

WIPO Regional Workshop on the Beijing and Marrakesh Treaties

organized by
the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
in cooperation with
the Federal Service for Intellectual Property (ROSPATENT)

Moscow, September 11 and 12, 2017

CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGE OF ACCESSIBLE FORMAT COPIES

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Marrakesh in July 2013 played a completely different role, in the field of IP rights, from what it played in April 1994

The importance and the unique nature of the Marrakesh Treaty (1)

- **Adjectives** to characterize the Treaty used on the occasion of the adoption of the Treaty and immediately after it: „**historical**,” „**exceptional**,” „**unique**.”
- Probably, it will not be referred to by its long title.
 - On the WIPO website, in the list of treaties administered by WIPO, it is mentioned as „**Marrakesh VIP Treaty**” (where VIP stands for „visually impaired persons”); also the abbreviation „MVT” is used
 - In the first commentaries, it was also mentioned by referring to what makes it unique: „**Marrakesh Treaty on Accessible Format Copies for VIP.**” (Its format-oriented nature makes it exceptional and unique among the copyright treaties.)

The importance and the unique nature of the Marrakesh Treaty (2)

- The reason for which the Marrakesh Treaty is „historical” is **not because it has made it possible to apply limitations and exceptions for the visually impaired. That had been possible also on the basis of the existing international treaties.**
- The main reasons for which it is „historical” is that **it offers an appropriate framework and rules for international cooperation facilitating cross-border exchange (export-import) of **accessible format copies** and, thus, availability of such copies irrespective of in which country they are produced.**

Historical background: the 1982 Model Provisions (1)

- The international copyright community dealt with the issue of limitations and exceptions for the visually impaired, for the first time, at the beginning of the 1980s.
- In 1982 a WIPO-Unesco Working Group (of which the author of this presentation happened to be the Chairman) adopted Model Provisions for this purpose.
- WIPO-Unesco Model Provisions clarified that the Berne Convention allowed the introduction of limitations (in the form of compulsory licenses) and exceptions (in the form of free uses) to facilitate access to works for the visually impaired in special formats on the basis of the three-step test provided in Article 9(2) of the Berne Convention .(The Model Provisions were published in „*Copyright*,“ the then monthly review of WIPO (December 1982 issue, pp. 354-356).)

Historical background: the 1982 Model Provisions (2)

- **At its 1983 session, the Executive Committee of the Berne Convention noted with approval the Model Provisions** and recommended their implementation and application.
- **A great number of countries have implemented the Model Provisions** either within more general limitations or exceptions for people with disability or in the form of specific limitations or exceptions for VIP.

Historical background: the 1982 Model Provisions (3)

The Model Provisions followed practically the same – or, at least, very similar – principles as those on which the Marrakesh Treaty has been based:

- There was complete agreement in 1982 too that the exceptions or limitations for the visually impaired should be “subject to the obligations under the international conventions” (including the key obligation to respect the conditions of the “three-step test”).
- The principle of a balanced approach – “a proper balance between the needs of handicapped persons and the legitimate interests of copyright owners” – was stressed also at that time.
- It was stressed that “the opinion according to which copyright as such is an obstacle for the handicapped was not the right approach to the problem, and that only some unnecessary obstacles... should be removed.” (continues)

Historical background: the 1982 Model Provisions (4)

- It was stressed that, wherever it was possible, preference should be given to access guaranteed by the owners of rights concerned based on the “possibility of negotiation, either on an individual or on a collective basis,” and that commercial availability of accessible format copies – as it was put in the report: “the fact of a publisher of works for the handicapped having already undertaken publication” – may exclude the need for the application of exceptions or limitations.
- As a basic principle, it was identified also at that time that “appropriate guarantees should be provided in order to prevent” “that the copies of works intended for use by handicapped persons might also be used by the general public.”
- There was agreement also in that period that the specific conditions and requirements of blind people in developing countries should be duly taken into account.

The Marrakesh Treaty has eliminated the isolation of the national provisions based on the Model Provisions

- The Model Provisions **were intended for national legislation**.
- **Provisions** have been **adopted in many countries** on exceptions or limitations for persons with visually impairment **on the basis of** the principles and the models offered by **the Model Provisions**.
- However, the various national systems **have remained more or less isolated**. Thus, it was difficult to benefit from special format copies made in other countries.
- The **Marrakesh Treaty** has established the basis for **efficient cross-border use** of such copies.

Cross-border exchange (1)

Article 5. Cross-Border Exchange of Accessible Format Copies

1. Contracting Parties shall provide that **if an accessible format copy is made under a limitation or exception** or pursuant to operation of law, that accessible format copy **may be distributed or made available by an authorized entity to a beneficiary person or an authorized entity in another Contracting Party.**

- **Key element of the Treaty** since its objective is **to offer international** legislative and organizational **framework** for availability of accessible format copies.
- **Where a Contracting Party implements Article 4(4)** confining limitations or exceptions to works which, in the particular accessible format, *cannot be obtained* commercially under reasonable terms for beneficiary persons on that market, **Article 5(1) does not apply in respect of the copies that may be obtained commercially under reasonable terms on the given market** (since, in that case, the copies are not made under a limitation or exception). In such a case, the owners of rights maintain their exclusive rights of distribution and making available to the public from the viewpoint of the legislation of the Contracting Party involved. **However, importation depends on the importing market.**

Cross-border exchange (2)

Agreed statement concerning Article 5(1): It is further understood that **nothing in this Treaty reduces or extends the scope of exclusive rights under any other treaty.**

- It **follows from Article 1 of the Treaty that it does not derogate from the obligations under any other treaties;** thus, it does not reduce the scope of any exclusive rights provided in those treaties (of course, in the sense that it does not reduce it in a way other than through limitations and exceptions that are also applicable in accordance with the provisions of those treaties, and particularly in accordance with the three-step test). **As regards the question of extension of rights provided in other treaties, there is no provision in the Treaty in view of which such a question might emerge.** The essence of the Treaty is exactly that **it foresees limitations and exceptions to the *existing* rights provided in other treaties** to the extent allowed by those treaties.

Cross-border exchange (3)

Article 5. Cross-Border Exchange of Accessible Format Copies

2. A Contracting Party may fulfill Article 5(1) by providing a **limitation or exception in its national copyright law such that:**

(a) **authorized entities shall be permitted, without the authorization of the rightholder, to distribute or make available for the exclusive use of beneficiary persons accessible format copies to an authorized entity in another Contracting Party; and**

(b) authorized entities shall be permitted, without the authorization of the rightholder and pursuant to Article 2(c), **to distribute or make available accessible format copies to a beneficiary person in another Contracting Party; provided that** prior to the distribution or making available the originating authorized entity **did not know or have reasonable grounds to know that the accessible format copy would be used for other than beneficiary persons.**

(c) Nothing in this Article affects the determination of what constitutes an act of distribution or an act of making available to the public.

Cross-border exchange (4)

Article 5. Cross-Border Exchange of Accessible Format Copies

3. A Contracting Party may fulfill Article 5(1) by **providing other limitations or exceptions in its national copyright law pursuant to Articles 5(4), 10 and 11.**

➤ The „other limitations or exceptions” are those **which apply for a broader scope of beneficiaries - including VIPs.** Such „other limitations or exceptions” are **also subject to the three-step test** under Article 11 of the Treaty.

4. (a) **When an authorized entity in a Contracting Party** receives accessible format copies pursuant to Article 5(1) and that Contracting Party **does not have obligations under Article 9 of the Berne Convention, it will ensure,** consistent with its own legal system and practices, **that the accessible format copies are only reproduced, distributed or made available for the benefit of beneficiary persons in that Contracting Party’s jurisdiction.**

➤ Adopted to resolve the problem of the so-called „**Berne gap.**”

➤ It means a **prohibition of export** (the same principle in **the Berne Appendix on compulsory licenses for developing countries.**)

Cross-border exchange (5)

Article 5. Cross-Border Exchange of Accessible Format Copies

4.(b) The distribution and making available of accessible format copies by an authorized entity pursuant to Article 5(1) shall be limited to that jurisdiction unless the Contracting Party is a Party to the WIPO Copyright Treaty or otherwise limits limitations and exceptions implementing this Treaty to the right of distribution and the right of making available to the public **to certain special cases which do not conflict with a normal exploitation of the work and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the rightholder.** (Emphasis added.)

- To resolve the problem of „WCT gap” concerning the rights of distribution and making available. In practice, it means the extension of the application of the three-step test in this case to those countries which are not party to the WCT.

Agreed statement concerning Article 5(4)(b): It is understood that nothing in this Treaty requires or implies that a Contracting Party adopt or apply the three-step test beyond its obligations under this instrument or under other international treaties.

Cross-border exchange (6)

Article 5. Cross-Border Exchange of Accessible Format Copies

Agreed statement concerning Article 5(4)(b): It is understood that nothing in this Treaty creates any obligations for a Contracting Party to ratify or accede to the WCT or to comply with any of its provisions and **nothing in this Treaty prejudices any rights, limitations and exceptions contained in the WCT**. This follows from the fact that **the Treaty does not contain any provision that could be interpreted as an obligation to ratify or accede to the WCT** (which otherwise is, of course, highly advisable) **and from the non-derogation provision of Article 1**.

5. **Nothing** in this Treaty **shall be used to address the issue of exhaustion of rights**. (Emphasis added.)

- Of course, **nothing beyond what may follow from Articles 5(1) and (2) and 6** (since those provisions may be interpreted to mean that also copies sold abroad may be imported).

Importation

Article 6. Importation of Accessible Format Copies

To the extent that the national law of a Contracting Party would permit a beneficiary person, someone acting on his or her behalf, or an authorized entity, to make an accessible format copy of a work, the national law of that Contracting Party shall also permit them to import an accessible format copy for the benefit of beneficiary persons, without the authorization of the rightholder.

Agreed statement concerning Article 6: It is understood that the Contracting Parties have **the same flexibilities set out in Article 4** when implementing their obligations under Article 6. (Emphasis added.)

- The flexibilities are those **which apply in the case of Article 4 subject to the three-step test.**

International cooperation (1)

Article 9. Cooperation to Facilitate Cross-Border Exchange

1. Contracting Parties shall **endeavor to foster** the cross-border exchange of accessible format copies by **encouraging the voluntary sharing of information to assist authorized entities in identifying one another**. The International Bureau of **WIPO shall establish an information access point** for this purpose.

2. Contracting Parties undertake to **assist their authorized entities** engaged in activities under Article 5 **to make information available** regarding their practices pursuant to Article 2(c), both through the **sharing of information among authorized entities**, and through making available information on their policies and practices, including related to cross-border exchange of accessible format copies, to interested parties and members of the public as appropriate.

International cooperation (2)

Article 9. Cooperation to Facilitate Cross-Border Exchange

3. **The International Bureau of WIPO is invited to share information**, where available, about the functioning of this Treaty.

4. **Contracting Parties recognize the importance of international cooperation** and its promotion, in support of national efforts for realization of the purpose and objectives of this Treaty.

Agreed statement concerning Article 9: It is understood that Article 9 **does not imply mandatory registration for authorized entities nor does it constitute a precondition for authorized entities to engage in activities** recognized under this Treaty; but it provides for a possibility for sharing information to facilitate the cross-border exchange of accessible format copies. (Emphasis added.)

Obligation to apply the three-step test (1)

Article 11. General Obligations on Limitations and Exceptions

In adopting measures necessary to ensure the application of this Treaty, a Contracting Party **may exercise the rights and shall comply with the obligations that that Contracting Party has under the Berne Convention, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the WIPO Copyright Treaty**, including their interpretative agreements so that:

- (a) in accordance with Article 9(2) of the Berne Convention, a Contracting Party may permit the reproduction of works in **certain special cases** provided that such reproduction **does not conflict with a normal exploitation** of the work and **does not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the author**;
- (b) in accordance with Article 13 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, a Contracting Party shall confine limitations or exceptions to exclusive rights to **certain special cases** which **do not conflict with a normal exploitation of the work** and **do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the rightholder**;

Obligation to apply the three-step test (2)

Article 11. General Obligations on Limitations and Exceptions

(c) in accordance with Article 10(1) of the WIPO Copyright Treaty, a Contracting Party may provide for limitations of or exceptions to the rights granted to authors under the WCT in **certain special cases, that do not conflict with a normal exploitation of the work and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the author;**

(d) in accordance with Article 10(2) of the WIPO Copyright Treaty, a Contracting Party **shall confine, when applying the Berne Convention, any limitations of or exceptions to rights to certain special cases that do not conflict with a normal exploitation of the work and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the author.** (Emphasis added.)

Other limitations (1)

Article 12. Other Limitations and Exceptions

1. Contracting Parties recognize that a Contracting Party may implement in its national law other copyright limitations and exceptions for the benefit of beneficiary persons than are provided by this Treaty having regard to that Contracting Party's economic situation, and its social and cultural needs, in conformity with that Contracting Party's international rights and obligations, and in the case of a least-developed country taking into account its special needs and its particular international rights and obligations and flexibilities thereof. (continues)

Other limitations (2)

- The „other limitations or exceptions” mentioned in Article 12(1) are those **which apply for a broader scope of beneficiaries - including VIPs**. The paragraph refers to **certain considerations that may be taken into account within the limits allowed by the international treaties (in particular their provisions on the three-step test** as quoted in Article 11).
 - However, reference is made to the **transitional provisions of Article 66(1) of the TRIPS Agreement which allow for LDCs not to fulfill yet their IPR obligations; except some general ones**, such as national treatment.
2. This Treaty **is without prejudice to other limitations and exceptions for persons with disabilities** provided by national law.
- Paragraph 2 states what would have been **quite obvious** even without such clarification.



Glorious day – now much depends on (i) as many ratifications and accessions as possible, (ii) adequate implementation and (iii) due practical application

Entry into force; ratifications, accessions

- Under Article 18 of the Marrakesh Treaty, **the deposit of 20 instruments of ratification or accession was necessary** for its entry into force.
- This took place **on September 30, 2016**.
- At the finalization of the presentation (September 5, 2017), **there were 31 Contracting Parties**: Argentina, Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, DPR Korea, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Israel, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay.
- **But the EU is close to the adoption of a Regulation and a Directive** to implement the Treaty which opens the way to the ratification of the EU and its 28 Member States, which **will bring the number of Contracting Parties to 59**.



Institution: Council of the European Union
 Session: 3556
 Configuration: Agriculture and Fisheries
 Item: 2016/0279(COD) (Document: 24/17)
 Voting Rule: qualified majority
 Subject: Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the cross-border exchange between the Union and third countries of accessible format copies of certain works and other subject-matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled (First reading)

Vote	Members	Population (%)
Yes	28	100%
No	0	0%
Abstain	0	0%
Not participating	0	
Total	28	

Sitting date: 17/07/2017
 Final result

Member State	Weighting	Vote
BELGIQUE/BELGIË	2,21	
БЪЛГАРИЯ	1,40	
ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA	2,04	
DANMARK	1,12	
DEUTSCHLAND	16,06	
EESTI	0,26	
ÉIRE/IRELAND	0,91	
ΕΛΛΑΔΑ	2,11	
ESPAÑA	9,09	
FRANCE	13,05	
HRVATSKA	0,82	
ITALIA	12,00	
ΚΥΠΡΟΣ	0,17	
LATVIJA	0,39	

Member State	Weighting	Vote
LIETUVA	0,57	
LUXEMBOURG	0,11	
MAGYARORSZÁG	1,92	
MALTA	0,09	
NEDERLAND	3,37	
ÖSTERREICH	1,71	
POLSKA	7,43	
PORTUGAL	2,02	
ROMÂNIA	3,87	
SLOVENIJA	0,40	
SLOVENSKO	1,06	
SUOMI/FINLAND	1,07	
SVERIGE	1,96	
UNITED KINGDOM	12,79	

* When acting on a proposal from the Commission or the High Representative, qualified majority is reached if at least 55 % of members vote in favour (16 MS) accounting for at least 65 % of the population

For information: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/public-vote>

Voting in the Council of the EU on July 17, 2007 on the Directive (after approved at first reading in the European Parliament on July 6, 2017)



Institution: Council of the European Union
 Session: 3556
 Configuration: Agriculture and Fisheries
 Item: 2016/0278(COD) (Document: 23/17)
 Voting Rule: qualified majority
 Subject: Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on certain permitted uses of certain works and other subject-matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled and amending Directive 2001/29/EC on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society (First reading)

Vote	Members	Population (%)
Yes	28	100%
No	0	0%
Abstain	0	0%
Not participating	0	
Total	28	

Sitting date: 17/07/2017

Final result



Member State	Weighting	Vote	Member State	Weighting	Vote
BELGIQUE/BELGIË	2,21		LIETUVA	0,57	
БЪЛГАРИЯ	1,40		LUXEMBOURG	0,11	
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DANMARK	1,12		MALTA	0,09	
DEUTSCHLAND	16,06		NEDERLAND	3,37	
EESTI	0,26		ÖSTERREICH	1,71	
ÉIRE/IRELAND	0,91		POLSKA	7,43	
ΕΛΛΑΔΑ	2,11		PORTUGAL	2,02	
ESPAÑA	9,09		ROMÂNIA	3,87	
FRANCE	13,05		SLOVENIJA	0,40	
HRVATSKA	0,82		SLOVENSKO	1,06	
ITALIA	12,00		SUOMI/FINLAND	1,07	
ΚΥΠΡΟΣ	0,17		SVERIGE	1,96	
LATVIJA	0,39		UNITED KINGDOM	12,79	

* When acting on a proposal from the Commission or the High Representative, qualified majority is reached if at least 55 % of members vote in favour (16 MS) accounting for at least 65% of the population
 For information: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/public-vote>

Voting in the Council of the EU on July 17, 2007 on the Directive (after approved at first reading in the European Parliament on July 6, 2017)

Implementation (1)

Adopted at first reading: **Regulation** of the European Parliament and of the Council **on the cross-border exchange between the Union and third countries of accessible format copies** of certain works and other subject-matter protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled

Article 3. Export of accessible format copies to third countries

An authorised entity established in a Member State may distribute, communicate or make available to beneficiary persons or to an authorised entity established **in a third country that is a party to the Marrakesh Treaty an accessible format copy** of a work or other subject-matter **made in accordance with the national legislation adopted pursuant to Directive (EU) 2017/...** .

Article 4. Import of accessible format copies from third countries

A beneficiary person or an authorised entity established in a Member State may import or otherwise obtain or access and thereafter use, in accordance with the national legislation adopted pursuant to Directive (EU) 2017/... , an accessible format copy of a work or other subject-matter **that has been distributed, communicated or made available to beneficiary persons or to authorised entities, by an authorised entity in a third country** that is a party to the Marrakesh Treaty.

Implementation (2)

Regulation (cont.)

Article 5. Obligations of authorised entities

1. **An authorised entity... shall establish and follow its own practices to ensure that it:**
 - (a) distributes, communicates and makes available accessible format copies only to beneficiary persons or other authorised entities;**
 - (b) takes appropriate steps to discourage the unauthorised reproduction, distribution, communication to the public and making available to the public of accessible format copies;**
 - (c) demonstrates due care in, and maintains records of, its handling of works or other subject-matter and of accessible format copies thereof; and**
 - (d) publishes and updates, on its website if appropriate, or through other online or offline channels, information on how it complies with the obligations...;...**
2. **An authorised entity ... shall provide the following information** in an accessible way, on request, to beneficiary persons, other authorised entities or rightholders: (a) **the list of works or other subject-matter for which it has accessible format copies and the available formats;** and (b) **the name and contact details of the authorised entities with which it has engaged in the exchange of accessible format copies pursuant to Articles 3 and 4.**

Implementation (3)

Adopted at first reading: **Directive** of the European Parliament and of the Council **on certain permitted uses of certain works and other subject-matter** protected by copyright and related rights for the benefit of persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled and **amending Directive 2001/29/EC** on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society

Article 3. Permitted uses

1. Member States shall provide for an exception to the effect that **no authorisation of the rightholder** of any copyright or related right in a work or other subject-matter **is required pursuant to Articles 5 and 7 of Directive 96/9/EC [Databases Directive], Articles 2, 3 and 4 of Directive 2001/29/EC [Information Society Directive], Article 1(1), Article 8(2) and (3) and Article 9 of Directive 2006/115/EC [Rental, Lending and Related Rights Directive] and Article 4 of Directive 2009/24/EC [Computer Programs Directive] for any act necessary for:**

(a) a beneficiary person, or a person acting on their behalf, to make an accessible format copy of a work or other subject-matter to which the beneficiary person has lawful access for the exclusive use of the beneficiary person; and (b) an authorised entity to make an accessible format copy of a work or other subject-matter to which it has lawful access or to communicate, make available, distribute or lend an accessible format copy to a beneficiary person or another authorised entity on a non-profit basis for the purpose of exclusive use by a beneficiary person.

Implementation (4)

Directive (cont.)

Article 3 (cont.)

2. Member States **shall ensure that each accessible format copy respects the integrity of the work or other subject-matter**, with due consideration given to the changes required to make the work accessible in the alternative format.
3. The exception provided for in paragraph 1 **shall only be applied in certain special cases which do not conflict with a normal exploitation of the work or other subject-matter and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the rightholder**.
4. **The first, third and fifth subparagraphs of Article 6(4) of Directive 2001/29/EC shall apply to the exception provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article.**
5. Member States shall ensure that the exception provided for in paragraph 1 cannot be overridden by contract.
6. **Member States may provide that uses permitted under this Directive, if undertaken by authorised entities established in their territory, be subject to compensation schemes within the limits provided for in this Directive.**

Implementation (5)

Directive (cont.)

Article 4. Accessible format copies in the internal market

Member States shall ensure that **an authorised entity** established in their territory **may carry out the acts referred to in point (b) of Article 3(1) for a beneficiary person or another authorised entity established in any Member State**. Member States shall also ensure that a **beneficiary person or an authorised entity** established in their territory **may obtain or may have access to an accessible format copy from an authorised entity established in any Member State**.

Implementation (6)

The **Russian Federation** is not party yet of the Marrkesh Treaty, **but Article 1274(2) of the Civil Code** of the Russian Federation **contains the following provision:**

2. **The making of copies of lawfully promulgated works in the formats exclusively intended for blind and visually impaired people** (by using a tactile writing point system (braile) or other special methods) **(in special formats), as well as the reproduction and distribution of such copies without profit-making purposes shall be allowed without the consent of the author or other rightholder** of the exclusive right **and without remuneration to be paid**, but with obligatory indication of the name of the author whose work is used and the source.

Libraries may provide blind and visually impaired people with copies of the works made in special formats for temporary free use at home, as well as by way of providing access thereto through information telecommunication networks...

The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply in case of works made for the purpose of using it in special formats, neither in respect of phonograms that basically contain musical works.

Practical application; Accessible Book Consortium (1)

- **Objectives:** The aim of the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) is to **increase the number of books worldwide in accessible formats (braille, audio and large print) and to make them available to people who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled.**
- ABC was launched in June 2014 and is an alliance led by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**. It involves advocacy organizations, authors, libraries for the blind, publishers, and standards bodies. **Partners include the World Blind Union, the DAISY Consortium, the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment, the Perkins School for the Blind, Sightsavers, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, the International Publishers Association, the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organisations and the International Authors Forum.**

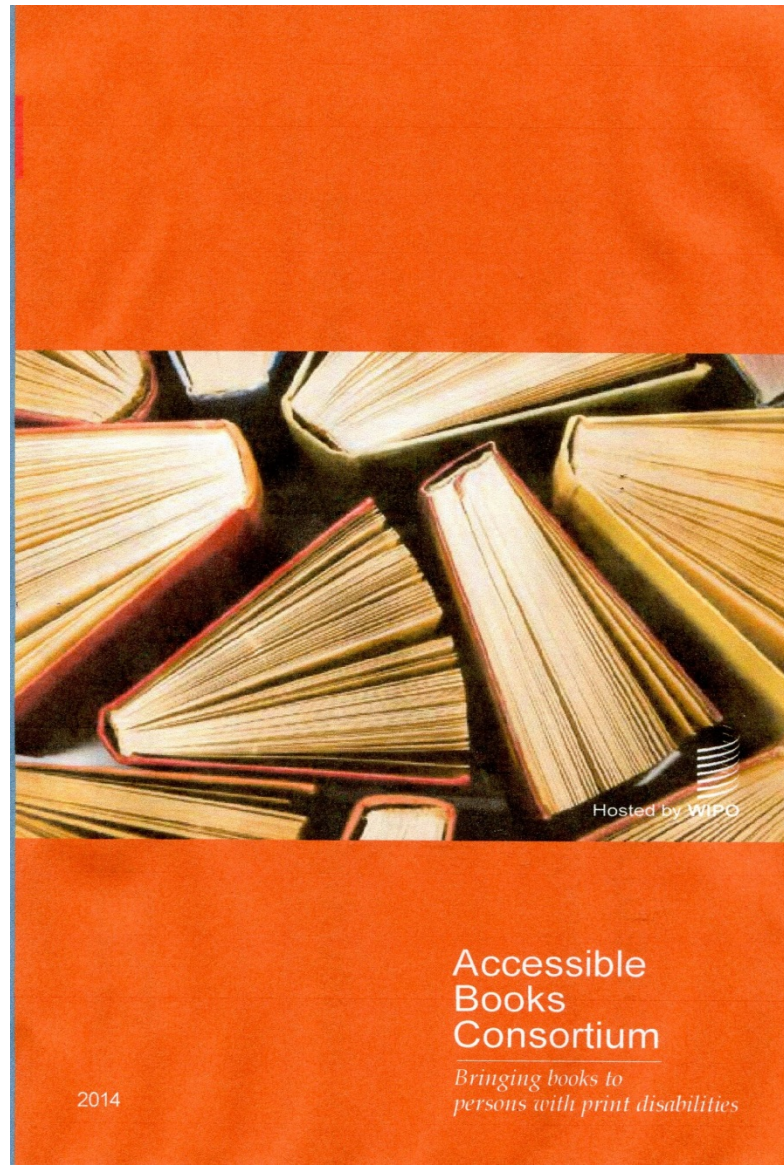
Practical application; Accessible Book Consortium (2)

- ABC does **capacity building** - training in developing countries for local NGOs, government departments and commercial publishers who want to produce and distribute their books in accessible formats. Projects are ongoing in Argentina, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Uruguay. Since the start of capacity building, over 3450 accessible educational books will have been produced in national languages in these six countries through training and technical assistance provided by ABC.
- **ABC Global Book Service (previously known as the TIGAR Service)** - a global library catalogue of books in accessible formats that enables libraries serving the print disabled to share items in their collections, rather than duplicating the costs of converting them to accessible formats. Over 128,700 people with print disabilities have borrowed accessible books through the 25 participating libraries in the ABC Global Book Service. Participating libraries have saved \$15.2 million in production costs by being able to download 7,600 electronic books into their collections.

Practical application; Accessible Book Consortium (3)

Inclusive Publishing - activities to promote accessible book production techniques within the commercial publishing industry so that e-books are usable by both sighted people and those with print disabilities. A set of guidelines for self-publishing authors has been produced, as has a Starter Kit for Accessible Publishing. The ABC International Excellence Award for Accessible Publishing is presented annually at the London Book Fair in recognition of outstanding leadership or achievements in improving the accessibility of books or other digital publications for people who are print disabled.

This information has been taken from www.AccessibleBooksConsortium.org where further information is available (see also: Accessible.Books@wipo.int).



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

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www.copyrightseesaw.net