



Newsletter, October 2017
**IFLA Libraries Serving Persons with Print
Disabilities Section**

2017/2

This is the IFLA/LPD Newsletter
for October 2017

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The Newsletter is available at
www.ifla.org/en/lpd

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In this edition of the IFLA/LPD newsletter we continue our series of presentations about all our different organizations. This time it is Saskia Boets, head of Communications, who presents the Flemish Library serving people with print disabilities, Luisterpuntbibliotheek.

Luisterpuntbibliotheek, the Flemish Library serving persons with print disabilities



Picture shows the logo of Luisterpuntbibliotheek.

Luisterpuntbibliotheek is a public library which lends braille books and Daisy books to blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled (MS, aphasia, dyslexia) persons.

Our books are available in two formats: Daisy audio and braille.

At this moment the collection includes almost 25.000 Daisy books and 15.000 braille books. The complete collection of books can be consulted in our catalogue: <http://daisybraille.bibliotheek.be>.

Our members can choose whether they order Daisy books on cd or online (downloading and streaming). With 'Mijn Luisterpunt' – my library – they can browse the catalogue, put books on their bookshelves, turn in the online books, see their lending records.

Becoming a member of the library and lending books is free of charge. To become a member the applicant has to fill in a declaration of honour concerning the print disability. Postal services are free of charges for blind and visually impaired persons in Belgium.

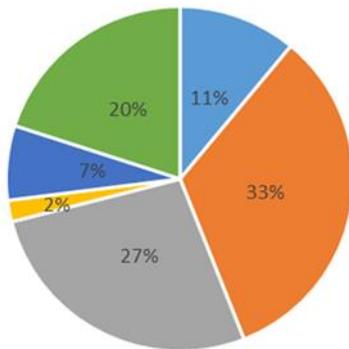
Schools, homes for elderly people, public libraries and other institutions can also get a Daisy collection for free. They can choose how many books they want and can order new books at any time. Today, 88% of the Flemish public libraries in Flanders and Brussels have a Daisy collection and a Daisy player.

Luisterpuntbibliotheek receives grants from the Flemish Government (as a specialised public library).

Some figures (2016)

5,516 active **members**:
- 5,293 Daisy book readers
- 102 read braille books
- 121 read Daisy books and braille books

We don't know how many persons read Daisy books through libraries, schools, hospitals or elderly homes.



Picture shows the figures below in a circle.

- 11% - blind
- 33% - visually impaired
- 27% - dyslexia
- 2% - physical disability
- 7% - others
- 20% - organisations (libraries, elderly homes, hospitals, schools, speech therapists)

Loans (2016)

- by private persons: 125,209 (123,562 Daisy books + 1,647 braille books)
- by organisations: 145,991 (146,057 Daisy books + 66 braille books)

Communication and promotion

To promote our library and our service to the target groups, we

participate at all kinds of fairs and initiatives held by different organisations who work for those different target groups.

Moreover, we organise our own campaigns. For those promotion campaigns we work together with a lot of strategic partners and stakeholders.

1. **Daisy books and Daisy readers in public libraries.**

88% of the public libraries in Flanders and Brussels work together with Luisterpunt and lend Daisy books, Daisy readers and Daisy software. We hope we can implement the Daisy online service at their library services at the end of 2017. Then, they will be able to make online Daisy bookshelves for their costumers, bookshelves connected to our library. Together with public libraries and ADIBib (who delivers adapted schoolbooks for children with dyslexia and other learning disabilities) we organise lectures about dyslexia, Daisy books and adapted schoolbooks for library staff, (remedial) teachers and speech therapists.

2. **Daisy campaign for elderly.** See **Daisy makes you laugh!**

Daisy surprises you! Daisy makes you shiver! Daisy brings tears to your eyes! An audiobook speaks for itself! Daisy promotion campaign for elderly (pdf). Presented by Saskia Boets on the IFLA satellite conference 'With the right to read', Oslo 2010. We still work together with elderly homes and have organised more workshops and activities over the years.



Picture shows a sign with a surprised woman with head phones.

3. I hate reading! Dyslexia? Go for an audio book! In 2012 Luisterpunt launched a campaign for dyslectic youngsters. We try to reach dyslectic children, their teachers and their parents through various channels. The focal point of our campaign is an informative website (www.ikhaatlezen.be) with

separate information for kids, parents and therapists/teachers. See [I hate reading! Dyslexia? Go for an audio book!](#) (pdf), presented by Saskia Boets on the IFLA satellite conference 'Let's Read: Reading and Print Disabilities in Young People', Tallinn 2012.



Picture shows the words *I hate reading* in Flemish.

Saskia Boets, Head of Communications at Luisterpuntbibliotheek, the Flemish Library serving persons with print disabilities

NLS on the Move 2017

The latest on our new initiatives

NLS and Perkins team up for eReader pilot

“Braille needs to migrate. It needs to follow print into the electronic era where it can be more flexible, more ubiquitous, more accessible, more manageable.”

These are the words of NLS Director Karen Keninger at the April 2016 NLS national conference in San Francisco.

And now we’re seeing that migration come about. Earlier this month, Kim Charlson, Executive Director of the Perkins Library, and Keninger, representing NLS, stood side by side to announce a practical step toward the future of braille distribution. They were launching a pilot to test the effectiveness of distributing digital braille files for use on braille eReaders—those refreshable braille displays that are now becoming more widespread and portable. In the pilot, the Perkins Library is providing braille eReaders to registered borrowers in order to test the ease of use and effectiveness of electronic braille files on the devices.

Non-braille users might be surprised to learn what a difference a change to electronic distribution

can make for braille users. Digital files have been used for years to produce hard-copy paper braille books, which, when printed, require between two to eight physical volumes per title. That bulkiness—in production, handling, shipping, storage—is exactly what digital files and braille eReaders can help alleviate. No more struggling to get giant volumes of summer reading into a weekend bag!

There’s no question that the fundamental process of distributing digital braille files works, and that eReaders can serve them up easily for users of braille. What we still need to understand is how best to turn that process into practice. What’s the right format for distributing the files? Can it be easily scaled to serve as many patrons with as many braille files as possible? Can we ensure the process lightens the burden on cooperating network libraries? And, above all, is the process easy for patrons to use?

It’s exactly the right moment for this pilot. Braille eReaders have been around for decades, but their cost has put them out of reach of many. Now eReaders are becoming more affordable and easier to operate. The pilot is timed to help NLS, and partner organizations like the Perkins Library, prepare for wider use among their patrons.

NLS will keep you posted as the pilot unfolds. It’s not just NLS, it’s braille itself that’s on the move.

Karen Keninger, director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in the Library of Congress

Latest Revision: October 2017

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Kim Charlson (left) and Karen Keninger announced the eReader pilot at the Perkins Library on August 3.