



**1. Opening and welcome**

Yasmine Youssef, Chair, called meeting to order and called for introductions from attendees.

**2. Welcome from hosts: Dr. Gaur and Dr. Chaubey**

Dr. Gaur welcomed the group and informed us that Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts (IGNCA) has many heritage collections, international programs, partnerships and a large resource center, as well as working in the preservation of ancient manuscripts. They have digitized over 600,000 manuscripts. LPD members in-person will have a tour of IGNCA and he gives us a hearty welcome. He is interested in what type of collaboration and joint sessions are possible, including sessions on cultural heritage.

**3. Introduction of Advisory Committee on Cultural Heritage (ACCH) by Dr. Gaur, Chair**

He works on programs including the IFLA/UNESCO Memory of the World Program, this program is responsible for identifying unique cultural heritage. Digitization in India has not met very many accessibility parameters and he feels that this meeting is working in a positive direction, though there is a long way to go speaking with publishing companies and working with libraries. There are challenges with rural areas where connectivity is not good and there are limitations for reaching persons with print disabilities. He is also the chair of a committee to integrate ministry government libraries and be inclusive of accessibility.

Yasmine provided the mission and goals of LPD. She mentioned the current projects including accessibility metadata, guidelines for library services for person with print disabilities, and a satellite meeting: let's work together, let's library for all.

Yasmine asked about joint session at WLIC. Dr. Gaur stated that we could provide an overview of our session and how the accessibility issue can also be considered, and our group can contribute in ensuring that his group's guidelines meet the standards.

Kirsi: Dr. Gaur mentioned digitization and that cultural heritage that is digitized needs to be made as accessible and available to all users. When it is catalogued there needs to be metadata on the accessibility of the content. When we move ahead with the metadata project we need to reach out to more sections, not just the cataloguing section.

Has professor Gaur had any consideration about how to take accessibility into account when digitization is done? Dr. Gaur: in the past a lot of digitization has been done without taking accessibility into account. Now when we talk about it, people are understanding, and people are including this feature. For many Indian languages OCR is not available, but some improvement in the last 5 years has happened, including creating more awareness.

Dipendra: maybe the two sections can have an online meeting together to explore where the accessibility concerns can be part of the ACCH committee's outcomes and process of following the accessibility standards and to enhance the understanding. Dr. Gaur: He will talk to his committee and maybe there can be a meeting in June, he will let us know after the April meeting.

#### **4. Introductions and attendance list:**

In attendance:

Yasmine Youssef (Chair), Egypt

Danielle Miller (Secretary), Washington Talking Book & Braille Library, USA

Dipendra Manocha, DAISY Consortium, India

Christiane Felsmann, German Centre for Accessible Reading, Germany

Kirsi Yläanne, Celia Library, Finland

Irmgard Reijntjes, Bibliotheekservice Passend Lezen, Netherlands

Jelena Lesaja, Croatian Library for the Blind, Croatia

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

Zoom:

Dalia Balčyūtė, Lithuanian Library for the Blind, Lithuania

Laurette Uzan, Association Valentin Haüy, France

Koen Krikhaar, Dedicon, Netherlands

Kazuhiro Ando, National Diet Library, Japan

Hiroshi Kawamura, Assistive Technology Development Organization, Japan

Observers:

Ellen Follin, MTM, Sweden

#### **5. Apologies:**

Jorunn Wold

#### **6. Approval of the Agenda**

Dipendra: request flexibility for Avneesh Singh to join us, either today or tomorrow.

Agenda was approved.

7. **Approval of meeting minutes:** Meeting minutes of previous business meetings on July 25th 2022 and September 7th, 2021, Available at <https://3.basecamp.com/3833672/buckets/6568895/vaults/908527573>  
Minutes were approved.

8. **LPD SC Elections:**

- IFLA headquarters provided information that we had 13 vacancies on the Committee and we received 9 valid nominations. The 9 nominations are not necessarily going to join us because people can nominate for more than one section. We will have final names by May 1st. The final names will join automatically. For the remaining vacancies we can co-opt members to fill vacancies or increase regional diversity.
- Ellen was nominated by MTM and hopes to join.
- Saskia was nominated to renew her term.
- Dipendra was nominated to renew his term.
- Kazuhiro said that he has a successor, Miss Honda, was nominated.
- Christiane would like to become a mentor since no one from Germany is joining.
- Kirsi stated that someone from Finland was nominated.
- Jelena is an outgoing member and Karolina from Croatia was nominated.
- Yasmine mentioned there are three mentor positions that can be appointed by the Chair.

9. **IFLA Updates:**

- Transition, handover, and onboarding:
  - Transition of committee members and officers – new members will start by WLIC in Rotterdam, IFLA has drafted a transition plan so there will be a smooth hand over. The new plan should be available by mid-March.
- Division Committee chairs and professional council chair will change over.
- Sub-committees & Working Group updates
  - There is a committee reviewing sections and will be taken on by new PC and recommendations from current PC will be forwarded to officers
- Action Planning Sub-Committee
  - Changing platform for developing action plan and making reports, they want it to be more flexible. It may be Airtable, Easy Redmine, or Infinity, but we don't know for certain yet.
- Speaker Grants will be reported at the April 2023 PC meeting.
- Governance Structure – Networks and working Groups
  - The definition of networks and working groups and other operation is still to be addressed.
  - A proposal for implementation of networks will come to the PC in April.
- Ethics and Practice
  - The Ethics and Practice document has been drafted and gone to Governing Board.

- Handbook
  - The first version will be in PDF format, with subsequent drafts to include additional features such as hyperlinking. It was recommended to be a living document with versioning.
- Jelena: for now can you be a member of a working group and not part of a standing committee? Yasmine: Yes, but there must be at least one member of a standing committee on the working group.

#### 10. Officer elections:

- Officer elections will be held by June and July 2023, this will happen online. The process is not clear yet but there will be virtual training for new officers before and after WLIC to onboard them. There will be details on Basecamp by mid-March 2023.
- Are there volunteers for Chair, Secretary, and Communications Officer?
- Yasmine is requesting volunteers for these positions.
- Irmgard volunteered for Chair.
- Danielle volunteered to continue as Secretary.
- Dalia volunteered to be Communications Officer.

#### 11. LPD Name and Scope: Review

Christiane: As we have talked about when we spoke about the Guidelines, it isn't just about print disability, it is about accessibility. It isn't only print because digital materials may also not be accessible so this is an aspect we can look at.

Kirsi: Has IFLA given advice that the names should be reviewed?

Christiane: We received an email that we might want to decide if we want a different acronym so we should probably review the whole name.

Kirsi: Does Hiroshi know the history of the name change?

Hiroshi: The original name was Libraries for the Blind when it spun off from LSN. Many of the members of Libraries for the Blind were from public libraries but the division changed and the membership of Libraries for the Blind grew and LSN decreased, some thought the two should merge.

Koen: In 2008 the name change to Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities, the DAISY Consortium put forward suggestion to recognize wider scope of persons to benefit from materials being created. People were happy with the name change at that time.

Kazuhiro: He shared timeline of name change from 1977 to present.

Yasmine: Not assuming the name will change, it is just always useful to raise the topic. It was interesting to observe that the translation of LPD is different in different languages. It would be interesting to bring a list of how it is translated in different languages.

Dipendra: If there is a change in scope, then it should be reflected in the name. What is happening now is more emphasis on inclusion, we are saying services should be included in mainstream libraries, if we are saying services should be like that, then maybe the word inclusion should be included in the section's name.

Jelena: Thinking maybe of shifting the focus of the name from the person with the disability to the problem itself to something like reading accessibility, shift the focus from the person to the problem itself.

Dipendra: But if we use those generic names, like accessibility as it is used in the disability community is very different than in groups outside this community. For the rest of the world, it will be different. Since our focus is primarily for persons with print disabilities, we need to specify that,

Hiroshi: If we think about inclusion or access, very generically, we have to consider our potential partner sections like LSN and multicultural operations. If we name it too generically or generally, it will fall onto the other sections with the same points of view. So, our core values are very important. In addition to the generic concept we need at least one key word of our core value of the section.

Christiane: I think it is not now that we should do anything about it, but when we have some transition of the LPD committee, IFLA is openminded about it, and people really read the name so we can take our time and we don't need to really worry about this.

Kirsi: Could it be "library services for persons with print disabilities?" Print disabilities has kind of become a legal term since it is in Marrakesh so it is rather understood so it would be difficult to change.

Saskia: Agree with Kirsi, think Library Services for Persons with Print Disabilities is already a good change now, so why can't we change.

Yasmine: We can look at what the process is with IFLA.

Christiane: That change wouldn't change the acronym and she will check with Megan with IFLA.

Yasmine: we will put reviewing the mission and goals on the agenda for the next meeting.

Kirsi: This name change might entice other members from public libraries.

Dipendra: Could we begin the name with Inclusive?

Christiane: Maybe we can put that in goals and mission?

Saskia: Maybe we have some kind of baseline because inclusive is important.

Dipendra: This is about catching the eye of people in the mainstream library system.

Danielle: In favor of putting inclusive in goals and mission, not in the name of the section.

Yasmine: realized goals and mission need review.

Koen: thinks the name change proposed makes sense and agrees.

Hiroshi: agrees suggested name change makes sense.

Dalia: agrees with suggested name change.

Kazuhiro: agrees.

Laurette: agrees.

Yasmine: Suggests we co-opt someone from public libraries as this will bring someone working on inclusive library services and round out the committee.

## 12. Annual report update

- Action items in progress:
  - Guidelines for library services for persons with print disabilities (50%)
  - Develop guidelines on how to use accessibility metadata standards (less than 50%)

- LPD monthly meetings – did some online meetings, not monthly, but there has been good work
- Form a joint committee on IFLA online accessibility with LSN (less than 50%)
- Contribute to the development of ABC GBS (more than 50%)
  - Yasmine read email from Kelsey Corlett-Rivera
- Satellite meeting in Rotterdam (less than 50%)
- Seminar on Improving Accessibility of Cultural Heritage for Persons with Print Disabilities (inclusion of PPD in library services) (more than 50%)
- Completed action items:
  - Online distribution systems for libraries serving persons with print disabilities
- New suggestions for action items
  - Celebrating 10 years of Marrakesh Treaty
    - June 27, 2013 – June 27, 2023 – 10 year anniversary would be good opportunity to hold webinar or some online event to look at what has happened during these ten years.
    - Koen: Think it is a wonderful idea to have a celebration, it is a new idea and of course he would share some experiences and memories. Could this be part of an open session in Rotterdam or would this be an online session? Think it is a wonderful suggestion.
    - Yasmine: for WLIC we have had a discussion that we have a panel, but suggest we have a special event for anniversary of Marrakesh. Can start a poll for a date and we can continue discussion online for the planning for this event.
    - Hiroshi: Ratification doesn't mean implementation, so some benchmarks would be helpful for the evaluation of the ten years. For example, in Latin America, there are many countries in the early stages but in reality it is very sad. We have to look at the actual situation when we discuss the Marrakesh Treaty 10 years.
    - Saskia: we can still say celebrating, we can just still pay attention to the work that needs to be done and ask for attention to the ratification that still needs to be done.
    - Koen: yes, we can celebrate and have a positive view as long as we acknowledge the work that needs to be done.
    - Yasmine: I agree with having a positive view but we can still evaluate the work that needs to be done. Anecdote: Egypt has not ratified, but we started work in 2017 which is thanks to LPD group who had courage to travel and recently at a meeting with the government the Marrakesh Treaty was actually mentioned, when just years ago, no one knew what the Marrakesh Treaty was, so now it is at least part of the conversation. So this is why I think we should be celebrating.

### **13. LPD Seminar on 18<sup>th</sup> of March, 2023**

Dipendra: Seminar is targeted toward inclusion of persons with print disabilities in library services. As of today, there are about 237 people attending a hybrid event. It will start at

10:00 and go until 5:00. There could be a shift in time, it may need to start at 10:30. The seminar will have presentation both from the international perspective and also some initiatives that have happened in India. The people who are attending are from libraries in the Delhi region that are special libraries, but the majority are from academic and public libraries. This attendance helps with moving toward inclusion in libraries.

#### **14. WLIC 2023**

How many will attend? Almost all members are attending either in person or online. Dipendra will attend online. Early bird registration is until May 16. Hotel is Postillion Hotel in Rotterdam.

Dynamic Unit and Impact Award: A total of 4 awards, one for each criteria and they will be determined by the jury soon.

Posters: Best poster award and two new categories, viewers-choice and TBD. Jelena will submit poster.

Hybrid Congress:

Business meetings will allow remote participation (14 rooms available)

We will hold one in-person meeting and next meeting will be online.

Speakers can submit pre-recorded presentations.

Material from conference will be available for 3 months to physical and online delegates.

1 open session room will be live streamed.

2<sup>nd</sup> session room will allow remote participation real-time.

A small number of sessions will be live streamed for free on YouTube.

Kirsi/Koen: OPADE may not be accessible, we may be able to reach out to LSN.

Saskia: LSN has accessibility as their topic for their open session.

Kirsi: will the online platform be Zoom or will it be OPADE?

Poster exhibition will take place in conference center and online platform for remote delegates, voting feature will be available.

Braindate will be introduced to allow delegates to connect with each other.

Recordings of all onsite sessions will be made available on the same day on the conference platform.

There will be development of remote conference hubs based in IFLA's regions, excluding Europe.

##### **a. LPD Business Meetings**

- i. First meeting will be in-person on Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023
- ii. Second meeting will be online and should happen within one month after WLIC

##### **b. LPD Open Session**

- i. Proposal submitted
- ii. Title: Empowering IFLA's Inclusive Strategy: Services for Persons with Print Disabilities

- iii. Duration: 75 minutes
- iv. Format: Panel discussion
- v. Speakers: ?
- c. Christiane: clarify what a panel session means?
- d. Yasmine: IFLA doesn't have a definition, but it should be more interactive with people discussing a topic or topics with some questions raised.
- e. Christiane: maybe have someone from the public libraries to have a different approach. Maybe have someone from IFLA.
- f. Yasmine: the idea is to continue the topic from what we have started talking about at the Satellite meeting.
- g. Koen: maybe one or two of the presenters from the Satellite could be on the panel and do a quick summary of what they presented. Usually panels he has seen have 4 people and they introduce themselves and do a quick talk. We need a moderator, someone who can inspire, ask good questions, engage the audience, etc. The title and theme is so wide it should be pinned down to something more narrow, for example the Satellite is pinned down to in the public library sphere. So maybe here it should be for what can be done for this inclusion.
- h. Irmgard: ask one or two persons from our target group so we can hear what they would like to see, what they envision as inclusive services – nothing about us without us. Irmgard can ask patrons from her advisory board if they want to participate.
- i. Need someone to represent the special libraries.
- j. Yasmine: is Koen interest in moderating the session? Session will be between 21st-25th. He will think about it. Yes, he thinks he can do it, but needs to be more involved with the theme, the panelists. Yasmine is happy to support Koen.
- k. Christiane: the person who comes from the target group needs to meet our expectations for how they will be responding to questions.
- l. Kirsi: is there a date we need the names for the panelists?
- m. Yasmine: yes, it is quite soon, maybe April. She will get back to us. A small committee can be formed. Anyone for a committee: Irmgard, Christiane, Saskia, Koen, Yasmine.

## 15. LPD Satellite Meeting 2023

Let's work together, Let's Library for All

Koen: Content Committee has responsibility for creating program. We sent call for papers and initially deadline was March 1<sup>st</sup>, but felt we didn't have enough papers, so we sent a second call for papers and extended deadline to March 25<sup>th</sup>. At the current time, we have 14 proposals and these will be discussed on April 4<sup>th</sup>. The content committee is Koen, Saskia, Jorunn, and Danielle. Some papers were received from Nordic countries, Celia, United States (NLS), Netherlands, Dedicon, Tunisia, EDR Lab, India, Canada/US. Yasmine received a proposal from a public library in Peru. Language for the Peruvian presenters may be a challenge, but consecutive interpretation may be an option. Koen is trying to get in touch with a European organization about a completed project about trying to make cultural heritage accessible in the library.



Irmgard: Satellite is in the Korenbeurs in Schiedam, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of August. The building used to be the most green building with many trees. It is in the center of the city and there are canals. It is a beautiful location. We hope for an attendance of 50 people, but the building can hold 80 people.

Saskia: Maybe we should make it possible for people to participate for just one day, since there is a public library satellite on the 19<sup>th</sup> in Tilburg.

## 16. Communication plan 2021-2023

LPD mailing list: 145 people, some new entries after sending out communications, so good to use this mailing list more frequently.

Facebook: 437 likes (like us), 455 followers

Twitter: 322 followers, follow 49 accounts

Communication matters:

LPD Message:

Everyone can read

Reading with eyes, ears, and fingers (ask Dipendra if we can use)

Read it your way

That all may read (can't use, NLS)

Website / [www.ifla.org/lpd](http://www.ifla.org/lpd)

- anything possible to work on the structure? --> CF is asking Patrick Danowski (head of Division D / IFLA) if there is anything we can do about it.
- hiding the Blog - put it into the archive
- use pictures: need of sharing from all LPD-institutions, we collect the pictures on Basecamp / LPD communication
- share videos and links (in original language with English subtitles)

LPD YouTube-channel

- use the video with Brad Turner --> need, that Brad will be cut out, because he is not at Bookshare anymore and was not to be found so far. --> CF checked if captioning may be done by dzb lesen - too much work.
- share video files from your institutions!
- need to organize and share an easy instruction "How to upload videos accessibly."

LPD Twitter

- Yasmine shares the Login so everyone within LPD Standing Committee is able sharing content

Facebook account

- sharing of the login is welcome so every Standing Committee member is able to share content

LPD online meetings / LPD Zoom-license

Possible topics are:

- Digital Braille loan (potential presenters: DC, NLS?): new steps, new quality, new standards
- outreach to refugees (potential presenters: EIFL/Teresa, Dalia?): examples and sharing of ideas
- Services for people with dyslexia (potential presenters: luisterpunt, NOTA): content, communication, ideas and sharing of experiences
- EAA (potential presenters: LIA, Kirsi?): background, timeline, sharing of ideas
- e-pub (potential presenters: Richard Orme, others?): How to produce, distribute and use e-pubs?
- cooperation with public libraries and/or the national library association (potential presenters: MTM, dzb lesen, luisterpunt)
- Metadata (potential presenters: Working group meta data)
- Shift from accessible formats to accessibility (images, website, DC, etc.), --> guidelines for accessible pdf, accessible principles (accessibility guidelines for all formats)
- developing countries
- Braille music - producing and ways to deliver (Danielle / USA is able contributing, dzb lesen / Germany as well)

LPD newsletter:

topics for upcoming newsletters need to be found and shared.

Dipendra: Have our group identify the most relevant sections of IFLA and try to collaborate with those sections on presentations, seminars, etc.

Kirsi: great list of potential topics, but who is going to take over, are you going to mentor?

Christiane: I think you need one person who is the head of something, but you need people who are in charge of the topics, if each person takes a monthly meeting then you are individually responsible for one monthly meeting. If everyone takes some responsibility, then it will be fine.

Irmgard: This could be a topic for our next online meeting and we could discuss these topics and see if we can assign the session topics.

# Minutes - LPD Midterm Meeting 2

**March 16, 2023, 10:00 AM New Delhi, India**

**Tour of IGNAC at 10:00 AM and meeting resumes at 11:00 AM**

In attendance:

Yasmine Youssef, Egypt

Danielle Miller, Washington Talking Book & Braille Library, USA

Dipendra Manocha, DAISY Consortium, India

Christiane Felsmann, German Centre for Accessible Reading, Germany

Kirsi Yläanne, Celia Library, Finland

Jorunn Anna Wold, Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille, Norway

Irmgard Reijntjes, Bibliotheekservice Passend Lezen, Netherlands

Jelena Lesaja, Croatian Library for the Blind, Croatia

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

Zoom:

Dalia Balčyūtė, Lithuanian Library for the Blind, Lithuania

Laurette Uzan, Association Valentin Haüy, France

Koen Krikhaar, Dedicon, Netherlands

Kazuhiro Ando, National Diet Library, Japan

Hiroshi Kawamura, Assistive Technology Development Organization, Japan

Observers:

Ellen Follin, MTM, Sweden

Kelsey Corlett-Rivera, NLS, United States

## **17. Harmonization of accessibility metadata: Avneesh Singh**

Presentation on accessibility metadata.

Kirsi: Last year we made a survey about accessibility metadata that asked questions in three parts. Half of respondents were using MARC 21. We also asked how do producers present metadata and most did not use accessibility metadata fields because the fields 341 and 532 are relatively new. This is a problem for ABC who gathers the metadata from members and sometimes information is lacking. In order to improve the metadata we share there need to be some guidelines. There is a problem with DAISY using Dublin Core. We need to find the gaps in the crosswalk and see the place for the accessibility metadata. The third one was that we asked the librarians and catalogers what kind of needs they think the users have and for example do they think the name of the narrator is essential? We know many of our users think the narrator is essential. We need to find out what the users think and we might miss something if we just take the producers point of view. We are trying to set up a date for a webinar and we should first focus on our own

community, LPD and ABC. She hopes that each of us think about the experts on production and cataloguing in our organizations and have them join the discussion. There are lots of different groups and projects going on around the world and we need to keep talking to each other so we don't do duplicate work.

Avneesh: Thank you for your work and input. Your main objective is to make things really usable for the users. Right now we are gathering a lot of feedback and have feedback from France, Dedicon, and Italy. It would be great to have more feedback from the user group. The scope is not Epub specific. The more we have different groups represented the better and how do we establish a good liaison between groups so we don't duplicate effort of work. Another important thing for Dublin Core, do we need to expand it for DAISY. Accessibility metadata is designed for xml.

Kirsi: It would be wonderful to solve the DAISY book metadata problem with existing metadata, but there is no place in Dublin Core to put them at the moment. We need to think about the digital format in order to make as accessible as possible.

Dr. Chaudby: we are using extended Dublin Core.

Kirsi: Can you share an example.

Yasmine: We should discuss getting the opinion of the users. We represent the libraries and how can we get those opinions, it is not an easy task.

Kirsi: Hopefully we can get Hans Berens from Dedicon to talk about the study they did. How can we learn from that.

Christiane: When we want to have the webinar before we meet in Rotterdam, we should have it in May so we have time to prepare. We need some people to organize.

Kirsi: Will put up a doodle for dates. We can use Basecamp for the discussion.

Avneesh: can LPD assign some people to be officially liaisons?

Yasmine: We can discuss who will be our liaison and get back to you.

## **18. LPD webinar on the use of accessibility metadata**

Kirsi will send doodle poll for dates, Yasmine will arrange webinar. Kirsi will present results on survey and hopes Hans Berens will present them and will present paper for Satellite. Also hear from Chris Oliver what US/Canadian group is doing. As a result from webinar hope there will be a working group within LPD community of producers and cataloguers working on accessibility metadata. Probably also going to DAISY Consortium for participation. Might also have the question of DAISY tools and do they support the work of humans. Will also share the draft of the program and open it up for comments and feedback.

Yasmine: what are we doing next, the webinar. We identified a few key people we are inviting to this working group. We are outgoing members, so we need to identify people to hand this work over to. We have Kelsey from NLS, but maybe others of you can think of colleagues at your organisations that could be part of this working group. After this

webinar, would it be important for these people to have a meeting and establish next steps. It will be important to meet in Rotterdam.

Jelena: Is it necessary that a person doing this work is an IFLA member?

Yasmine: No.

Jelena: Can I spread the word in my library?

Yasmine: Yes.

## **19. Guidelines on Library Services for Persons with Print Disabilities**

Danielle described the steps and progress that had been taken thus far on the Guidelines for Inclusive Library Services for Persons with Print Disabilities. She stated there was a working first draft document that was in progress and invited feedback from LPD members to help inform a completed first draft that will be shared with public librarians who have expressed interest in providing comments. The working group will continue working and meeting monthly and will meet in person in Rotterdam.

## **20. Ukrainian titles**

Dalia: Held a webinar in January attended by approximately 15 people about the sharing of Ukrainian titles in Lithuania including the legality. The recorded webinar is available on Basecamp. Dalia shared a presentation on the process and stages of being able to share Ukrainian titles. This work supported Ukrainian refugees with print disabilities.

Kirsi: Some of the heading structure in the books could be improved, but if there is demand for the titles, some of us could most likely offer support in production. Is the cooperation continuing?

Dalia: Yes, they are producing and we are teaching them the metadata is necessary but it takes time.

Saskia: The lack of specific headers and the small size of the books, I wonder if they were produced as MP3s and then converted? Maybe we have to talk about who does what, so we don't do the same work in working with them. But thank you for the work, we have had questions from the schools and it is very important to have them.

Dalia: we haven't had so many uses in Lithuania, but we have had some use, but we will get more information about where to find children that may benefit.

## **21. Round Robin**

**Koen:** Dedicon finished a project called T-PUB which aims at working with publishers to encourage and educate them to publish their ebooks in an accessible way. Raising awareness and disseminating basic knowledge on accessibility were the goals. Deliverables were several guidelines (practical manuals for publishers and workshops to work with the publishers. Together with the Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria, Dedicon has partnered in a European project from the Erasmus+ program, called IPIP (inclusive publishing in Practice). It

has the same goals of awareness raising and sharing of expertise. In September 2022 the [IPIP](#) website was launched. The tutorials and modules are in 4 languages English, French, German and Dutch.

Several projects have to do with the growing importance of images in publications. Some involved adding (human, not automated) descriptions to pictures in weekly magazines. Because of the rising production costs, Dedicon is now trying to involve volunteers to add relevant description to the images. On the tactile front there are also made some innovations: The tactile products were enriched with braille and QR codes that lead to a webpage where a full description can be found (in audio) of the tactile image. These kinds of maps are now standard procedure within the production chain of tactile images. within the range of tactile.

The importance of online delivery is growing. We are still working, with stakeholders, on a road map to phasing out the CD's and making sure no one is left behind by looking into simple alternatives. A fixed date for out phasing the cd's is not set yet, especially since there is not a fitting alternative for the target group that still enjoys cd's on a Daisy machine.

Dedicon has updated its Online Player and made it more user friendly and future prepared. Next step is the development of a service based on the online player (OLP) to deliver digital braille (e-braille) and possibly epub3 books with full text.

On the metadata front there is now a project underway that starts with gathering the needs of the end users: what kind of metadata will deliver the most value to the customers in their search and discovery journey to find the best book. Then a test environment will be build (with a limited collection) where we can alter the metadata and involve the end users to see which set of data is most helpful.

Dedicon is asked to help the land registry offices to make their maps more accessible. The first step is to create an automated process to enhance the digital maps that are in their collections with symbols that are understandable and accessible in an online search. Secondly to create a production process that will allow for the individual user to apply for certain tactile map created by Dedicon.

#### **Christiane:**

- Put up a taskforce together with the German publishers and booksellers association for organising/preparing an accessible standard for e-pubs (EAA in force in 2025)
- At dzb lesen a software for producing braille music scores was further developed with money of the DAISY consortium. More and more partners are using the software, latest partner ist AVH, Paris.
- June 2022 was the start of a loan for large print books which we produce on demand.
- Project with the other producers/libraries in Germany (Medibus e.V.) started in 2022 in order to prepare the used loan software for digital braille and epub as well.

**Irmgard:** In 2022 we launched our new app Passend Lezen. It is the successor of the Daisy lezer app. It is an app basically from Sensotec and modified to the needs of our patrons. IT is more stable and user-friendly

Second, we are very busy developing our new website. We do this step by step. The part of the information of the patron name, were the live etc. is now available. We work close together with Firmground, an organization specialist in accessible websites.

Further, we are working hard on different projects to enhance our systems for the patrons and the end of march we have a big customer satisfactory survey together with our suppliers Dedicon and the CBB.

**Kelsey:**

- new catalog interface - Tomcat. much more accessible
- finished first major stage of implementation of new online reading interface - BARD 2.0
- added major updates to iOS BARD app and created a Kindle Fire app
- started virtual patron-facing programs via zoom that share information about our operations and allow for direct questions. Patron Corner and also many faces of BARD
- started several projects around indigenous language and topical materials
- further developed our program that makes it easier for our veterans to sign up for NLS service - saw a big increase in their numbers
- still in the process of implementing a new production tracking system.
- started braille-on-demand program where patrons can order hard copy versions of titles we only have in electronic braille
- Continued to distribute braille ereader devices around the country - supply chain issues have impacted the number of devices we can distribute but it's still underway
- We recently sent the metadata for about 5,500 new books to ABC, and we're in the process of sharing the book files. They are also going to Canada, who will again convert them to DAISY.

**Saskia: Luisterpuntbibliotheek, Flemish library serving persons with print disabilities, Belgium**  
**10 years 'Ik haat lezen' ('I hate reading')**

In 2022, we celebrated 10 years 'Ik haat lezen' ('I hate reading'), our campaign for children and youngsters with dyslexia. With this campaign, we are trying to turn "I hate reading!" into "Can I

have another book?". We 'renovated' the website and put many instructional videos, a starter kit for professionals (teachers, library staff), testimonials, webinars, a starter kit and so much useful information on the homepage: <https://www.ikhaatlezen.be>.

We got airtime on national TV at the start of the school year and made a nice TV spot. We made a new poster, trying to get people to have a 'dyslexia experience' by adapting the text. We organised many online and physical info sessions, held a packed study day, and created an online escape room. The escape room is a hit, having been played more than 9,000 times in the meantime and receiving very positive feedback.

### **Subscription through organisations**

2022 was the first year that more **youth readers** (up to 14 years old) subscribed **through organisations** (especially schools and libraries) than directly through Luisterpunt.

### **Reader survey**

In January 2022, we organised an extensive reader survey, with more than 1,000 respondents. Results:

- Our users are very satisfied, average scores between 4,5 and 5 to 5;
- Appreciation of cooperation with ABC for GBS, for books in other languages. We regularly try to add books in other languages to our collection, also from AVH, RNIB, our German colleagues.
- App: searching through the catalogue can be improved.

### **CD versus online**

91% of our users read with an online bookshelf. 9% of our users are CD users, but they generated 38% of total loans in 2022.

(2021: 12% CD readers --> 44% of loans)

### **Dalia: Lithuanian Audiosensory Library**

Projects and activities implemented in 2022

1. We changed the name and returned to the renovated library in Vilnius!

After a two-year renovation of the LAB building in Vilnius (Skrobly st. 10), we have returned to the renewed building and continue our activities in much more modern conditions and with a new name - Lithuanian Audiosensory Library! The title is accompanied by the extension "Audio and Braille Books".

2. We opened accessible content for Ukrainians.

A large number of Ukrainians found temporary refuge in Lithuania, most of them women and children. We believe that a significant number of these children read differently. We could not remain indifferent, so we replenished our virtual library ELVIS with children's books in Ukrainian. These publications marked with hearts in the colors of Ukraine are the result of cooperation with the Lviv branch of the Ukrainian Union of Disabilities. We were the first in Europe, and perhaps in the world, to take such a step. We also have Ukrainian publications in Braille, which are already read by Ukrainian blind people staying in Lithuania.

3. We organized the (No)Reading Festival.



The biggest event of Dyslexia Awareness Week #GoRedForDyslexia was aimed at teenagers and young people. The discussion "I hate to read, but I learn to grow" in Vilnius, MO Museum left a particularly great impression. Participants of discussion were famous Lithuanian young people with dyslexia. The thematic play "I Tried" was written especially for the festival, the readings (premiere) of which took place in the National Museum of M. K. Čiurlionis in Kaunas. 366 people participated in the festival activities.

4. We invested in user comfort - we started developing our virtual library ELVIS apps! ELVIS mobile applications suitable for Android and iOS operating systems will reach our users already this spring. A simplified ELVIS app for Android users is also being developed, which we hope readers who are just getting used to smart devices will dare to use.

5. We took care of intellectual property protection and copyright. Noticing the differences in the approach and decisions made by different institutions, we initiated the discussion "Who can read accessible format publications?" "we were looking for answers to complex inter-institutional questions.

6. Virtual library ELVIS - at the Vilnius book fair. For the first time, we participated in the largest event uniting publishers and readers with ELVIS - we presented audio books, demonstrated the operation of ELVIS and invited those who have difficulty reading normally to choose audio publications.

7. We invited Lithuanian publishers to discover the undiscovered reader. An undiscovered reader is a person who, due to intellectual disability, age-related changes, neurological peculiarities or simply because Lithuanian is not his native language, cannot read ordinary books. These readers need books in an easy-to-read language, but we still don't have fiction books in this format in Lithuania. In order to create a change, together with the Lithuanian Publishers Association (LLA) and the Embassy of Sweden in Lithuania, we organized the conference "How to tell a story to an undiscovered reader?".

**Dipendra: DAISY Consortium:**

Provided training and technical support under ABC capacity building program in 10 countries in 2022 and extending to 9 more countries in 2023. These capacity building programs include

- training to produce books in accessible digital text, large print, audio and braille format
- Production of school textbooks in all the above formats
- Providing few playback devices to users loaded with their textbooks along with training to use them
- Training of trainers on playback devices of accessible format books

This way, a model of complete ecosystem is created under the capacity building projects. DAISY Consortium has created an online training platform to deliver these trainings in English, French and Spanish languages. It is being extended to Arabic language. In addition, trainings are also being provided in Russian language. The trainings are a combination of online lessons and exercises and interactive sessions with trainers. To know more or to user learning

opportunities, visit: <https://protect2.fireeye.com/v1/url?k=31323334-501cfaeb-313553c2-454455535732-154ef40ed52d2505&q=1&e=573498f0-f218-42bd-b158-6b9b87413c13&u=https%3A%2F%2Flearning.daisy.org%2F>

there are few more very interesting courses there. The list is growing. We also encourage you to write to us if you would like to see any other specific course there.

DAISY Consortium has released an easy to install and use interface of its flagship format converter open-source software “DAISY Pipeline”. This would enable use of very versatile conversion software from several digital files to accessible digital book formats by all small and big organisations even if they do not have highly qualified engineering staff. Several new conversions have also been added to the software such as:

- Unscrambler for ONCE books: This script would enable use of DAISY books created by ONCE to be used on any MP3 player also in right order.
- DAISY 2 Mega Voice compatible folder set: mega Voice is a solar powered low-cost audio book player. However, it has a peculiar folder structure to provide navigation facility up to four levels of sections and sub-sections. The player is very useful option for extremely low resource regions of developing countries. This converter would make whole collection of books available from global libraries such as the ABC Global Book Service and Bookshare in format compatible with these players.

DAISY Forum of India:

Online library and repository of accessible format books call Sugamya Pustakalaya has been established. Affordable playback options of RBD, DAISY players, Smart phone apps and Windows apps connected to Sugamya Pustakalaya have also been made available compatible with 16 Indian languages. DFI is now concentrating on increasing the outreach of this facility in all parts of the country.

**Yasmine:** ATDO has started a collaboration with GIZ Egypt on accessible publishing and capacity building. The collaboration aims to support their project that aims at youth empowerment and inclusion.

We are also working on supporting the portal of accessible books established by the Ministry of Communication and Information technology, through collection development and testing of the platform. The portal aims to increase the availability of accessible books in Egypt, and ATDO is providing support through collection development and testing of the platform. ATDO's involvement in the project will help to ensure that the portal is user-friendly, accessible, and meets the needs of all users, including people with disabilities.

ATDO is also following up with the National Library on their efforts to advocate for the ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty in Egypt.

We are collaborating with NGOs on reading experience workshops to promote the use of accessible books, especially amongst children with learning and reading disabilities. The workshops aim to increase awareness of the importance of accessible books and provide training on how to use them effectively. By collaborating with NGOs, ATDO is able to reach a wider audience and promote the use of accessible books in communities across Egypt.

**Jelena: CROATIAN LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND (CLB)**

In 2022 we started producing each and every new title in 3 formats: Daisy audio, EPUB and preparation for printed Braille. We have produced around 120 titles in all 3 accessible formats last year. We are also producing 5 magazines, some are monthly and some are being produced once every two months. Around 100 titles we have received and included in our collection made by other producers of accessible audio books and also a few unique tactile picture books for children.

We have around 1200 active users loaning altogether around 50000 books. Majority of new users are school children and youngsters with dyslexia.

Download service is the most popular choice, but we still have regular mail service, door to door service and some users still love to come to our library.

For some users we started copying books to SD cards, because they have new pocket devices (after their old cd players have broken down) and still are not capable of using our online service on their own.

CLB had 7 exhibitions in the library and various events, some were made in collaboration with Academy for fine arts and Academy for music and with the educational center for blind persons.

We've recorded 12 episodes of a podcast, guests are Croatian authors that narrate their own books in our studios.

The Braille printing department has been fully renovated.

We are negotiating with the Board for libraries at our Ministry of culture and with the National library about the policies regarding obligations of our library being a focal point and center for accessible library services in Croatia. These policies will also include building of a Croatian national platform for materials and books in accessible formats.

Collaboration with public and school libraries have been active and we have contracts with around 20 of them. They are able to download books from our online service for their print disabled users and include them in their collection.

CLB is still negotiating with publishers about receiving their PDFs directly for an easier production process of our accessible formats.

We give workshops and lectures about our library and services for persons with print disabilities to students of library science and librarians that are preparing for state exams.

CLB has also joined the ABC beneficiary platform but only 12 users are using it for now.

In November 2022. CLB hosted meetings in person with the LPD guidelines group.

In December CLB, together with one public library, translated the Fi accessibility guidelines (with some changes regarding national law practice) for public libraries.

**Kirsi:** News from Celia, Finland

The Finnish legislation about the Library for the Visually Impaired was revised in 2022. The new name of Celia is Accessibility Library Celia (in Finnish Saavutettavuuskirjasto Celia, in Swedish Tillgänglighetsbibliotek Celia). Celia got also a new task, to act as an expert of inclusive library services for persons with print disabilities and as an expert on accessible publishing.

The Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture have been thinking about joining separate organizations and agencies under its supervision. There has been discussion should the National Library, The Repository Library and Celia be joined together. We will know more after the results of the parliamentary elections in April and when the new government will publish its roadmap for the next years.

Some projects going on

- Celia is building a new online delivery system which will be launched next year.
- Celia will transform Daisy Text-only books into EPUB 3 format
  - From 2024 epub3 (text only) production. Also studying should/could we shift from Daisy full text and full audio book to EPUB 3 (audio & text synchronized)
- Helping publishers to follow European Accessibility Act requirements. A new website called [Julkaisekaikille.fi](http://Julkaisekaikille.fi) which explains what is needed.
- Starting to study cognitive accessibility more. A project with special teachers. We'll produce a textbook for 3 & 4 grade on biology & geography using images to explain concepts and easy-to-read language.

In the year 2022, the amount of all loans was 1,254,627. The proportion of online loans was 75.8 %

**Danielle:** The Washington Talking Book & Braille Library (WTBBL) has been loaning Zoomax 20-cell refreshable braille displays through NLS for just over a year and the program is going well. Braille circulation is up and many people are making use of the braille eReaders to read braille downloaded from the BARD website. NLS also launched a braille-on-demand program where patrons can request up to 5 braille books a month to be embossed and sent to them for their personal collections. WTBBL is launching a podcasting program and we hired a staff person to lead the project and are purchasing equipment to digitize our former radio control room and to support this new initiative. In 2022 we increased our outreach efforts and did a large mailing campaign to optometrists and ophthalmologists, created a new youth services brochure, and did significant traveling around the state doing outreach visits, tabling events, and conference and library presentations on WTBBL services. We continued our partnership with the Washington State Independent Living Program and added an additional 30 CCTVs to our

inventory available to loan to eligible patrons. We began offering Discovery Passes to check out which are passes that allow free parking and access to Washington State Parks and Government lands and are partnering with WA State Parks Foundation on accessible backpack kits to go out with the passes.

Discussion:

Dipendra: a few members mentioned easy to read format. Are there any trainings available for people who want to do that work?

Kirsi: I can connect you with Finnish researchers and there are researchers in Germany as well, and there are differences that are dependent on the language – what is considered easy to read in your language.

Christiane: In Germany, we have two different easy to read languages. The definition is important.

Kirsi: In Finland, we even have three stages of easy to read, so you can go down a rabbit hole.

## **22. Any other business**

LPD Dinner in Rotterdam – Date? Probably a Sunday, same day as first business meeting. Good opportunity for incoming and outgoing members to meet.

Irmgard: you talk about incoming and outgoing members. I need to make a reservation, so how many people? Irmgard will look for a nice restaurant.

Which organizations have policy on conversion of Ebooks protected by DRM to accessible format reading material?

Kelsey: We don't have a policy per se, we started using them in pandemic procedure as part of telework, before was narration from print. We got permission to strip DRM to use to record but may start distributing Epubs in 2024.

Transition and welcome of new SC: IFLA sent information including checklist for outgoing officers on how to do handover and Yasmine will share. By May 1<sup>st</sup> new members of standing committee will be announced and we will plan an online welcome meeting, and that will include outgoing members so she will send a poll for scheduling meeting. Finally, we only have one meeting in person in Rotterdam. The first meeting will include outgoing and current members and agenda will be prepared by both chairs.

## **23. Closing**

Meeting ended and thanks and appreciation were given to staff of IGNCA for meeting support and logistics.