



## **1. Welcome and introductions.**

### **In attendance:**

Irmgard Reijntjes, Bibliotheekservice Passend Lezen, Netherlands (Chair)  
Danielle Miller, Washington Talking Book & Braille Library, USA (Secretary)  
Dalia Balčytytė, Lithuanian Library for the Blind, Lithuania (Information Officer)  
Christiane Felsmann, German Centre for Accessible Reading, Germany  
Saskia Boets, Luisterpunt Bibliotheek (Flemish Library for Audiobooks and Braille), Belgium  
Jorunn Wold, National Library of Norway, Norway  
Ellen Follin, MTM, Sweden  
Jason Broughton, NLS, USA  
Maiko Honda, National Diet Library, Japan (Zoom)  
Karolina Zlatar Radogovic, Croatian Library for the Blind, Croatia  
Henriikka Kokki, Accessibility Library Celia, Finland  
Kelsey Corlett-Rivera, NLS, USA  
Heba Kholeif, United Nations, Egypt (Zoom)  
Dipendra Manocha, DAISY Consortium, India (Zoom)  
James Bartlett, RNIB, United Kingdom (Zoom)

### **Observers:**

Alice O'Reilly, NLS, USA  
Yasmine Youssef, Egypt  
Jurg Schlegel, SBS, Switzerland (Zoom)  
Francisco Martinez, ONCE, Spain (Zoom)  
Inga Davidoniene – Audiosensory Library  
Erika Buivydiene - Audiosensory Library

Irmgard called meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Inga Davidoniene and Dalia Balčytytė welcomed LPD to the Lithuanian Audiosensory Library.

## **2. Apologies**

Hiroshi Kawamura, Assistive Technology Development Organization, Japan

**3. Approval of the Agenda.** The agenda was approved after review by the committee members.

## **4. Meeting minutes of business meeting on September 26, 2023:**

<https://3.basecamp.com/3833672/buckets/6568895/uploads/6588998222>

- **Approval:** The meeting minutes were approved by committee members by acclimation in Basecamp.

#### 5. Timetable for 19-21 March:

- All approved, update from LSN was removed as Maela was unable to attend.

#### 6. IFLA News and PC Updates:

- IFLA Information Futures Summit in Brisbane 30 September-3 October 2024.
- WLIC review terms of reference being set up by the Governing Board, creating a review committee as well as a discussion in Division D, including change in process and structure, reduction in workload, change in frequency of WLIC, change in acronym to something easier to pronounce.
  - There have been a lot of surveys to members and volunteers regarding WLIC and efforts to obtain feedback.
  - Jason: are they looking to meet a certain objective about WLIC?
  - Irmgard: Maybe they are trying to discuss this in the Governing Board.
  - Jorunn: Are other sections meeting like LPD is?
  - Ellen: The Swedish Library Association is in support of attending IFLA events but not necessarily the Brisbane event.
  - Irmgard will email Megan Price and ask if there are other events like LPD will be holding in Washington, DC.
  - Christiane: The German IFLA members and volunteers met online connected with German Library Associations and had big discussion about WLIC and only about two sections were holding meetings like LPD in August.
- 2024 Guidelines for IFLA events, including business meetings, workshops, mid-terms, and other gatherings have been shared.
- Division D chair Ann Okerson will serve as a member of the review committee.
- Name change for LSN: Accessible and Inclusive Library Services Sections (AIS). LSN is working on terms of reference for the new name.

#### 7. Highlights from LPD Members:

- **Jason:** Jason discussed NLS circulation statistics that were shared in a handout he provided to the group. There are over 350,000 items in the NLS collection, 11,258 works were added to BARD in fiscal year 2023, there are over 176,000 books and magazines available for download from BARD, over 24.53 million items circulated in fiscal year 2023, and over 4.65 million items were downloaded in fiscal year 2023. NLS is expanding children's and youth literature, informational reading, Native American and tribal entities content, tactile/supplemental content, and international languages. NLS is pushing out refreshable braille displays (eReaders) produced by Humanware and Zoomax from all network libraries and they devices are now on backorder for both devices. They held an excellent event for the Netflix production of the book All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr with all kinds

of accessibility accommodations for the sell-out 500 attendee event. They also held Marrakesh ten-year celebration. NLS is looking to expand number of patrons, growth is a priority for NLS and they are working to connect with schools and veterans, because they have historically focused on people who are blind and been geared toward people who are older and had a more modest collection, but thanks to capacity building and the ability to grow, they can focus more on outreach and the growth of collection and growth of patron base and more options for younger people and a diversity of users – the library is a great place to start.

- **Kelsey:** Kelsey discussed the Marrakesh and international language portion of the handout that was provided. With Marrakesh, there have been 6,788 new works added to BARD and 131,000 patron downloads. NLS has shared 201,000 titles with WIPO. Languages that have been added to the NLS collection include: Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Basque, Bengali, Chinese, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Italian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya, Urdu, Vietnamese, and Yiddish. She shared that the NLS format of ANSI/NISO will soon be doing DAISY directly. NLS is adding new braille music scores, producing a new quarterly International Language Quarterly Newsletter, and future work will be DAISY as automatic 2.02 as part of workflow so NLS can be in sync with others. They hired two new catalogers for Marrakesh books and braille book reviews and are demonstrating commitment in staffing, participating in pre-beta in the DAISY pipeline of text-to-speech of Tagalog and Amharic and possibly Haitian Creole, Korean, and Czech, so hopeful they will be able to do text-to-speech for items they are unable to provide in human narration for languages they are so far unable to readily provide. They can use Deep L for translations in addition to Google Translate.
- **Alice:** NLS is doing many programs to reach out to library patrons including the Many Faces of BARD and Patron Corner programs. NLS started a Braille on Demand where patrons can request books each month. They are expanding collection with things you can't find available in other places like graphic novels and formats that replicate the commercial marketplace and options that will help the NLS service grow, however, the challenge is how to let people know we are here. NLS could also leverage text-to-speech for magazines and maybe magazines in international languages. NLS also began doing a Summer reading program, they have NASA eclipse programming, National Park Service Maps, and now offer a Spanish language website.
- **Dipendra:** Has been working on a Capacity Building Program on behalf of ABC in several countries including Armenia, Kirgizstan, Kenya, Mauritania, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe. Recently provided in Nigeria and Sri Lanka where training of trainers is provided for end-user equipment and actually producing titles. In most countries the program and outcome is quite mixed. For example, in Armenia and Kenya things went very well and they started producing books in DAISY format and understood the system and format, but in other countries things were extremely challenging, including in Liberia and Mauritania. Some challenges were that the infrastructure is not ready for online training, including connectivity, so much

disconnection happening, audio is not clear, and sometimes there are political changes that can affect capability to continue with production. After learning how to do production, 60-70 titles do have to be produced, so that is part of the process and that is where the real test happens and where the real learning happens. The real teaching happens during production. Organizations need to typically organize their hardware themselves and the open-source software is provided by DAISY, the user equipment has to be included and the students have to learn how to use the reading devices and the books have to be produced in all formats which is part of the whole capacity building program. The second thing is a gap analysis survey to see what changes have occurred since 2012 and a questionnaire available in French, English and Spanish. They have responses and will reach a minimum of 35 responses and then do the analysis and share responses and strategize what kind of gaps remain and what kind of capacity building needs to be done. The DAISY Pipeline app is the powerful tool for conversion from one format to another and they are now giving to anyone like teachers or parents to convert books to accessible formats, this is for example being tried by NLS. The app is being connected to Microsoft Azure cloud voices to convert digital texts into an audiobook using high quality voices. Online Learning platform course have been shifted to ABC Learning Academy, in addition DAISY had created their own learning academy like how to build accessibility in Microsoft Word, visit: [learning.daisy.org](http://learning.daisy.org)

- **Maiko:** In January new a service started called National Diet Library Search called MINA Search started meaning “everyone search,” expressing desire to make library accessible to all. Mina Search is designed to be easy to use with screen readers and supports all kinds of search, simple, advanced, full-text search, genre search. Maiko demonstrated MINA Search by screen share. MINA Search can search for multiple formats and can download more than two million books.
- **James:** Increasing quantity of braille on demand and increasing quantities of patrons participating in braille library users. Going through so many books need to increase collection. Added 4.5 thousand titles to DAISY collection of human narrated books, mostly publisher donations. RNIB Bookshare relies on Drupal and it is closing so they will have to build a new platform, which is a lot of work and things are accelerating. Alexa smart speaker skill issues have been fixed, but Amazon contacted them to give a warning about the content, including a book that had the word “suicide” that got caught in the filter, so they have to put a warning on the skill. The newsagent platform is hoping to be launched in May or June. Challenges on the launch of Envoy Connect with developer. Very busy at RNIB.
- **Francisco:** Very active in DAISY working group relating to ebraille format, attend meetings every two weeks and following very closely, goal to end up with most accessible braille file for navigation as navigable as a DAISY file or EPUB. There will be a face-to-face meeting at CSUN. Started with the braille tablet they are producing, the Monarch, and everyone will benefit from the new and versatile braille format.
- **Heba:** Did not manage to ratify Marrakesh yet in Egypt, did not see very much production of accessible materials. However, at Bibliotheca Alexandrina the

collection is still growing, but they need to push for more production of accessible material. There is some commercial application on cell phones that produces audiobooks like Storytell, but it is not produced specifically for people with print disabilities. Concerned that many agencies and publishers produce books in PDFs, including some government agencies produce materials in PDF, so really trying to push for adopting more accessible formats like accessible EPUB. As part of work with organizations of person with disabilities trying to inform people of more accessible publications, trying to lobby for more changes and for ratification of Marrakesh Treaty.

- **Jurg:** Will share music braille scores in ABC, biggest highlight last year was introduction of new format, an Ebook with enhanced audio layer (human narration) where you can highlight the words on a word-by-word basis. Started with 160 books and tried to increase production because user acceptance is very good, and this is mostly targeted to reading disabled public. With talking books seeing a shift from physical delivery to more of a download version, so more people download than use the physical version and need to replace CDs because they won't be available anymore. Still very committed to braille but usage is stable, not raising, but would like to raise it and like to see success of braille readers.
- **Saskia:** Small library (16 staff members) 2023: new 5-year strategy plan 2024-2028. New library system in June 2024, also new website [Luisterpuntbibliotheek.be](https://www.luisterpuntbibliotheek.be) in June 2024. Campaign in autumn, for adults / elderly with a visual / physical disability – with tv and radio spot, posters in train stations, articles in magazines, ... We don't have collection on shelves, all our books are on a server. But we will restart with physical materials, to encourage Braille in young children and encourage reading together in families → hybrid books with Braille, large print, colourful tactile graphics and audio. Now we do braille on demand (printed on demand – hard copy, our patrons do not have to send the books back) – at the end of 2024 or the beginning 2025 we will start with electronic braille Partnering with public libraries:
  - not only physical Daisy books visible in the catalogues of local public libraries but also the (online) Daisy version of the printed books in the public library
  - align even more so that people have one account to use both the public library services and our library service (will happen in autumn)
  - public libraries are still lending out Daisy players and Daisy CDs for elderly people, and are also focusing on streaming and downloading Daisy books via the (free) app. They themselves can register users for the online service within their own Mijn Luisterpunt account.  
(see also [https://lpd-satellite.h5mag.com/schiedam\\_2023\\_recap/diego\\_anthoons](https://lpd-satellite.h5mag.com/schiedam_2023_recap/diego_anthoons))

We aim to extend the exception in the copyright law so that people learning Dutch can also use Daisy books – the two ministers of culture and education wrote a letter to the economy minister (who is responsible for this) to raise the question of this extension. Challenge: more image description in Daisy books. Our books are uploaded at the ABC Global Book Service  
ABC: difficult to find very popular books (e.g. young adults books) in English, we are stuck with this because the demand is very high

2023

- 51.400 Daisy books; 19.900 braille books, 3.422 new Daisy titles in 2023 (incl. Flemish production, books we exchange with the Netherlands, books from other countries, ABC books); 683 new braille titles;
  - 1/3rd of our readers are not direct members at our library but are online members at schools or libraries we partner with (many schools and 93% of the public libraries are member);
  - 197.204 Daisy loans - 1.390 braille;
  - 93% of our patrons are reading online (app or hardware Daisy players);
  - The 7% CD users ensure 38% of loans, i.e. frequent readers;
  - Print disabilities: 58% dyslexia, 24% visual impairment, 3% physical disability, 13% other disability (e.g. mental disability, ASS, ADHD, combination of disabilities);
  - 2023: 65 authors read their own book in our studio (they can use the audio to make a regular/commercial audio book);
  - In 2023 we created a [video series 'Dyslexia: facts and myths'](#), with professors and researchers talking and explaining very clearly;
  - We made an online escape room in 2022 but you can still play it – it was played over 10.000 times (<https://www.ikhaatlezen.be/nl/kids/escaperoom> - in Dutch).
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- **Jorunn:** The big change that happened in July '23, when the Norwegian Library og Talking Books and Braille, went from being a separate entity (40 employees) – directly under the Ministry of Culture, to becoming a department (for accessible literature) at the National Library (600 employees), has been a big organizational change for all our employees. Some recourses (for example) the IT-developers will be moved from our department to a large joint IT-department for the whole National Library. Other several processes will also take place. Our patrons will not notice any difference in our services, but internally we are still working to figure out how the organizational chart will look like in the new normal.

In April we will be launching a new name and design on all our on our services including our website and our two reading apps.

This includes also improved functionality on our website and digital library.

At the same time, we will also be launching a new digital course for librarians working in public libraries. The goal is to give better information and assure they get enough knowledge about what we offer, and enable them to give help and guidance how to understand and navigate on our website and reading apps.

Our department produce each year 300 audiobooks with text – read by human narrators. On an average yearly basis, we buy 200 audio-files from commercial publishers. We produce about 1500 academic books per year, mainly with a synthetic voice.

- **Henriikka:** 1.3 million loans, most popular was through Pratsam Reader application, 55k items in collection, mostly audio, no physical collection other than tactile book collection. Braille books are provided on demand. Organization reformation coming with lots of work to do because CELIA, National Archive, and National Repository are going to merge into one organization in 2026. Have been promoting accessible publishing and working together with Finnish Publishing Association to promote EAA and organizing seminars for EAA. Held event for education publishers. CELIA and Publishers Association will publish document of best practices for publishing accessible eBooks. EPUB 3 CELIA planned to renew online delivery system but this was put on hold, so don't know when delivery will start and are building internal capacity to deliver EPUB 3 files. Started using accessibility metadata in cataloging so that it is visible to patrons and will expand metadata use to other projects as well. This year marks a 40-year anniversary of keeping a tactile book collection and are providing guidance to makers of tactile books. This year a focus point in collection development is foreign languages and mapping the current situation of languages and added 13 Ukrainian books to collection. Public libraries and schools can register patrons to CELIA. In a project called "Easy Reader Path," over 75,000 easy reader publications will be donated to schools. CELIA is taking part in the project by producing the books this year in audio or DAISY 3.0 (text and audio). Moving away from CDs to online only, trying to turn as many patrons to online and away from CDs. In Finland, public eLibrary will be announced in April this year as the municipalities joint eLibrary. This is a cooperation of National Library and public libraries.
- **Ellen:** MTM prepared Swedish libraries for the EAA. MTM is publicly funded under Ministry of Culture and is a knowledge center and produces and collects accessible material. They also receive funding from the Ministry of Education and produce 1,200 titles a year for academic studies and produce 2,000 for public and school libraries that are materials that are not academic. MTM works through libraries. Swedish Talking Book model is a central government and has books in the national collection and is responsible for lending accessible media through digital collection. MTM doesn't register people at all, they are registered locally at their public library, there is no documentation when you register. If someone experiences an

impairment when reading, they are allowed to have an account and of course librarians are experts in diagnosis, but questions are raised by publishing community. Implementing the EAA, reading will be available in several places, so they need to inform and guide the libraries about what to expect. There are about 90,000 active members and about 140,000 books, most of them are ebooks with synchronized speech at a sentence level with human narration, but for academic libraries it is synchronized with synthetic speech. Started last year with a survey sent to all registrars who are librarians at libraries who are allowed to register patrons and got almost 1,800 replies about what they know and expect of the EAA. The knowledge turned out to be pretty low and the main message was they really didn't know very much. This spring they are focusing on the actions they can take related to the survey and recently held three round table discussions and they will have a webinar based on feedback and questions from librarians and put information on website. MTM will become a responsible party in the EAA as a supervisor, so there is a lot going on. Have had a lengthy agreement process with ABC but are back with ABC and look forward to working together with everyone on solutions.

- **Karolina:** Making audio, braille, and ePub books. Last year produced 211 titles in all three formats but now are transforming business because the most format they made was audiobooks but now are also doing magazines and newspapers. They are cooperating with Ministry of Culture and National Library. Publishers are giving PDFs so they can convert easily so they can make books more quickly. The users would like titles born digital, but it is not always easy to prepare but with files it is faster. They are also cooperating with Croatian Library Association and Croatia Literacy Association to borrow books in another language and use ABC. Also cooperating with schools. In future goals, they need to do a strategy on streaming, digital braille, music braille. Have different guests and authors as guests on their podcast.
- **Christiane:** DZB Lezen will celebrate 130 years and Christiane will celebrate 20 years there. dzb lesen offers a wide range of products:
  - DAISY (CD + DL + Stream) / library service
  - Braille (books + start of download) / library service + for sale
  - Braille music scores / library service + for sale
  - Tactiles, famous for inclusive children books / library service + for sale
  - Braille + DAISY Magazines / for sale
  - Giant print / library service + for sale

Initiative „Chance inklusion“ working together with public libraries, e. g. marketing the Marrakesh Treaty. Copyright law is very strict with a named observer, the patent and trade mark office. The strict rules make public libraries deciding not to be an authorised body anymore.

Involvement in the German library Association, the section „Customer-orientated and inclusive library services“. Two main projects which have an effect to the work of dzb lesen too:

A. survey within the German library association: 1.000 libraries took part. Interesting results show the lacks of accessibility and inclusive thinking. Good point to work on those items.



B. Together with two colleagues from other libraries (old colleague from LSN) I am busy publishing a book „inclusive library services“ at De Gruyter at the end of 2024. It is comparable with the Guidelines LPD is publishing. It contains many practical information to build up inclusive services.

Taskforce „Inclusive publishing“, working together with publishers and publishers association in preparation of the EAA, phenomenon: production of epub 3-files as well as accessible pdf-files. (problems like the citation style ...)

Working together with other german speaking libraries for blind, visually impaired and print disabled readers in the Association Medibus: Working on one catalogue and one library system

- **Danielle:** At the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library we have been adding additional programming including a quarterly Vision Loss Seminar, a regular Touch of Braille workshop to introduce people to reading braille and how braille can be a useful tool in their daily lives, and are working on the introduction of technology and training programming. We continue to offer our multisensory storytime and recently held our annual Braille Challenge, launched our pen-pal program, and wrapped up our annual summer reading program for youth and this past year, also offered summer reading book bingo program for adults. We offered a braille transcription class at the library and our braille coordinator retired and we are now recruiting for a new Braille Program Manager for a revitalized braille program. We expanded our partnership with the Independent Living program by increasing the number of CCTVs we have to loan to patrons, we are loaning the NLS Zoomax braille display, and also loan the iBill currency reader directly from the library. We contracted with a sound engineer and purchased new equipment to build out a studio and be fully equipped for the launch of our podcasting program, for which we have a dedicated staff person.
- **Dalia:**  
Highlights from Lithuanian Audiosensory Library
  - Special library established in 1966.
  - LAB is the biggest producer of publications in accessible formats in Lithuania.
  - A competence of information services for persons with print disabilities.
  - Created and develops virtual library ELVIS – over 15 000 books in accessible formats.

A little bit of history of IFLA LPD meetings.

Twenty year ago, on 18-19 of March, 2004

- The winter meeting of the standing committee of IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section took place at the Lithuanian Library for the Blind.
- The meeting was presided by IFLA/LBS chairman **Marijke E. van Bodengraven**, director of the Netherlands' Federation of Libraries for the Blind.
- Lithuanian Library for the Blind was intentionally chosen for this meeting, following the recommendation made by **Mr. Rainer Witte**, director of the Marburg Library for the Blind of the German organisation *Blista*.

## LAB priority activities for 2023

1. Implementation of the investment project "Modernization of the Lithuanian Audiosensory Library" financed by EU structural funds:

- Accessibility of the LAB building for persons with disabilities (marking of rooms, preparation of indoor and outdoor tactile plans).
- After changing the name of the library, the new visual identity and logo were confirmed

2. The implementation of the investment project "MoBiLait: opening learning opportunities for people with print disabilities through the Lithuanian library network" financed by EU structural funds has been completed:

- Created ELVIS mobile apps for Android and iOS operating systems, which will make it easier for users to read accessible publications, and at the same time, better protection of these publications against illegal distribution will be ensured.

3. To improve the accessibility of cultural content to Lithuanian residents who are socially, informationally and digitally isolated by implementing the project "Culture without barriers - talking books":

- From 2023 February 8 the ELVIS bus visited 159 towns and rural areas in which 3054 elderly people participated live. Mainly in collaboration with local public library branches.
- Organized advertising campaign "Listening to books is simple,,.
- 13 articles were published in the media on internet portals, 17 articles in the regional media, information about the project was presented in 5 radio shows.

4. The investment project "ELVIS - adapted media platform: development of access to inclusive cultural content for users with individual needs" is being implemented. Inclusive publishing training activities for publishers have started to be organized:

- training need clarification sessions were organized with the target group - representatives of publishing houses;
- an analysis of inclusive publishing training in foreign countries was carried out;
- a training program for publishers has been prepared;
- from 2024 - publishers in the country will have the opportunity not only to check the accessibility of their publication, but also to receive an accessible publication mark-certificate, which will help readers recognize and more easily find accessible digital text publications on electronic commerce or reading platforms.

5. During a survey of ELVIS users conducted in 2023, it became clear that as many as 34% of ELVIS users have dyslexia. This is results of LAB dyslexia initiatives for 2020-2022, as well as the changed priorities for publishing accessible format copies. More than 40% of the audio books published in the library are intended for children and teenagers.

- **Irmgard:** Passend Lezen is a library service, they do not produce books, but their suppliers are Dedicon and CBB. They have 56,500 patrons, 2,800 through public libraries. Total lending is 1,837,000 books, newspapers, and magazines. Since September 2023 they launched the “reading together” collection, books are in print and braille so children and parents and grandparents can read together. They started with an electronic braille collection of 13,000. They started preparations for a national campaign in 2025. They will be launching a new website at the end of April 2024 and they are in preparations for a tactile conference in June 2025.

#### 8. ABC News (Luc Maumet and Monica Halil Lovblad):

- Launched in 2014 at WIPO, celebrating 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary hybrid event will be April 29, 2024.
- Marrakesh Treaty, 94 contracting parties covering 120 countries.
- 133 authorized entities and 75 from low-income countries.
- 950,000 accessible titles for cross border exchange.
- 163,500 digital files delivered in 2023.
- Beneficiaries can download directly from ABC catalogue
- 410,000 digital files available for direct download
- 40 AEs, 13 from low-income countries, have agreed to offer the application to their beneficiaries
- English: 220,000
- French: 106,000
- Dutch: 44,000
- Korean: 20,000
- Spanish: 18,000
- Thai: 10,000
- Peak downloads in 2019 after EU ratifies, dip in 2020/2021, goes up again in 2022
- Top five users: AVH – 24,200, BANQ, New Zealand, NLS, South Africa – goal is to drive up use of service
- ABC APIs launched in 2023, allows AEs to present ABC catalog within your own user interface, to ongoing pilots, NLS and Thailand
- Agreements signed with Tata Consultancy Services (India) and Dolphin Easy Reader (UK)
- Determined now agreements will be concluded with Benetech/Bookshare or Google
- 87,000 digital files from NLS converted to DAISY 2.02 by CELA/CNIB to ABC
- 20,000 Korean and 10,000 Thai files
- Chinese AEs have joined
- Future activities: have Marrakesh Treaty ratified and implemented in all WIPO member states, upload digital files for all titles in ABC catalog, expand number of AEs offering supplementary application to beneficiaries, release TCS-WIPO Access Infinity, work with Dolphin to launch ABC in EasyReader, standardization of metadata, creation of subject categories and audience levels, scrambled Daisy 2.02 books with mp3 files in random order are placed in correct sequence

## 9. Update on Cooperation with DAISY Consortium (Maarten Verboom):

- Daisy Consortium founded in 1996 by Libraries for the Blind
- Organizations of 9 out of 16 board members of the DC are represented in IFLA LP SC
- 13 organizations or members are members of LPD
- DAISY Consortium is not for profit corporation and global authority on publishing and reading. Produces standards, tools, and best practices.
- High level activities: drive accessible mainstream publishing, supporting and evolving DAISY community, extending DAISY community and reinforcing DAISY image
- Drive accessible mainstream publishing: EPUB, accessibility standards, metadata; ensure accessibility in the supply chain of e-publications, DAISY as the authority for accessible publishing
- Support and help evolving DAISY community: achieve excellence for making complex content accessible, work on tools and technologies, support producing organizations with knowledge, consultation, and training, capacity building
- Extend DAISY community and reinforce brand image: promote inclusive publishing and support framework for cross-border sharing of accessible resources
- Exploring collaboration with DAISY and LPD: global accessible library, accessibility of the supply chain, reaching out and supporting mainstream libraries, standards for accessibility metadata, exchange collections of accessible materials, if accessible material is available will LPDs focus on specialized material like braille and tactile materials, promote Marrakesh treaty and influence international policy on access to knowledge and information
- Jason: explain mainstream libraries? Maarten: libraries would be forced to have their EPUBs be accessible so mainstream libraries can be more of a resource for persons with print disabilities

## 10. Any other business:

- Karolina: Does anyone have experience when working with EPUBs, about whether you add page numbers? Many users don't use navigation, so if someone is opening EPUBs, you have different page numbers so we don't know how to do that exactly as we should, but our users mostly read ePubs with ePub reader, so asking about experience? So for users navigating by page number, it is never the same pagination. If we are using ePubs to narrate in studio, we have problems to know the page number.
  - Alice: we had experience with cookbooks from ePub sources and had to buy the hard copy cookbook for the page number source.
  - Dipendra: ePub has a method to mark print page numbers and if they aren't marked you won't get that information in the ePub. So that they have to be marked from the beginning, if you need that information they have to be marked.

- Saskia: It is a challenge to audio description in braille and DAISY books, there isn't really a standard or how to do it correctly, also with AI coming, how to do it.
  - Kelsey: There is a session at the seminar in Washington.
  - Alice: There is a certificate you can get from the American Council of the Blind in the United States, there is also a course you can take. Also, at NLS, we are doing audio description of graphic novels and the way we do it is to write a script for the narrator to read. There are a lot of professional groups in the United States for audio description.
    1. Maybe we can have ACB do a topic presentation on their image description certificate and course. Work with Alice and Irmgard for monthly topic session.
- Christiane: Is anyone already using AI to do part or all of a book? (Irmgard: Note: upcoming presentation is on AI with Richard Orme.) Topic of EAA. Also next year is 200 years of braille so maybe we need to do things on social media or some kind of celebration or WLIC program together.
- Yasmine: The Diagram Center (Benetech) also has guidelines for audio/image description.
- Kelsey: the website for the Washington DC seminar is live! Kelsey has information on "infinity" books from Argentina – braille, images, and special font.
- Jason: what else might we want to talk about at the Washington DC seminar? NLS is thrilled for us to attend. NLS is moving back onto the Library of Congress main campus. RE: 200 years of braille, shouldn't we have an international celebration at IFLA for IFLA since this is very important.

## 11. Closing



## 1. Welcome and introductions.

### In attendance:

Irmgard Reijntjes, Bibliotheekservice Passend Lezen, Netherlands (Chair)  
Danielle Miller, Washington Talking Book & Braille Library, USA (Secretary)  
Dalia Balčytė, Lithuanian Library for the Blind, Lithuania (Information Officer)  
Christiane Felsmann, German Centre for Accessible Reading, Germany  
Saskia Boets, Luisterpunt Bibliotheek (Flemish Library for Audiobooks and Braille), Belgium  
Jorunn Wold, National Library of Norway, Norway  
Ellen Follin, MTM, Sweden  
Jason Broughton, NLS, USA  
Maiko Honda, National Diet Library, Japan (Zoom)  
Karolina Zlatar Radogovic, Croatian Library for the Blind, Croatia  
Henriikka Kokki, Accessibility Library Celia, Finland  
Kelsey Corlett-Rivera, NLS, USA  
Heba Kholeif, United Nations, Egypt  
Dipendra Manocha, DAISY Consortium, India (Zoom)  
James Bartlett, RNIB, United Kingdom (Zoom)

### Observers:

Alice O'Reilly, NLS, USA  
Yasmine Youssef, Egypt  
Jelena Lesaja, Croatian Library for the Blind, Croatia (Zoom)  
Francisco Martinez, ONCE, Spain

## 2. Apologies

Hiroshi Kawamura, Assistive Technology Development Organization, Japan

## 3. Approval of the Agenda. The agenda was approved after review by the committee members.

## 4. An Update to the Action Plan 2023-2025

- We are now using Infinity for the action plan and Irmgard shared a screen print of the action plan with the group of the items. Irmgard shared the percentages of action plan items including Accessibility Metadata Network, Guidelines, LPD Seminar of August, and Midterm Meeting in Vilnius. Items under consideration include Topics and Themes for presentations and webinars and Accessibility for Metadata. Completed items include the Midterm meeting in Vilnius.

- i. Christiane: Accessibility Metadata is in two places, but don't we need support, don't we need cooperation. I believe we have already started, including what we have done with what Ellen and Dipendra have written.
- ii. Ellen: are there other options in the drop-down menus?
- iii. Danielle: we can provide more information on drop down menus and options for labeling action plan items.
- iv. Christiane: Does need support mean we need support from IFLA? Irmgard: yes, Division D or Professional Council, or you can say who you need support from.
- v. Heba: How can she be involved in the working groups? And Basecamp has some accessibility issues, for example, adding comments or seeing posts she gets messages that say the page is not responding and the screen reader doesn't read what she is writing. Third, she would like to discuss PDFs that are not in western languages, how to ensure, create guidelines for PDFs in non-western European languages, for example Arabic. Why don't we create guidelines to help produce accessible Arabic PDFs. Alice: Maybe DAISY does this?
- vi. Dipendra: PDFs have to comply with accessibility guidelines, but there are no straight answers, somebody has to do it at the time of design. Sometimes it is UA compliant but are there guidelines for non-western languages (Heba). Dipendra: if it marks as UA compatible, it should work, if it is not, it won't. If there are certain examples of it not working, share examples.
- vii. Francisco: Is there really a difference regarding the language you are using with PDFs, I have an impression the language doesn't matter, it is what you have to take into account what you are doing when you produce the PDF, why those rules don't apply to a language without a Latin alphabet, I am not sure. Heba: Just to clarify, I meant the text direction is different, so the screen reader reads the text in a different direction.
- viii. Dipendra: Basecamp is usable with screenreader, Heba can contact Dipendra.
- ix. Christiane: If Infinity is the new tool, how often do they ask us to update, this is a new tool for the group, so it is very important for us to understand. Irmgard: maybe she can share her screen and the group look together.

## **5. Guidelines for Inclusive Library Services for Persons with Print Disabilities (Danielle)**

- The final first draft sent out with google form feedback survey to 52 librarians, collected feedback will be reviewed and used to inform edits and additions to 2<sup>nd</sup> draft.

Several members of the committee presented to a group of EIFL African Librarians on the Guidelines project and some general information about LPD. There was interest in providing review feedback on the document from some attendees.

The Guidelines committee is meeting all day on the 21<sup>st</sup> and will continue monthly virtual meetings and work in-between.

Feedback and group discussions to complete a 2<sup>nd</sup> draft that will hopefully be done by the middle of May. At that time, we will ask for a second review by the rest of the LPD committee and seek editing input from some LPD members who have volunteered to provide that feedback.

At that point, we will hope to have a reviewed and proofread/edited 2<sup>nd</sup> final draft by July.

The next steps are:

Determine if we need to post and do a Worldwide review process.

Formally submit draft to LPD chair for Standing Committee approval – using Standard Approval Request Form

LPD Chair then forwards the Guidelines and the Standard Approval Request form to the Division D Chair for endorsement by the Professional Committee

## **6. Accessibility Metadata Network (Danielle)**

- The Network Application will be submitted on March 27<sup>th</sup> so it can be considered during the April meeting of the IFLA Governing Board.

We contributed a statement of support in the application.

There is also a short article about the Network that will be in the March IFLA newsletter.

There is a Basecamp group that has over 60 members, all people that are interested in supporting the initiative.

To achieve the goals of the Network, there are so far a proposed four working groups to start to discuss topics and shape outcomes, paths, and goals that make the most sense for what they want to accomplish. We need LPD members on these working groups, or at least one of these working groups. The emerging topic groups are:

1. High-level principles - high level statement about the importance and impact of recording accessibility metadata and making it discoverable
2. Crosswalks/mappings between library encoding schemes and external already existing accessibility metadata schema (metadata re-use). For example, mapping between schema.org, ONIX and MARC 21
3. Best practices for recording accessibility metadata (closely related to the crosswalk group; probably need liaisons between the two?)
4. Vocabulary/thesauri  
controlled list(s) of terms with scope and definition for consistency of description



Is anyone interested in joining one or more of these working groups? Please let me know now, or as soon as possible.

- Heba offered to join working groups 1 and 4.
- Jason offered to join working group 4.

## 7. Discussion on Mission and Vision of LPD

- **Goal 1:**
  - i. change to the word “supporting” to “development of”
  - ii. Use words that would be helpful like raise awareness of, assist, establish, add word inclusive
  - iii. Capacity is biggest challenge for meeting this goal, including human resources and infrastructure
  - iv. Challenge of minority languages
  - v. Accessible publishing guidelines and technology gaps are challenges
  - vi. Use wording so that it is clearer that it is not only referring to ABC
- **Goal 2:**
  - i. change into interact with other organizations, mostly DAISY, there would be activities, like those mentioned by Maarten for example Not just international collaboration, but strategies for partnering internally as well, you need to work internally first before expanding internationally
  - ii. Work with consumer groups like World Blind Union, UN Disability Inclusion Group, Publishers Association. Are there rules with collaboration with publishers, and reading disabilities user groups and service providers as well
  - iii. Change “influence” to “advocate,” take out international policy
  - iv. Don’t list organizations in exhaustive manner, something will always be left out
  - v. Make goal section and make separate section for actions that can be continuously updated
  - vi. How do we measure our goals, if we can’t measure it, it should be an activity
  - vii. Accessible publishing
  - viii. Umbrella organizations, consumer groups, publishers, advocacy groups, technology companies
- **Goal 3:**
  - i. Add word inclusive instead of accessible, use word promote, add action to have a scaffold to move out to groups of people and share best practices about what is working
  - ii. See this goal as an action, explore digital alternative for guidelines to reach global communities
  - iii. How can the guidelines be shared and promoted, are we sharing them in other languages, are we addressing how other languages play into this
  - iv. Maybe this should be listed as first action, maybe this is a primary goal of LPD, maybe more guidelines need to be added

- v. Get feedback from user groups
- vi. LPD in role of capacity building, support other library's implementation of guidelines, framework, improve and grow library system – visual triangle of LPD. LPD is library part of triangle, DAISY is tech part of triangle, ABC is book part of triangle and LPD is library capacity building part of triangle and training and developing. LPD collaboration.
- vii. Inclusive library instead of accessible library
- **Goal 4:**
  - i. First step only, only 10% of the work of providing accessible books for all, countries who have implemented could mentor if they had similar legal systems
  - ii. What is role of LPD for non-Marrakesh countries, role of mentor
  - iii. Reach out for support from DAISY, ABC, Benetech
  - iv. Could delete as it is part of the advocacy for access
  - v. Already supporting implementation, could be part of another goal
  - vi. Can't let it go even if you have passed the first step, defend the Marrakesh Treaty
- **Goal 5:**
  - i. Delete the word development, should the word book be deleted or not
  - ii. Importance of the needs of users
  - iii. Accessibility is important in both ways, accessibility metadata and accessible metadata
  - iv. Action item not goal, supporting goal 1
  - v. Change language to strengthen or increase participation
  - vi. Continuing to engage with other stakeholders, importance of including users
  - vii. Not just information about the book but also how to use it
  - viii. Is the wording supposed to be data or metadata?
- **Goal 6:**
  - i. Library capacity building, the work raises the profile
  - ii. Fundraising, difficult to get representation from other regions, online is not enough, so need to do some fundraising, expand into other countries by being able to fundraise and provide support for travel and participation, develop a financial framework
  - iii. Inclusive library services instead of accessible
  - iv. Raise and promote
  - v. Raise and promote LPD and inclusive library service. – in general, cut the end.
  - vi. Helpful for LPD members to participate in other parts of IFLA and other parts of library organizations to increase awareness, library conference in your countries, future goal of accessible and inclusive library service so hopefully someday it is just inclusive library services so we aren't this special thing
  - vii. Use word awareness, use word global, don't need words library community, maybe more of an activity than a goal
  - viii. IFLA library maps, check if useful

- What are actions? Topic meeting in May, we could use to refine or discuss these items. Christiane, Dalia, Ellen, Karolina, will put together a proposal first.

## 8. Communication Activities

- Dalia: Thanked Ellen and Karolina, and they have agreed on a reasonable level of ambition. The important thing to do is provide a survey of where they are going with LPD communication activities. There are some channels for communication, but we should agree what problems we are trying to solve and what we are going to communicate. That will determine what channels we are going to use. The best situation is if everyone is communicating.
- Question: If we are talking about social media, beginning with Facebook, what type of information should we be posting? Just LPD in general?
  - i. Saskia: I struggled with this because I asked people to post from things they are doing in their libraries, but people get involved in their work. It is nice to have posts from projects in their libraries and to have a mixture of things.
  - ii. Karolina: every participant or member of LPD should represent themselves and their work about how they contribute to the work and about their library and the work they do.
  - iii. Jorunn: We also need to ask what kind of things do people read? If no one is looking at it, it isn't worth the work. People don't want to just read about campaigns, most people are in as private persons, it needs to speak to feelings,
  - iv. Heba: Also some posts could be published about new assistive technology or new developments of AI or new TTS or new technology.
  - v. Dalia: Facebook needs pictures.
  - vi. Saskia: testimonials and pictures do really well.
  - vii. Jason: We are unique at NLS because we have a communications person and we have a scaffolding with Library of Congress. When LPD does communication who are we talking to, who is our audience? Who are we targeting?
  - viii. Yasmine: Are we sure that people who are following us, are they aware what LPD is doing? Our posts aren't making it really clear what we are doing. Are we making sure that whoever is following us understands the impact of what we are doing? It is important to make it a bit personal, it isn't enough to make it about the two meetings a year, we can do a screenshot of the communications team meeting and talk about the meetings we are having the work we are doing.
  - ix. Ellen: We need to decide the target group and put a communication plan in the action plan. It is okay to take time to decide what to do.
  - x. Christiane: We still have 140 people who are on the LPD mailing list, so perhaps we can use bits and pieces for Facebook and let people know they can sign up for the mailing list if they want to know more and tell the mailing list they can come to our monthly topic meetings.

- xi. Jorunn: look at content that gets likes and analyze things.
  - xii. Jason: it is important to be quirky, like for dinner, we ate at the National Gallery and we had chicken... And our libraries have cookbooks! Be quirky and different. Be technical and have a little fun.
  - xiii. Ellen: we have 600 followers on Facebook.
  - xiv. Jason: Things can become too much, so you want to focus on only one or two areas, like Facebook and email.
- Dalia: Moving forward we will raise the question that communication is important for LPD and what we need to do moving forward. We will have a group meeting and can discuss the many topics of communication.
  - Christiane: the newsletter is no longer necessary, but we could do one topic a month on the email mailing list. Say goodbye to the newsletter and use the mailing list.
  - Irmgard: If we want to do a broad invite we need to do Zoom instead of Teams for meetings.
  - Dipendra: Besides our monthly topic meetings, we should also identify any specific communications of our partners that we can share or forward and make available to our group, like DAISY Planet.

#### **9. September Seminar in Washington DC (Jason, Alice, Kelsey)**

- Jason: Thanked Alice and Kelsey for their work planning the LPD Seminar in August, he looks forward to welcoming us.
- Alice: Library of Congress founded in 1800, oldest cultural institution in the US. Largest library in the world, main research arm of US Congress, home of NLS. NLS founded in 1931, the service is provided directly through a network of cooperating libraries.
- <https://www.loc.gov/nls/ifla-lpd-2024/>
- The agenda for August 20-August 22 was shared, beginning afternoon of August 20, ending the evening of August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Sessions include welcome by Librarian of Congress, an evening reception, keynote by ALA president-elect. August 23<sup>rd</sup> will be library tours of Library of Congress and tour of DC Public Library including DC Talking Book and Braille Library. August 24<sup>th</sup>, optional event attending the National Book Festival.
- Shared call for proposals: Accessibility Metadata, Serving Youth Patrons, Library Services to Under-represented Populations, Image Description. Proposals are due by April 30, 2024.
- Some funding was made available to fund participants from under-represented countries, and LoC will be able to fund their travel and interpreter services will be able to be provided as necessary.
- Most meetings and presentations will be in the Madison Memorial Building.
- Room blocks are available at the Capitol Hill Hotel, 200 C St SE for the government rate of \$176 per night. Reservation information will be available in the near future.
- You will have to go through security going into buildings and your bags will be checked going out of buildings, but it isn't a really big deal.

**10. Any other business**

- There was no other business.

**11. Closing**

- Irmgard closed the business meeting and thanked all attendees for the successful meeting and thanked our hosts at the Audiosensory Library.