

WIPO

Accessible Books Consortium

Putting the theory of Marrakesh into practice

Presentation to the Sub-Regional
Roundtable on Copyright and
Related Rights: Marrakesh and
Beijing Treaties

Moscow, September 2017

Content

- Accessible Books Consortium (ABC)
- Governance
- Areas of Focus
- ABC Global Book Service
 - How it works
 - Key features
 - Statistics
 - Current participants
 - Participation criteria
 - Benefits of participation
- ABC contact information

Accessible Books Consortium (ABC)

- June 2014 WIPO and key partners launched ABC to increase the number of books in accessible formats for people who are blind, visually impaired, or otherwise print disabled
- Alliance consists of WIPO, organizations that serve or represent persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled, standards bodies and rightsholders
- ABC *complements* the Marrakesh Treaty
 - Marrakesh provides the *legal framework*
 - ABC supports Marrakesh aspirations through *practical implementations*

Governance

- WIPO provides staffing for the **ABC Secretariat**, which manages the operations of ABC, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland
- ABC Board membership includes:
 - Consumer Group representatives (4)
 - AE and Standards Bodies representatives (4)
 - Publishers and Authors representatives (4+1)
 - WIPO (1)
- **ABC Board** brings knowledge of publishing, rights, accessible library service, alternative format production and technical expertise, and ensures transparency and communication with ABC members and community stakeholders

ABC Areas of Focus

Objective: 'To increase the number of books worldwide in accessible formats (braille, audio and large print) and to make them available to people who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled.'

- **Capacity Building** – Advancement of technical skills in developing and least developed countries
- **Inclusive Publishing** -- Advocacy and promotion to support the goal of 'born accessible' publishing
- **Global Book Service** -- International database of fully accessible books contributed by participating 'Authorized Entities' for the purpose of exchange

ABC Global Book Service

- ABC Global Book Service provides the means for an Authorized Entity in one country *to find and obtain* accessible books produced by an Authorized Entity in another country, add the books to their collection and make them available to beneficiaries in their own jurisdiction
- ABC systems, applications and database hosted and supported by WIPO
- Participants use the service to fill user requests and/or to supplement their own collection of accessible publications

Global Book Service – How it works

- AE identifies titles it will contribute to ABC. Titles produced under national copyright exception or for which rights holder has granted permission are eligible
- ABC imports AE metadata into ABC catalogue
- Participants search ABC catalogue and select titles of interest
- For cross-border exchanges between AEs in countries where the national law is consistent with the Treaty, permission clearance process is bypassed
- For cross-border exchanges between AEs in countries that do not have laws consistent with the Treaty, ABC seeks authorization from the copyright owner prior to the transfer of requested books
- When AE receives request for title they have produced, system prompts AE to upload file, which is then available for download by requesting AE

Global Book Service – Key features

- Operational in 25 countries
- Shared database of alternative format titles
- Secure facility for requesting, uploading and downloading digital books across borders
- Automated processes for catalogue feeds and file uploads
- Search criteria include author, title, language, format, date of production, books in progress, new listings. Filter to show only titles cleared for your country
- Permissions management system, and
- Reporting system for exchange statistics

Statistics

- 25 participating organizations/libraries worldwide
- Database of 355,000 accessible titles (and growing) in 76 languages in a range of accessible formats
- About 20,000 titles cleared for international exchange
- 8,300 files downloaded by AEs - estimated savings of US\$16.6 million
- Over 128,700 people with print disabilities have borrowed accessible books through the ABC Global Book Service

Current Participants

- **Australia:** Visability
- **Australia:** Vision Australia (VA)
- **Bangladesh:** Young Power in Social Action, YPSA
- **Brazil:** Dorina Nowill Foundation for the Blind
- **Canada:** Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB)
- **Denmark:** Danish National Library for Persons with Print Disabilities (NOTA)
- **France:** Association Valentin Haüy (AVH)
- **Finland:** Celia Library
- **Iceland:** Icelandic Talking Book Library, HBS
- **Ireland:** National Council for the Blind of Ireland
- **Israel:** The Central Library for Blind and Reading Impaired People (CLFB)
- **Korea:** Korea National Library for the Disabled (NLD)
- **Nepal:** Action on Disability Rights and Development (ADRAD)
- **Netherlands:** Dedicon
- **New Zealand:** Blind Foundation (NZBF)
- **Norway:** Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille (NLB)
- **Poland:** Dział Zbiorów dla Niewidomych (DZDN)
- **Portugal:** Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal (BnP)
- **South Africa:** South African Library for the Blind
- **Sweden:** Swedish Agency for Accessible Media (MTM)
- **Switzerland:** Association pour le Bien des Aveugles et malvoyants
- **Switzerland:** Swiss Library for the Blind, Visually Impaired and Print Disabled
- **Switzerland:** Bibliothèque Sonore Romande
- **United Kingdom:** Seeing Ear
- **United States:** National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS)

Participation criteria

AE signs agreement with WIPO specifying that the organization:

- is a not for profit Authorized Entity
- has established practice to ensure the people it serves are ‘beneficiary persons’
- ensures copies of works received through ABC are distributed *only* to eligible users
- discourages the reproduction, distribution and making available of unauthorized copies of works
- will provide:
 - catalogue information to ABC for the titles it will share
 - digital files of books requested by other AE participants
 - usage statistics for each title, received through ABC, distributed to users

Benefits of participation in ABC

- **No participation fee** for Authorized Entities
- **Single contract with WIPO** – no need for separate contracts with *each* exchange partner
- One place to look for international exchange
- System **manages copyright matters** between ‘Marrakesh countries’, between ‘non-Marrakesh countries’ and combination of both
- **One automated upload and download process** regardless of the source of the books
- **Secure, protected technical infrastructure** for copyright-protected books
- Technical challenges of new participants’ metadata and files addressed by ABC

Testimonial

Letter sent to CNIB, Canada by the caregiver of a client about books received through *ABC Global Book Service*:

“...I cannot begin to tell you what a difference you are making in her life. Losing her sight so quickly had her depressed and angry. Hearing her laughing and having her rush to tell me which books arrived in the mail is like interacting with another woman. You should all feel very proud of what you do and the daily difference you make in so many lives.”

ABC contact information

Accessible Books Consortium

World Intellectual Property Organization

34, chemin des Colombettes

1211 Geneva 20

Switzerland

E-mail: Accessible.Books@wipo.int

Accessible Books Consortium

Thank you!

Margaret McGrory
Independent Consultant
mcgrorymj@gmail.com