



**Newsletter**, October 2016  
**IFLA Libraries Serving Persons with Print  
Disabilities Section**

2016

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This is the IFLA/LPD Newsletter  
for 2016

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## **Inclusive Publishing: Emerging Tools and Methods**

The DAISY Community consists of innovative people, libraries, for-profit companies, and other organizations working to improve access to information.

We have come far in two decades; much has been learned about developing semantically rich content that can be read and navigated by anyone with a print disability. Open standards enable sharing and reduce costs. Accessible publications provide print-disabled users with a wealth of material which they have never had access to before.

By joining the DAISY Consortium, members share tools, techniques, workflows, and expertise. This helps to make the most of precious resources and avoid duplication of effort. The Marrakesh Treaty, when widely adopted, will also increase the availability of accessible publications.

New digital technologies continue to bring positive changes, but Inclusive Publishing is still in its infancy in many countries.

Through active partnerships with industry bodies, we continue developing and promoting specifications, so that accessibility features are widely implemented in mainstream publications and

supported by reading applications and devices.

Therefore, we are very pleased that Google.org selected DAISY Consortium from 1,000 applicants as one of the winners of the [Google Impact Challenge: Disabilities](#).

To bring more accessible publications to readers everywhere, we are now building the online **Inclusive Publishing Hub**. Located at [inclusivepublishing.org](http://inclusivepublishing.org), this will be a central place where publishing practitioners, accessibility experts, educators, and developers are welcome to share knowledge, get help, learn and connect.

The Google.org grant has also accelerated the DAISY Consortium's work to develop baseline requirements for accessible books. This includes supporting guidelines, accessibility certification and new tools that help publishers check the essential accessibility of their publications.

### **EPUB Accessibility Spec Sets Formal Requirements**

The new EPUB [accessibility specification](#) draft was published in September 2016. This new specification comes with the [accessibility techniques document](#). Although developed as part of [EPUB 3.1](#) to provide guidance on making EPUB publications

accessible, new guidelines are designed to be equally applicable to older versions of the specification.

The [EPUB Accessibility specification](#) addresses two apparent needs of the accessible EPUB® ecosystem:

1. Evaluation and certification of accessible EPUB Publications.
2. Discovery of the accessibility features of EPUB Publications.

It has always been possible to create EPUB Publications with a high degree of accessibility. The new specification sets formal requirements providing Authors a clear set of guidelines for evaluating their content.

The inclusion of accessibility metadata enables informed decisions about the usability of an EPUB Publication. Consumers can review the content and decide whether an EPUB Publication is appropriate for their needs.

This specification defines three categories of compliance for EPUB Publications:

**Discovery-only:** this EPUB Publication meets the discovery metadata requirements, but does not meet the accessibility requirements.

Conformance is defined in the [Discovery-Enabled EPUB Publications](#).

**Accessible:** this EPUB Publication meets all discovery, WCAG 2.0 and EPUB accessibility requirements. Conformance is defined in [Accessible EPUB Publications](#).

**Optimized:** this EPUB Publication meets the discovery requirements for Optimizations. Conformance is defined in [Optimized EPUB Publications](#).

EPUB Accessibility specification does not target a single version of EPUB. It is designed to apply to EPUB Publications that conform to any version or profile, including future versions of the standard.

These guidelines will be instructive in evaluating any digital publication built on Open Web technologies. Ensuring such application is outside the scope of this specification.

The Working Group including DAISY Consortium team members collected input regarding feasibility in September 2016. Feedback is gathered using the [IDPF GitHub issue tracker](#). More information about EPUB 3.1 and the new accessibility specification will be provided in the coming months.

Furthermore, reading systems will be evaluated to review their

support for the Accessibility Baseline.

To join the DAISY Community or learn more, please visit [daisy.org](http://daisy.org)

*Varju Luceno, Director of Communications, DAISY Consortium*

## **The Marrakesh Treaty became operational on 30th September 2016 - so is this a job done or is this still work in progress?**

### **Who can benefit from the provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty?**

All blind, visually impaired and other print disabled men, women and children provided that their Government has ratified the Marrakesh Treaty and embedded its provisions into their national copyright law.

### **Which countries have so far ratified the Marrakesh Treaty?**

At the time of writing 22 countries in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and Asia have ratified it. However, more than 160 countries have not yet ratified it and are excluding their blind, visually impaired and other print disabled

readers from benefiting from the Treaty. The list of countries ratified is automatically updated on the WIPO website

[http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ShowResults.jsp?lang=en&treaty\\_id=843](http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ShowResults.jsp?lang=en&treaty_id=843)

### **What are the provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty which assist blind, visually impaired and other print disabled readers?**

Until September 30, 2016, it was illegal to share accessible books, in braille, large print, Daisy or other audio formats, between blind people and their organisations in different countries. This was because all books have copyright which is managed through national jurisdiction.

The Marrakesh Treaty breaks new ground as it provides blind, visually impaired and other print disabled readers with Exceptions to Copyright, allowing them and their organisations to share book collections in accessible formats across national borders with neighbouring countries and other same language countries. This is the first treaty from UN WIPO which has balanced the rights of publishers and authors with the rights of the beneficiaries

## **Work in progress for IFLA and WBU national members to help blind, visually impaired and other print disabled readers in their country**

It is recommended that the local members of both organisations come together and form a National Right to Read Alliance, bringing together all interested stakeholders such as blind and disabled persons' organisations, public service and university librarians, Special Education Departments and other organisations helping to serve their needs. This alliance should lobby the Government, Members of Parliament and other decision-makers to encourage them to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty and embed its provisions into national copyright law.

### **The challenge for LPD**

As countries around the world ratify the Marrakesh Treaty, LPD needs to meet the challenge issued in my presentation to the satellite conference in Louisville, of reaching out to new members in the 160 countries where it is currently not represented. The LPD network and its experience of providing library services for the blind, visually impaired and other print disabled communities will be needed to support the many new library start-ups, particularly in the developing countries.

## References

The Marrakech

Treaty <http://www.wipo.int/wipolex/en/details.jsp?id=14742>

*Christopher Friend, WBU Technical Advisor for the Marrakesh Treaty and WBU Observer to IFLA LPD Section*

## **Marrakesh Treaty – a transfer across the Hemispheres**

Celebrations to herald the *Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired, or Otherwise Print Disabled* coming into force 30 September 2016 were held around the world. After the decades of discussion and negotiations this monumental achievement deserved all the accolades it received. To mark the occasion, a symbolic transfer of 3 books from the Canadian Institute for the Blind (CNIB) to Vision Australia was facilitated through the Accessible Book Consortium (ABC) and actioned on the morning of 30 September Melbourne (Australia) time before the rest of the world had woken up and had their first morning coffee.

This initial addition of titles into the Vision Australia Information Library Service (VAILS) collection is just the beginning. Through the Marrakesh Treaty, the future expansion of the collection can occur at a greater rate than has been possible in the past. One of the titles in the initial transfer was the 1960's cult classic *The Carpetbaggers* by Harold Robbins. The other two were Robert Vaughan's *The Bozeman Trail* and *The Alamosa Trail*, both westerns which are popular with many of our members. Being able to provide additional current and classic titles is not only going to enhance the collection, but give our members much wider and diverse reading choices. Of particular interest to us are titles in languages of our emerging communities, including Arabic and Hindi and knowing that we will be able to assist the emerging communities of the future.

The transfer wasn't without its challenges – geographical, technical and legal. Although Australia was one of the first twenty countries to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty, ABC had to officially authorise the transfer before it could be actioned due to the delay in the tabling in the Australian Parliament of the *Copyright Amendment (Disability Access and Other Measures) Bill 2016*. The Bill aims to simplify the

disability exceptions in the current *Copyright Act* and provide clear alignment with the provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty. It was hoped that the Bill would have had its passage through Parliament by the time the Treaty came into force, however it was not tabled for the Spring session. Given this, in the weeks leading up to 30 September, Vision Australia met separately with the national Copyright Agency Limited, the Department of Communications and the Minister for Communications' Advisor on the Marrakesh Treaty. At each of the three meetings assurances were given that the current provisions and exceptions of the *Copyright Act* were sufficient to implement the Treaty when it came into force. So as not to jeopardise the transfer nor its good faith intentions, ABC sought and were granted written confirmation from the Department of Communications to verify the transfer could proceed as planned. In the true spirit of global collaboration and commitment emails were sent and phone calls made at all hours of the respective time zones and all involved pulled together to make it happen and it did!

At VAILS we were excited and proud to have played our small part in this ground breaking, game changing event. We are looking forward to the future when we can

exchange titles in earnest with our counterpart libraries across the world and make a positive difference to the reading choices on offer for our respective members.

*Anthea Taylor  
Manager, Accessible Information  
Library Services  
Vision Australia*

## **The satellite conference in Louisville**

In August 2016, in cooperation with the world famous American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky, LPD hosted a 2-day IFLA satellite conference entitled "Tailoring the Reading Experience to Meet Individual Needs."

With Canada, the 20<sup>th</sup> country's ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled taking place days before our satellite kicked off, there was much to celebrate as we convened a variety of scholars, practitioners, vendors, and other stakeholders to discuss the present and future states of reading and availability of information for people with print disabilities. The multifaceted RNIB Chair and braille historian Kevin Carey started things off with a fascinating and to some controversial keynote

address with socioeconomic and political commentary on the theme of "Power of Scarcity" and its relation to braille production, the simplification standard preferred by publishers in the blindness niche market, and the disempowerment of print disabled consumers. His contention that production quantity was and is continually sacrificed for quality, and a call for customer driven rather than public sector bureaucratic paradigms such as the Marrakesh Treaty, may have rustled a few feathers yet was a thought provoking exploration of the digital publishing world and public versus private spheres of influence.

Following Kevin's dialectical analysis, the vital importance of the Marrakesh Treaty, which went into effect September 30, 2016 with 22 countries (and counting), was reinforced effusively by WBU advisor (among other hats) Chris Friend, who urged the audience to keep the pressure on the 170 countries who have not drafted and/or passed relevant legislation or ratified the treaty, and to keep working to create language block partnerships to ensure availability to various reading populations in same language groupings.

Friday morning's keynote about dyslexia and strategies and technology through the lens of dyslexia and organic reading

disabilities was delivered by the equally poignant Carolyn Phillips, Director and Principal Investigator of Tools for Life, the assistive technology program at the University of Georgia in Atlanta. Carolyn touched on the intersection of technology and learning approaches between the sighted print disability world and the world of the blind and low vision reader, offering an inspiring message of literary independence.

Throughout the two days, attendees were treated to a variety of fascinating perspectives and stories ranging from accessible legal materials in Chile's Supreme Court, how students with print disabilities are succeeding in South Africa, a unique Canadian download service, cataloging of accessible items in Israel, myriad accessible apps for tablet and smart phone users, how to render graphics such as diagrams accessible, Arabic talking books in Sweden, exciting library services in Japan, Serbia, the Philippines, Croatia, United States, and more. With the opportunity to visit a number of generous partners displaying a plethora of technological devices and services in a vendor area, and with a chance to "blow off steam" on an Ohio River (steam) boat dinner cruise and tour of the extensive APH campus and library interspersed among the bibliographical food for thought, I

came away refreshed and reinvigorated about the endless possibilities for making the reading experience integral to the world's citizens with print disabilities. Please examine the LPD web page for papers and an eventual link to recordings of the satellite presentations.

Apologies if I did not mention each of you specifically but indubitable thanks and gratitude to our local coordinating committee from APH, conference planning committee, nearly 100 attendees, and the historic Galt House hotel. Vive Louisville! = Mike Marlin, Director, California Braille and Talking Book Library, LPD Standing Committee, Louisville Satellite Planning Committee

*Mike L. Marlin, Director  
California Braille and Talking Book  
Library, Sacramento, CA*

## **Finnish Accessibility Guidelines for Public Libraries**

Public libraries have nowadays more and more digital materials and services. One can borrow e-books and even audio books online from many libraries. This should be a huge improvement for persons with print disabilities. However, the reality is that many digital services in public libraries are not accessible for persons using assistive technology.

In Finland, Celia Library for the Print Disabled started a project called 'Library for All' in co-operation with public libraries in October 2013. The aim of the project was to include talking books produced by Celia Library in the services and collections of public libraries. During the project we found out that the awareness of accessibility and accessible literature is low in public libraries. Composing Finnish Accessibility Guidelines started in 2014 from a need to raise the awareness of accessibility in public libraries in Finland.

### **The aim of the Guidelines**

The aim of the Guidelines is to give information about accessibility and give practical advice how accessibility can be ensured in all library operations and activities. An accessible library is understood as a library whose services all citizens can use equally despite their disabilities, special needs, or minority group status. We hope that by following the Guidelines public libraries can give better service to all citizens and library customers and possibly gain new customers. Accessibility is understood very broadly in the Guidelines. It does not only cover the needs of print disabled but also other minorities, like language and sexual minorities, are taken into consideration.

### **Many aspects of accessibility**

The Guidelines cover environmental, physical, technical and social aspects of accessibility giving general information as well as practical tips on all areas of library activities. Design for All (or Universal Design) is basic idea behind the Guidelines. Good design solutions benefit all users and especially help user groups with special needs.

The chapter about strategy and leadership emphasis the importance of taking accessibility view as a part of strategic planning, professional training and recruiting staff. Disability organisations should be involved in developing library services. The chapter about library space gives very detailed information about accessible entrance, lifts, toilets, furniture, lights, etc. The chapter that covers acquiring ICT for libraries explains the main principles of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) and tells how accessibility of user interfaces should be tested with different kind of user groups and with people who use assistive technologies.

Accessible materials are covered in the chapter about library collections and materials. Libraries are encouraged to take into consideration the diversity of population when acquiring titles and materials. For example, there should be available books which have disabled children as characters so that different identities children have are represented in library collection. There are also tips how make special collections easy to find with shelves on certain themes.

The Finnish Accessibility Guidelines also contains chapters about customer service, events, pedagogical activities and communication. For example, there are suggestions on how to communicate with persons who have difficulties with oral expression, or how chairs without hand-rests should be reserved for sign language interpreters at events. There are also ideas that librarians should include accessible book formats into pedagogical activities like giving book talks. In communication, public libraries should make sure to use various channels of communication and provide information in text, audio and video formats.

## **Using the Finnish Accessibility Guidelines for Public Libraries**

In Finland, we will have a project to put the Guidelines into practice in public libraries by giving training to librarians in 2017. The Guidelines are now (October 2016) available only in Finnish. Because the Guidelines are published under the Creative Commons license Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0), anybody can translate and localize the Guidelines.

There are plans to translate the Guidelines into English in the future. There will be also need to update the Guidelines at least when the European directive on making public sector website and mobile applications more accessible proceeds in the European Parliament. That directive will help to ensure that digital services in public libraries will be accessible.

The Finnish Accessibility Guidelines for Public Libraries were published in June 2016. The Guidelines were composed by a working group which had participants from Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, Finnish Library Association, Regional State Administrative Agency, Espoo City Library, Helsinki City Library, Celia Library, the Culture for All Service, The Finnish Centre for Easy to Read, The Finnish Diverse Learners' Association, and the Sign Language Library of the Finnish Association of the Deaf. Many disability and minority organizations and authorities were also asked to give comments about the draft of the Guidelines during the project.

The Finnish language version can be downloaded from the web address

[http://shop.kunnat.net/download.php?filename=uploads/kirjastojen\\_saaavutettavuussuositus\\_03062016.pdf](http://shop.kunnat.net/download.php?filename=uploads/kirjastojen_saaavutettavuussuositus_03062016.pdf)

*Kirsi Yläne, Celia Library (Finland)*

## **IFLA WLIC 2016 in a nutshell**

*Connection. Collaboration. Community* was the tag line of 82nd edition of the International Library and Information Congress, held this year from 13th to 19th of August in Columbus, OH, USA. Apart from section meetings, several sessions of this year's conference program directly and indirectly concerned services for persons with print disabilities.

Sessions on copyright offered an overview of copyright related issues in various countries around the world and their impact on the libraries. From the perspective of the libraries serving print disabled persons, problems with copyright that other types of libraries are dealing with, seemed little less complicated. Simply because of the fact that other libraries don't have to produce their own holdings before thinking about the access and preservation. It was also evident that digital surroundings raised new challenges for all kinds of libraries around the globe. Another session was more focused

on the Internet data usage and information traffic. Committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression presented number of case studies concerning privacy and the Internet within the library. Knowledge Management Section gave attendees good examples of how to use social media to share knowledge and improve collaboration.

Session on cataloguing and information technology offered insights to the RDA, FRBR, metadata creation and library systems of multilingual linked data. Preoccupations with bibliographical description standards lie in the core of librarianship and they were also presented during the LPD session. Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities Session, titled *Collaborating across borders - making accessible resources available*, hosted resource description expert, Chris Oliver. Her presentation was about the key aspects of the FRBR family of conceptual models that support resource discovery especially for persons who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled.<sup>1</sup> Rehab Ouf, from Bibliotheca Alexandrina, talked about the metadata for accessibility Information. Presentation on the implementation of the Marrakesh treaty and cross-border exchange, from Michelle Woods of WIPO,

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<sup>1</sup> See Chris Oliver, *Identifying resources: FRBR and accessibility*.

<http://library.ifla.org/1368/1/200-oliver-en.pdf> (accessed on October 10th 2016)

gave us basics and insights of the treaty mechanism. Other three presentations were from the LPD standing committee members and they introduced us to the international best practice. Luc Maumet from AVH talked about the global cooperation perspectives and Tigar service from the French library point of view. Kristina Passad from the Swedish Agency for Accessible Media talked about the fascinating Nordic cooperation project of Arabic talking books production.<sup>2</sup> Yasmine Youssef and Jelena Lesaja shared their experience of Ulverscroft/IFLA Best Practice Award and the influence that these working visits had on libraries involved.<sup>3</sup>

If this was your first encounter with libraries umbrella organization, poster session was the right place to be. Around two hundred posters provided an immediate and heterogeneous insight into the diversity of practice sharing common fundamental principles of the profession. Libraries as a globally-active stakeholder for a sustainable future, services to

immigrants and refugees, preservation of heritage in virtual surroundings, encouraging reading in children and youth, Mobile Web OPAC were just some of the themes presented.

Majority of posters were print disabled unfriendly, even the ones representing services for print disabled persons. Though unintentionally. Librarians are passionate about accessibility but forgetful when it had to be demonstrated on-site. Some accessibility flaws popped up before and during the congress: in venues, registration procedures, congress materials, apps, outlets. Which is something that we, as LPD, and IFLA community in general, need to bare on mind for the future.

*Jelena Lesaja, Croatian Library for the Blind*

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<sup>2</sup> See Kristina Passad, *Producing talking books in Arabic – a Nordic cooperation*. <http://library.ifla.org/1370/1/200-passad-en.pdf> (accessed on October 10th 2016)

<sup>3</sup> See Jelena Lesaja and Yasmine Youssef, *Learning From Each other: The Ulverscroft Experience*. <http://library.ifla.org/1511/1/200-lesaja-en.pdf> (accessed on October 10th 2016)

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