 21 – 23 February 2018.

Marrakesh Treaty ratification/implementation so far across the globe:

-In Africa, there are 8 ratifications, a lot of work has been done in Nigeria. WBU in collaboration with the African Union of the Blind, are organizing conferences and workshops to make sure they are in line and they are ready for implementation.

-In Asia there are four ratifications and three are coming soon: Bangladesh, Jordan and Qatar. Asian Blind union are also working to develop their own national plans for national advocacy.

- In Asia pacific there is a total of five ratifications, the main challenge is linguistic, as they have many languages. They are now working on advocacy and capacity building across the region.

-Regarding Europe, the treaty will be implemented by EU in October.

-In September WIPO organized an event in Russia, to make sure that the Russian speaking countries are working together and that everyone understands the treaty.

- In Latin America, with 13 ratifications so far, WIPO and government copyright officials signed a declaration document with agreements to the work that they will do to ensure the effective implementation of the treaty.

- In North America and the Caribbean, there are two ratiocinations. The US is doing a good job, and the bill for ratification is expected to be submitted by the senate in the first quarter of 2018. The Caribbean is also very encouraging.

-WBU also organized a workshop in Slovenia, to make sure that the Balkans get together and join forces to establish good connections and work jointly on the implementation of the treaty.

1. **Benetech updates**

Benetech has just launched its Global Certified accessible program , which helps publishers have a comprehensive assessment of how their files are doing on the accessibility world. They’re doing this program with a few partners: RNIB, Vision Australia and Dedicon. They've also worked with publishers to make sure that while they're creating content, they're creating it in an accessible format like Elsevier, Macmillan, Random House. And publishers are starting to be more and more responsive.

They are also working on guidelines on how to create accessible documents, it has around 27 tips and it's mainly for an average person creating their own accessible content, for example teachers, as some schools create their own documentation on their own.

Benetech are working nationally and internationally with libraries across the world now to make sure as many people as possible get access to accessible publications.

They support national and across the border distribution of accessible books. Currently they are in 80 countries, they have over 600,000 titles in their collection, they add about 7,000 titles a month. They are working with 850 publishing partners to get the digital files in the collection, so that the books are available in the Bookshare collection the same day they are available in amazon or in the book stores. And so far they have delivered over 12 million books in these 80 countries. All books are available in many formats: Digital braille, mp3, word documents, EPUB, DAISY, DAISY Audio to make sure that they are available in all possible formats that people can access.

They operate under both Business to Business and also Business to consumer, so that eligible readers have the choice to search for books that they want either through their library or directly through Bookshare.

Lisa explained how they work with libraries, one example is through purchasing memberships for the library patrons, and patrons don't have to pay for it. Another way of collaboration is through hosting the library collection like RNIB in the UK and CELA in Canada. Another way is helping libraries federate their information, so when you do a search internationally you can see which country has which books. They are a technology company, and are leveraging this technology. They want the patron to find the books on their own, and that they don't have to wait. Some libraries opt for membership, some share collections with other libraries, they can also manage your collection including conversions and storage that’s also possible.

1. **Collaboration with IFLA to create Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Guide   
   (27 Feb, at 9.30-11.00)**

Victoria Owen presents ‘The Last Mile’ Implementing The Marrakesh Treaty For Persons With Print Disabilities A Practical Guide For Librarians. They’ve been working on it for a year now.

The guide will be in the form of FAQ. Francisco, Karen, Christiane, Flora, Jessica Coats , Anthea and Teresa Hacket, are part of the working group that wrote and reviewed the content.

Victoria sent out the latest version to the committee before the meeting to discuss it and hear comments of the group on what's been done so far in the guide. Victoria is encouraging members to translate or to adapt it to their own national laws and personalize it to their countries, they're welcome.

Committee members and observers went through all the questions and gave their comments. The guide will be available electronically most probably through the IFLA website, and it will also be printed.

Saskia suggested a new title for the guide "Getting Started" and members agreed on this title.

Yasmine will send names and affiliation of attendees to Victoria. Action tem 7

1. **Provide information about organization serving persons with print disabilities. A list of libraries on LPD’s webpage.**

Kirsi suggests we start this contact list, with the contact information of the LPD standing committee members, and then Kiri and Yasmine will start contacting the rest of the LPD members of the Section. Committee members should send contact information of their libraries to Yasmine. Action item 8

1. **Reports from members including the status of MT ratification / implementation in their own country.**

Flora suggests creating an excel sheet where LPS members fill in their statistics, as it will be useful to other to look at. Action item 9

See Annexure 3

## ****Annexxure 1: Action items (Belgium Meeting)****

1. Kirsi and Yasmine will work on a proposal to IFLA and discuss it with the committee in Kuala Lumpur. Action Item 1

2. Kirsi will send the link to the survey of LSN for libraries for the deaf and HOH to the committee. Action Item 2

3. Karen will coordinate the visit to the Malaysian Library for the Blind and inform the LPD committee of the date and time of the tour. Action Item 3

4. Kirsi and Yasmine will search potential local hosts for the satellite preconference in 2019. Action item 4

5. LPD committee to write about their impressions on the symposium. Action item 5

6. Monica will be responsible for running the Spanish content through the social media accounts of LPD with the help of Virginia. Action item 6

7. Committee members should send contact information of their libraries to Yasmine. Action item 8

8. Flora suggests creating an excel sheet where LPS members fill in their statistics, as it will be useful to other to look at. Action item 9

## ****Annexxure 2: Action Items (Poland Meeting)****

Action item 1: Jelena, Mike and Flora volunteered to develop a logo for the LPD Section Geert volunteered to draft the one page Flyer of LPD section. **Status: Done**

Action item 3: Mike will check the accessibility of Basecamp **Status: Done**

Action item 4: The newsletter will be translated into three languages: French (Laurette), Spanish (Virginia) and Arabic (Yasmine) **Status: ongoing**

Action item 5 : Monica and Virginia will create an LPD Facebook page for Spanish speakers **Status: pending**

Action item 6 : Saskia will present the Flemish Library in the coming newsletter. **Status: Done**

Action item 7 : The following members signed up for the LPD Guidlines working group: Kirsi, Mike, Anthea, Laurette, Monica, Saskia, Nedlejka, Kristina, Kari and Yasmine. **Status: ongoing**

Action item 8: Jelena will distribute questions about recommendations for libraries on how to value their collections and collect answers from LPD members **Status: Done**

## ****Annexure 3: Reports from Libraries:****

1. **USA**

Marrakesh ratification is getting some light again—no guarantee whether it will go through this time.

* **NLS**

NLS plans to purchase braille e-readers for a major pilot project this year. If it goes well, we hope to implement for all braille readers who want them. The goal is to convert the braille program from hardcopy to digital braille with hard-copy only on demand.

Current BRF flat file digital braille needs modernization. Hoping to move to an epub-based navigable format soon.

NLS is engaged in in-depth strategic planning and development of a strategic roadmap for the next five years and move to the next generation of talking book and braille services.

NLS just launched a multimedia, TV and radio ad campaign. Initial results are very favorable. The goal is to increase readership among older blind and visually impaired eligible nonusers. Television ad can be viewed on the NLS website at [www.loc.gov/nls](http://www.loc.gov/nls)

 NLS just completed a major renovation to its facility. It was a two—year project and looks good.

NLS is adding more commercially recorded audio books to its collection through a mix of partnerships and purchases. Patrons are pleased.

* **California Braille and Talking Book Library**

California is part of the national library service network, and our library serves about 10,000 individuals, and there are two regional libraries for the national library services, California library serves the northern half of the state, and southern California library serving 20,000 to 30,000 members.

Circulation last year was about 600,000 titles of which 25% were downloaded, so both libraries make around 2.3 milliion circulations.

We are in the early phase of piloting this model called Patron Centric Cartridges, we’re trying to teach our patrons to be loaned cartridges that have multiple titles on them, to try to stream line the circulation process and the amount of storage they need to store individual books. That will lead to more streamlined and more productive exchanges with our users. We just hired a new studio coordinator, and we’re looking at content by authors living in California or about californina themes. We add about 2,000 titles to the national network.

* **ALA:**

The big challenge for us and many of other libraries in the US is funding, due to budget shrinking, we rely on the federal government to provide money to us through what's called the Institute of Museums and Library Services. The current US president proposed the elimination of this institution, which is instrumental in funding a lot of libraries for the blind and tribal libraries. This means that libraries have to advocate for the politicians to restore the funding. We were able to do it last year, through a concentrated campaign and we did restore it and also increase it.

1. **Norway**

* **Marrakech Treaty**

Norway signed the Marrakesh Treaty in 2014, and a parliamentary proposal will be presented in 2018 with a proposal for Norway to accede to the treaty. Provisions for the use of intellectual property for persons with disabilities, are currently regulated by the intellectual property laws and regulations of the intellectual property laws. In the proposal for a new intellectual property act (Prop. 104 L (2016-2017) Copyright Act on intellectual property, etc.), a regulation has been proposed to implement the Marrakech Treaty in Norwegian law.

* **NLB**

The number of books lent and the number of patrons and registrations are increasing.

This is due to three elements:

Statped (a national service for special needs education) offers audio books (and braille). We have been planning cooperation for a time, and last August (2017) the cooperation came into force. Teachers and pupils can now use our app Lydhør to borrow and use their school-books. Teachers record the pupils in the Statpded system, and the pupils can use the patron number and PIN to borrow NLB books as well.

We are working on a project with some public libraries on how to cooperate closer. The project is not completed, but it might have led to greater attention and knowledge about NLB in some public libraries.

Simplified registration of new patrons: instead of enclosing a confirmation on their print disability, new patrons sign a declaration that they have read and understood our lending rules, and that they can send a confirmation from a professional if we ask them to do so. It seems to be some misuse, and we have to evaluate.

Our administration and administrative functions have been transferred to The National Library of Norway, and our former staff on finance, human resources and archives are now employed by them. We buy services from The National Library, and are still responsible for economy, HR and so on.

1. **Sweden**

* **Marrakech Treaty**

In Sweden, we have a new a proposal for a new law, and there has been discussions, between MTM and the government, and there's no plans for remuneration. We have asked to make the beneifiary any person who as a reading impairment and limit it to print disabled.

* **MTM**

Last Autumn, we worked on a strategy for the future, what will MTM be like in three years’ time. First, we focused on the users and their need. Secondly, MTM's relation to the Market, and we will try to make it possible to reach everyone. And the third area, is the organizational culture of MTM, we want to be seen as an attractive employer. And the fourth to reach out to more persons, and make sure everyone knows about the opportunity to read regardless of their reading impairment.

Also last autumn, we launched a new strategy for the children and young people, and another for the multilingual works.

We are continuing the Nordic collaboration, and will work together closely with Norway and Finland to produce titles in Northern Sami. We are currently using ABC Global Book Service, and currently are downloading 20 titles per week from ABC. We automatically give ABC our own production titles.

Last year, we started a reading panel, at MTM wanted to know things about the content of the titles in Legimus to help them with book selection, so they gathered 30 readers, and asked them questions twice last year, and their answers were important for them.

1. **Australia:**

* **Marrakesh Treaty**

In December 2017, the copyright law was updated, although they had the exceptions already in their laws. It came out on the 22nd of December.

* **Vision Australia**

VA is planning a restructure. And we are focusing on community engagement, access and delivery and the collection. We have also been working on the Australian inclusive publishing initiative which started in 2016 as a meeting of stakeholders, advocacy groups, government departments and publishers. The publishers’ association facilitated the meeting. We decided to work with publishers and help them to publish born accessible publications, and there was a lot of positive response. So it's becoming a more collaborative group.

We have been working with Hachette Australia to convert some of their collection of Audio books into DAISY format, and also we have been training their staff to make the DAISY conversion. They're still working with them whether they would start selling these titles to other organizations, and maybe later to individuals. We are also collaborating with another producer of audio books for libraries, they are very keen to do the same thing, but in this case they will purchase the book and do the conversion. They are also very keen to sell these titles to organizations.

They are looking at a simplified version for registration for clients. To make it more efficient, and effective, and help them get service faster.

We also started Library access project, to end producing CDs by the end of 2018. We are working their way through that, they have advised their clients who have been receiving their books on CDs. They have other options, like downloading or using their new DAISY player, that will be launched in CSUN.

1. **Germany:**

* **Marrakesh Treaty**

Marrakesh Treaty: We are involved in the negotiations with the publishers’ association, the Federal ministry of justice and others so to set up a new copyright law. The biggest point in all the talks and discussions is about the remuneration. All the people are very interested in having a remuneration. For now we have this as well and we are responsible paying already (12 € each production either Braille as well as DAISY, furthermore 0,12 € each digital loan), but to go along with the Treaty - we are not allowed to get the money from the users - they might work on a very own version. Thanks to the offer of the SBS in Zürich we might be able to serve a digital service to the dyslexic people soon.

* **German Central Library for the Blind**

Since the DZB has her own App we have more loans than ever. We have given more than 200.000 DAISY books to our users: about 65.000 of those via download and streaming. In the middle of 2017 we have stopped putting CD books on the archives, we just keep them in a digital way and offer them as a CD in an envelope or via download/streaming. Besides we gave about 12.000 Braille hard cover books (literature as well as music scores) to the users.  The majority of the titles we do produce within the DZB.  
- Networking with public libraries: In 2016 we started a project called „Chance Inclusion“. With one colleague responsible we now have more than 60 libraries telling about our services and librarians being the contact person to our library. We do invite every single interested librarian to our house, so to show the production side, the possibilities of accessibility, to show the catalogue and the (DAISY) technique. We talk about the Marrakesh Treaty as well and tell everybody about the capabilities.  
- In cooperation with the German Association for the Blind and Visual Impaired People we run a bus going around the state of Saxony (part of Germany) so to counsel people about sight loss, eye diseases and library services. We do get in contact with a lot of people in the countryside.   
- BACC: Based on ACE - a software from the Daisy Consortium - we develop a BACC- a Born accessible content checker. This is supposed to be a tool specially for publisher so to check if the e-book produced is an accessible book or not. It is there to help publishers to produce more e-books for everybody.  
- We have made up an action plan until 2025; one goal is to get a proper name, like „German Centre for accessible media“

1. **Croatia**

* **Marrakesh Treaty**

We are preparing for a symposium on Marrakesh treaty planned for May 2018. We have also started the conversation and negotiations with the copyright agency, ministry of culture and publishers about the Marrakesh treaty. The copyright agencies suggested they change their contract with narrators from authors contract to a service contract. Our national copyright law was very limited, they didn't mention exceptions for the benefit of persons with handicap, according to their invalidity. We saw the draft of the document, and our suggestions about broadening the copyright law was included; that it should be more specific, people with visual impairment, perceptual, and physical disability. We asked them to make the list of entities providing accessible format. The implementation draft had a paragraph about cross border exchange only included EU member states. Which is not good, as they wanted to exchange titles with countires from former Yugoslavia. There will be remuneration in the new law.

* **Croatian Library for the Blind**

We have around 3000 registered members. But number of active members in 2017 is 1008 members. Number of newly recruited 180 members.

The number of loans of audio books was 32,220 titles, numbers of books downloaded from the internet was 11,356. Number of loans of braille 760 titles. And the total number of borrowed books was 44,387 titles. Meaning that average each member borrows 44 titles per year.

They have a standard of production of magazines, 80 issues per year. They organized 22 various events: cultural and educational. In 2017, the library donated 5,200 books in standard print to other libraries, mostly to Jail and hospital libraries. We are still going on with their cooperation with public and school libraries. We give workshops on accessible formats.

We are still understaffed and waiting for approval from the Ministry of culture to fill in the empty positions. We have decided to start the non-returning CD services, as it was costly for the ministry of culture to cover it. So we do lend and return CD service. The number of users that prefer download service is increasing; the service started in 2015 and 35% of users switched to it since then.

1. **Finland**

* **Marrakesh Treaty**

Some changes to the current copyright are needed. Now only certain institutions have right to produce audio books. There is a compensation clause: right holders are entitled to remuneration if a print disabled person will permanently have a copy of an audio/talking book (on CD or downloaded file) .

* **Celia Library**

We are renewing our library system and customer interface. There are still problems with the usability of the interface. Proportion of digital loans increasing, over 50 % this year. On the other hand, heavy restrictions on cd loans. 14 CDs per month for old customers. We are waiting for renewing Act on library for the visually impaired.

We have about 35,000 clients.

1. **Spain**

* **Marrakesh Treaty**

We had an access to the draft law in December from the Ministry, and were allowed to give our input and suggestions. The first draft was good, they didn't make big amendments.

* **ONCE**

We are facing two main Challenges in library, first one is moving our new production from DAISY 2.02 to DAISY 3, this task will take some time now, and the second is how the users will cope with the new version and start using it. There also plans to move the archive to DAISY 3 but that will be later.

As for the Online library, most of our loans are now online, almost 85%, DAISY and Braille books can be downloaded. The number of users is around 5,000 registered users.

1. **Belgium**

* **Marrakesh Treaty**

The copyright law is in the process of being amended. In February there was a first draft of the amendment of the copyright law, it's being discussed within a group that represent the right holders. The draft looks good from the point of view of Luisterpunt, and there is no mention of remuneration or commercial availability, and all benefits of Marrakesh will be implemented. The draft will be voted in the Belgian parliament next summer.

* **Luisterpunt Bibliotheek**

We have 25,000 DAISY books and 15,000 Braille Books. We have about 6,000 patrons, 48% use DAISY online books. They can use either DAISY online or DAISY on a CD. More than 30% are patrons with dyslexia, their number is increasing. We allow libraries to create DAISY online books shelves for their patrons, our cooperation with public library is important, especially for children and patrons with dyslexia, so they can go to their local library and ask for a DAISY book. And they can log in to the app and start reading.

1. **The Netherlands**

* **Marrakesh Treaty**

The Ministry of Justice, and that of education and culture organized a hearing where stakeholders where able to express their opinions about authorized entities and how that can be organized and whether they should have remuneration in the Netherlands . They have also announced in this meeting that the copyright law will be changed and there will be another exception specifically for the print disabled people into the copyright law without letting go of the generic handicap exception which is also existing in the copyright law.

There’s a round table meeting with the ministry of education and culture with publishers and other stakeholders to find a way to facilitate for the publishers to publish their educational material in an accessible format.

* **Dedicon**

Production: There's an increase in title production, in 2017 more titles were added to the collection, because we imported more from Belgium and the ABC catalogue. And also in the Netherlands we have two collections that are divided by different regulations one for schools and the second for leisure readers. We are able to transfer more of the educational titles and make them available for leisure service, as they are interested in non-fictional material. We are expecting to do more transfers in the future.

We did a project last year to establish a Braille authority in the Netherlands and Flanders, which was a big step for the region and the language. The project has ended but it succeeded in securing a three year funding for this authority to continue the work. As the project was only to establish the authority. And they did some work on the 6 dot Braille standard, and also established a website where Braille enthusiasts can apply for changes. And then the committee will review it and either reject it or implement in the next version of the standard. They also look into music standards for Braille.

We did some development for the DAISY reader app, we were able to implement a DT book reading functionality into the app, and it had an effect on everything in the app but now they have a more stable DT book reader into the DAISY reader app, which allows people to have access to daily newspapers in text and 22 magazines in text, which they can access with their Text to speech device . they are working on voice control, as they believe in the future of this technology they are working with the native augmented speech recognition in the device itself, and we are happy to demonstrate the test version of it in the coming weeks.

We finished the project called product road map, in which we outlined a possible future for the formats to develop into multimedia, and we try to create consensus within the stakeholders group, and which steps should we take to come up in the end with an ideal product that the end user can have a choice to whether they will access the audio/ text or switch from one modality to another.

We did a quick survey of the sustainability of the CD technology. Some LPD member libraries participated. It was triggered by the steps Vision Australia is taking to end the use of CDs. We are ready to send the main findings.

* **Bibliotheekservice Passend Lezen**

We implemented a new website and we did some research and enforced marketing strategies. This year we are focusing on books for youth and elderly. we have a project with many volunteers throughout the Netherlands, to make sure we are reaching out to our customers since we are a virtual library and we don’t have a location patrons can visit.

We found out it’s difficult to build an app because of the other underlying infrastructure, so the next few years we will focus on renovating the current infrastructure to be more accessible and agile. Also, we have exchanged audio books with Luisterpunt Library.

In 2017, we have acquired new 500 customers.

1. **Japan**

* **Marrakesh Treaty**

The ratification process has already started and the parliament is currently discussing the ratification process. It's expected that Japan will ratify in a few months.

* **SAPI Library**

Online library joint effort about 330 organizations that includes 100 libraries for the blind across the country. The name of the online library is SAPI, it’s a Greek word. The library holds 180,000 Braille titles, 80,000 DAISY titles, there are many duplications among the oldest organizations, if they accumulate their current holdings, that reaches to 660,000 titles but each year the SAPI library increases by 50,000 titles including Braille and DAISY.

Apart from SAPI library, there’s a national library which coordinates with other libraries and produces DAISY books for academic titles, and they have 8,000 academic titles. The SAPI library together with the national library are going to provide the main "AE" Services and the Marrakesh Treaty is ratified. ATDO will take care of the international exchange once the treaty is in force in Japan.

1. **Egypt**

* **Bibliotheca Alexandrina**

Bibliotheca Alexandrina is starting a collaboration with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and other Japanese organizations to disseminate accessible publishing and the DAISY technology. ATDO is part of this collaboration as well, providing the technical consultancy. Through the collaboration a number of seminars will be held to promote accessible reading and publishing and advocate for ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty.

We currently have 1443 Braille titles in our collection, 441 titles for young people, 13 periodicals, 1095 audio titles and 207 titles.

We have 650 members and only 155 active members.