**MINUTES - LPD/SC midyear meeting Leipzig**

**February 9 – 10, 2015**

**Venue: DZB: Deutsche Zentralbüchereifür Blinde**

**Gustav-Adolf-Straße 7, 04105 Leipzig**

1. Opening and Welcome (K. Krikhaar)

The Chair of the LPD Section, Koen Krikhaar, welcomes all standing committee members to the meeting.

1. Apologies
Helena Kettner Rudberg (MTM, Sweden)

Elena Zakharova (Russian State Library for the Blind)

David Fernández-Barrial (NLS);

1. Introductions and Attendance list

In attendance: M.Stein (Stichting Aangepast Lezen - Netherlands); M. Marlin (Braille & Talking Book Library California State Library, Association of Specialized & Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) – USA); F. Hendrikz (South Africa – Secretary); K. Krikhaar (Dedicon - Netherlands – Chair); G. Ruebens (Flemish Library for Braille & Audio Books - Belgium); M. von Zansen (Celia, Finland); K. Keninger (NLS - USA) accompanied by B. Healy; Luc Maumet (Association Valentin Haüy (AVH) -France); Kari Kummeneje (Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille); C. Felsmann and T. Kahlisch (German Central Library for the Blind); A. Havemann (Blista Marburg), Juliane Bally (Regensburg University Munich). Two observers from Israel also attended the meeting: I. Gerber and S. Naaman (Philosof-mobile)

1. Accepting the agenda / adding last minute items

The meeting accepted the agenda with no additions.

1. Minutes and actions from Lyon meeting
Item 5 of the Minutes refers to the UN Millennium goals. The timespan for the goals is 15 years. The meeting adopts the Minutes of the Lyon meeting.

**Action items standing over: Washington meeting**

**ACTION 11.1:** Boxes to be sent from RNIB to Celia Library in Finland. Paivi Voutilainen will work through the documentation to determine what to archive and what to discard. A tariff to perform this function will be worked out with her. Lyon status: Helen Brazier worked through the boxes and will send it to Celia Library. M. von Zansen will follow the matter up. Leipzig status: Celia Library will look into digitizing some of the papers.

**ACTION 12.2:** K. Krikhaar will send to all LPD members the E-reading System Evaluation work plan from Daisy and to direct them to the Project. – Lyon status: The item is still pending. Leipzig status: K. Krikhaar to circulate the documents to all LPD members before the next meeting.

**Action items: Lyon meeting**

**Action 8.1:** M. von Zansen and K. Kummeneje to arrange and meet Varju Luceno from the Daisy Consortium in Paris to discuss setting up an official communication link between LPD and the Daisy Consortium. Leipzig status: After discussing the matter it was agreed that information will be shared between the two organisations. A formal arrangement is not required. (This item will be removed from the Minutes.)

**Action 12.1:** M. Marlin to create an LPD group on the Connect facility of the ALA.

**Action 12.2**: All LPD members to sign up to access and use the Connect facility. Leipzig status: The facility has been created. Members can now work collaboratively on documents through this facility. LPD members have not officially joined the facility yet. M. Marlin will resend the Link for members to join.

**Action 14.1:** Menno Stein will give a progress report about the Performance Measures questionnaire and the results about the gathering of data. Leipzig status: The item is on the Agenda and will be reflected in the Leipzig minutes.

**Action 16.1** The LPD 2015 Conference Committee is tasked to develop a conference theme to be submitted for inclusion as part of the Conference Program in Cape Town.

**Action item 16.2:** The 2016 Satellite Conference theme will be put on the Agenda of the Mid-year meeting in February 2015. Leipzig status: This item has been addressed and will be removed from the Minutes.

**Action** **18.1:** Submissions for the LPD Newsletter should be sent to Minna von Zansen by mid November 2014. Leipzig status: The item is on the Agenda and will be reflected in the Leipzig minutes.

**Action 18.2** Annual Report: Koen Krikhaar will draft the 2013 and 201 Annual Report. Leipzig status: K. Krikhaar will draft the Annual Report.

**Action 20.1:** M. Stein and K. Krikhaar will develop a proposal on the development of guidelines on the acquiring of e-books for submission to IFLA for project funding. Leipzig status: The funding application has not been submitted. October 2015 is the deadline for project submissions. It will be discussed during the Leipzig meeting whether to proceed with the application.

1. Round Robin
Each member of the meeting gave a short update of activities at their institution. See annexure 2.
2. IFLA at Capetown 15 – 21 August
	1. The Chair confirms the title of the LPD session: *The inclusive library: How to render an inclusive LIS to blind and visually impaired people.Theme: Leaving Nobody Behind: Access, Development & Transformation for Everybody*. The session scheduled on the IFLA conference program for Tuesday, 18 August 2015 between 10:45 – 12:45 .

The meeting discussed potential topics and speakers for the session and identified the following:

* The South African Library for the Blind – Mini-library project in South Africa
* L. Rudman to talk about Tactile Book production
* MTM to talk about the Apple Shelf initiative
* WIPO representative to talk about the Accessible Book Consortium.
* L. Maumet and M. Stein to talk about Volunteer programs

The final program should be submitted by the 15th of March to IFLA

* 1. Satellite event: The program committee will consider a program to engage African members. The Committee members are M. Marlin, D. Fernández-Barrial, F. Hendrikz, K. Krikhaar and F. Hendrikz is tasked to consider a program, decide on a venue and sent out invitations.
	2. Satellite events: To be considered by the Program Committee.
	3. Hotel arrangements: Action 7(d): F. Hendrikz will recommend a number of hotels for consideration. The list will be made available to M. von Zansen and K. Kummeneje for distribution to all members.
1. Finalising the Badi Symposium: T. Kahlish confirmed that all arrangements are in place for the Symposium. 40 delegates will be attending the symposium in Leipzig on the 11th of February 2015.
2. LPD Strategic Plan 2014-2016
The meeting discussed the LPD Strategic Plan 2014/2016
3. The name and period of the document will be changed to: Action Plan 2015/16 to be in line with the IFLA Election year.
4. Pre-amble, 3rd bullet: The reference that 5% of what is published internationally is available in accessible formats will be changed to 7% considering access to electronic media.
5. Goal 1, actions: Wording to be rephrased
	1. ETIN will be removed from the actions.
	2. The reference to TIGAR should be replaced by the Accessible Book Consortium (ABC) since the TIGAR initiative is one of the three initiatives of the ABC. The other two initiatives are Inclusive Publishing and Capacity Development.
	3. LPD members are encouraged to liaise with ABC.
	4. LPD will report back to IFLA through appropriate communication channels about progress made with the three initiatives.
	5. The Section encourages members of the Section to work on language based exchange programs, i.e. of reading material, e.g. applicable to Francophone countries, Spanish speaking countries, Dutch speaking countries.
6. Goal 2:
	1. Action 1: specify what is meant by “working relationship” and what it is we want to achieve working with the Daisy Consortium. Members are encouraged to maintain a working relationship with the Consortium through being a member, participating in their conferences, meetings, development of policy and other formal documentation, etc. The reference to e-reader system should be removed and the engagement with Daisy Consortium should be phrased broader to include support of any of their projects, e.g. Transition to Inclusive E-pub 3 Ecosystem Project (TIES).
	2. Action 3: extending the free principle of access to content via telecommunication mediums may be difficult for the Section to influence. This should be done by organisations in their respective countries. The Section may support any International initiatives to implement such arrangements. The reference to WBU/EBU should be removed from the action.
	3. New action to be added: Take notice of the upcoming European Union directive of the accessibility of on-line services and work on their implementation.
7. Goal 3
	1. Action 3.3 – G. Reubens reviewed the Guidelines for *Libraries for the blind in the information age.* The document is outdated. It was published in 2005, it focusses only on visually impaired people and not a broader scope of print disable people and it refers only to special libraries for the blind and not the broader services rendered and it is very technical in terms or production methods. The recommendation is that the Guidelines cannot be rewritten. New Guidelines should be drafted**.** Action 9.1: M. von Zansen offers to make available a checklist in Finland to make library services more accessible to print disabled persons. M. Stein will send Dutch Guidelines to M. von Zansen to make available to the Section for consideration for further development.
	2. Action 3.4: remove the word “deliver”. The Dyslexia Guidelines has been completed and the focus is now on disseminating and implementation.
8. Goal 4:
	1. Move action 4.7 to follow action 4.3 since it relates to membership of the Section and the Standing Committee.
9. Action 9.2: LPD members are requested to share during the LPD meeting in Cape Town activities they are busy with at their libraries that link with the actions listed in the LPD Action plan.
10. The meeting agrees that a Vision should be developed for the document.

Action 9.3: LPD members are requested to submit proposals for a Vision for the Section to K. Krikhaar who will formulate a draft vision.

Some ideas proposed include:

1. Building a strong skilful and knowledgeable section that can help raise awareness in the Library World about the crucial role that access to information play in the lives of blind and visually impaired people.
2. The outreach role of the Section
3. The Section has an active committee and it is a growing section and the role of the committee should be cleared.
4. Including values in the update of the document should be considered.
5. Cross Border Lending Projects (updates)
	1. Marrakech VIP Treaty

The meeting took note of the Treaty status in Europe. 5 Countries have ratified the Treaty to date. Action 10.1: K. Krikhaar will write to Victoria Owen of the CLM Section to offer LPD assistance where required with the ratification of the Marrakech Treaty.

The meeting suggested that the Treaty should become an item on the Agenda of the IFLA Governing Board. It was also proposed that LPD members should write to their respective Ministries to embrace the process or ratification.

* 1. TIGAR (Accessible Book Consortium - ABC)

F. Hendrikz informed the meeting about the following:

The ABC is responsible for the following three projects, i.e. Inclusive Publishing; TIGAR and Capacity Development. Membership of the ABC is an equal representation of Publishers and Entities serving the blind and visually impaired community. Governance of the ABC is administered by a permanent Secretariat provide by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO). All work of the Consortium is based on a Strategic Framework that has been approved for 2014/15. A work plan is also available.

Inclusive Publishing serve as guide to publishers on accessible material. Leaders in the wider e-book industry are involved, e.g. Google and Amazon to obtain commitment to overcome accessibility obstacles. Capacity development initiatives, i.e. to assist organisations to produce and distribute accessible reading material, were launched successfully in Sri Lanka and Bangla Desh. Countries in Africa will also be approached in the near future.

The International Publishers Association drafted and promoted a Charter of Accessible Publishing. Members are responding positively to the document. It commits a Publisher who signs the document to publish accessible e-books and digital formats.

WIPO is working on a business-to-client functionality of the TIGAR database. This will allow individuals to access the databases without an intermediary. There are currently 238,000 titles on the database in 53 languages. The usage statistics of the database is not good but the Consortium and WIPO is working on the improvement of that. Challenges are experienced to get the bigger libraries involved in the TIGAR initiative. Organisations such as Vision Australia, RNIB and ONCE are not yet contributing content to the database. A TIGAR service group is in place to discuss operational matters.

1. New Guidelines for Library Services to Persons with Dyslexia
	1. Update and progress: The Guidelines document was presented during the IFLA Conference in Lyon and accepted by IFLA.
	2. Translations: The document is currently available in English, Dutch, French, Finnish and Japanese. Action 11.1: T. Kalish will look into translating the Guidelines in German. Action 11.2: K. Kummeneje will look into translating the Guidelines in Norwegian.
	3. Dissemination: Action 11.3: The project-team will approach LSN to place the Guidelines plus Checklist and Knowledge base on LSN Website. A special library conference is planned in Flanders on how to implement the Guidelines.
2. Update (LPD budget, including Share the Vision Fund/Ulverscroft)

The Sectional budget of 150 Euro provided by IFLA is still available. The meeting agreed that the Share the Vision fund could be used during the Cape Town IFLA Conference. The LPD Program Committee may decide on how to utilize the funds. Ulverscroft proposed to utilise some of the funding to subsidise travelling expenditure for delegates interested to attend the Conference and participate in the LPD program. This must still be approved by the Ulverscroft Board. Action 12.1: K. Krikhaar will follow-up the Ulverscroft decision on the expenditure of funds.

1. LPD group in ALA connect

M.Marlin confirms that the ALA connect facility has been set up and is ready to be used by LPD for communication and sharing of information and documents.

1. LPD Archival Record Management

This item was addressed under item 5 of this Minutes, action item 11.1. Celia Library will consider the digitization of LPD Archival records.

1. Performance Measures

M. Stein sent out the Performance Measure Survey document to LPD members for comments. Unfortunately, only a very few libraries responded. The Survey Questionnaire has been sent to all LPD members. Confidentiality of the information to be provided on the questionnaire must still be clarified. Action 15.1: M. Stein will send a proposal to LPD members on Policy matters relating to the Performance information, e.g. confidentiality and where it will be available, etc.

1. Elections 2015: update on nominations
The term of 5 members of the Standing Committee will be come to an end during August 2015, i.e. during the Cape Town Conference. The members are: T. Kahlisch, H. Kawamura, F. Hendrikz, K. Krikhaar and M. von Zansen.

Serbia and Croatia are members of the LPD Section but not active. F. Hendrikz suggested that members should consider making themselves available for the vacant position of Chair and Secretary of the Section before the meeting in Cape Town.

1. Musical Communication
Juliane Bally presented information on behalf of Andrea Havemann. Mention was made of the Da Capo research project which is a music project and intercultural in nature. The research project is led by the Regensburg University in Munich. Musicianship is one of the oldest professions for blind people. Music is a communication channel. Music has a huge impact on people’s lives. Technological advances opened up opportunities for blind people interested in music and related matters. She mentioned the importance of Braille notation to understand music. The research team is looking for international patrons for the research which will be a 4 year project. The University is interested in how blind people use braille notation. Anyone interested to share information or participate in the research should use the following contact: mail@jbally.de
2. Section Communications

LPD members should send any news item to K. Kummeneje who will make it available on Facebook and the Newsletter.

Action 18.1: The meeting identified the follow topics for the next Newsletter: Word from the Chair of the Section (K. Krikhaar); Overview of the Post-Conference in Paris, 2014 (L. Maumet); Overview of the Cape Town Conference Program (F. Hendrikz); Research by Julianne Bally; Report of the Badi Symposium (T. Kahlisch); Update of the Dyslexia Guidelines (G. Ruebens); Announcement of the 2016 Satellite Conference in the USA (K. Krikhaar). The deadline for submissions is the end of April 2015.

1. Next meeting: Midyear meeting 2016

The date and venue of the next meeting will be discussed and decided during the LPD meeting in Cape Town.

1. Any other business

LPD Satellite Conference 2016 - The meeting discussed whether the satellite should be a pre- or post-conference event. It is agreed that both options present challenges and opportunities. The meeting selected the following members as part of the Program Committee: K. Keninger, M.Marlin, L. Maumet and M. Stein. K.Krikhaar also offered to assist the committee where necessary. The Committee is tasked to consider a theme, local sponsor and any other arrangements related to the Satellite. The meeting identified the following topics for the Conference for further discussion by the Program Committee: user focus and needs; diversified needs of users. The meeting prefers a pre-conference Satellite. 10 to 11 August 2016 is a tentative date. The American Printing House for the Blind in Louisville, Kentucky is willing to host the Satellite.

 Action 20.1: The Satellite Conference Program Committee under K. Keninger will work on a proposal to be ready for submission by 15th March 2015 to IFLA.

Action 20.2: K. Keninger will contact the WBU to determine a date for the Conference and then make a decision on a date for the Satellite Conference.

 **Annexure 1: Action items (Leipzig Meeting)**

Action 7(d): F. Hendrikz will recommend a number of hotels for consideration. The list will be made available to M. von Zansen and K. Kummeneje for distribution to all members.

Action 9.1: M. von Zansen offers to make available a checklist in Finland to make library services more accessible to persons with print disabilities. M. Stein will send Dutch Guidelines to M. von Zansen to make available to the Section for consideration for further development.

Action 9.2: LPD members are requested to share during the LPD meeting in Cape Town activities they are busy with at their libraries that link with the actions listed in the LPD Action plan.

Action 9.3: LPD members are requested to submit proposals for a Vision for the Section to K. Krikhaar who will formulate a draft vision.

Action 10.1: K. Krikhaar will write to Victoria Owen of the CLM Section to offer LPD assistance where required with the ratification of the Marrakech Treaty.

Action 11.1: T. Kahlisch will look into translating the Guidelines in German. (Dyslexia Guidelines)

Action 11.2: K. Kummeneje will look into translating the Guidelines in Norwegian. (Dyslexia Guidelines)

Action 11.3: The Dyslexia Projectteam will urge LSN to have the Guidelines on LSN Website. (Dyslexia Guidelines)

Action 12.1: K. Krikhaar will follow-up the Ulverscroft decision on the expenditure of funds.

Action 15.1: M. Stein will send a proposal to LPD members on Policy matters relating to the Performance information, e.g. confidentiality and where it will be available, etc.

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**Annexure 2 – Round Robin of activities by various institutions**

1. Celia Library, Finland: M. von Zansen

 In 2015, Celia celebrates its 125th anniversary. There will be no special celebration, but we are attempting to show an evolving organisation through our regular actions throughout the year.

In 2014, we completed our user strategy, with a user derived ideology as a starting point. The strategy aims at reaching users through networks, de-centralizing the Finnish talking book model.

The user strategy means working with different user groups, such as public libraries, prisons, university libraries, the elderly, Braille readers etc. The lead project of our strategy, The Library for All project has proceeded well. There are currently 70 public libraries involved in the project, with tens of more to come by the fall of 2015. The aim is to have decentralized the service by 2017. To speed the change Celia will announce an annual prize for the best public library offering accessible library services. We also looking forward to seeing this change reflected in the Finnish Library Law, which should come into force in 2017.

To support the user strategy, Celia is working on Finnish national guidelines for accessible library services. This work is being carried out with different partners, and the first part of the guidelines will be presented at the Finnish Library Fair in June, 2015.

We work with other user groups with the help of "account managers" recruited from the Celia staff. Their responsibility is to create functioning service models for different user groups with the help of service design.

In January 2015, Celia opened a renewed web shop, Oppari, to sell our textbooks to schools in elementary and secondary education. All the talking books and e-books are now distributed by downloading instead of on cds.

We are currently working on renewing our library systems, the negotiations are starting in the end of February. Our app, developed with Pyxima and Pratsam, will be released this spring. We are also working on a BI solution, which we call DataMart. It is a database where we will collect data from our different systems for easy use for planning, follow-up, marketing etc. activities. An accessibility project is currently running to develop the cooperation between Celia and publishers, mainly with textbooks. There is a strong development towards online education and online school textbooks, and Celia would like to see these accessible from the beginning. Celia's former Production Manager and current Project Manager for the accessibility project, Kirsi Ylänne, has been nominated to join the SC from August, 2015.

1. National Library Service (USA): K. Keninger,

NLS is partnering with the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing to distribute accessible currency readers to blind or visually impaired citizens of the United States. The project is intended to provide a way for blind and visually impaired Americans to differentiate U.S. currency as it has no tactile features at this time that make it accessible.

NLS will be releasing an android-based version of BARD Mobile. Intended for android-based phones and tablets, the app will allow NLS patrons to search, download and play NLS talking books. NLS has provided a very successful iOS app for BARD Mobile since 2013.

The entire United States copyright law is being reviewed, including the Chafee amendment which allows NLS to provide books and magazines in specialized formats for use by NLS patrons without acquiring permission from the rights holders. The pending ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty is not expected to require significant changes in the Law.

NLS has contracted with four commercial audio book producers to acquire audio files for use in the NLS program. Titles are reformatted and encrypted in the NLS format. This allows popular books to be provided to NLS patrons much more quickly than previously. It also enables NLS to increase the number of titles produced each year.

NLS has begun allowing books in braille and talking book formats which were produced by NLS network libraries such as New York, Texas and Washington, to be posted on BARD for download throughout the United States. This expansion has increased the number of titles on BARD as well as adding regional and special-interest titles otherwise not available.

1. Flemish Library for Audio Books and Braille Books (Belgium) – M. Stein

The Daisy Online Project was launched by Luisterpunt at the end of 2014. More than 22.000 Daisy audiobooks can be read online either through streaming or by downloading. Patrons with a print disability can access these on different devices: a stand-alone Daisy player with internet connection, a Daisy web player on the technological platform ([www.anderslezen.be](http://www.anderslezen.be)) and all kind of Daisy-app (iOs and Android) installed on tablets and mobile devices. Next step will be that all patrons of public libraries with a print disability can reach the Daisy Online Project of Luisterpunt.

Saskia Boets for LPD and Helle Mortensen for LSN coordinated the revision of the IFLA Guidelines for Library services for people with dyslexia. As soon as there is a Dutch translation, Luisterpunt will organise meetings and training in collaboration with the Flemish library association for all public libraries in Flanders.

Together with Stichting Aangepast Lezen and Dedicon from the Netherlands Luisterpunt realised in 2014 the unification of the digital braille-collection. All titles from Luisterpunt are available for patrons in the Netherlands and vice versa. In 2015 the Daisy-audio collection will form focus of a similar unification project.

1. California Braille and Talking Book Library – M. Marlin. (American Library Association (ALA) representative to LPD SC)

ALA Activities

In an effort to orient and train library staff and professional librarians about services to patrons with print disabilities, the Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies (ASCLA) is once again offering Online Courses and webinars: <http://www.ala.org/ascla/asclaevents/onlinelearning/onlinelearning>

 The popular

**\*\***[Improving Library Services to People With Disabilities](http://www.ala.org/ascla/asclaevents/onlinelearning/libraryservices) **occurs** March 2 - 29, 2015 and will be repeated in the Fall.
ASCLA Spring 2015 Webinars:

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| --- | --- |
| Thursday, March 19, 2015: 2-3:30pm  | [Accessible literacy online: Options for patrons with disabilities that affect print reading](http://www.ala.org/ascla/accessible-literacy-online)  |
| Thursday, March 26, 2015: 1-2:30pm  | [Free and Affordable Apps for Accessibility](http://www.ala.org/ascla/free-and-affordable-apps-accessibility)  |
| Tuesday, April 21, 2015: 10-11:30am  | [One Size Doesn't Fit All: Building a Collection for Youth with Disabilities](http://www.ala.org/ascla/youth-with-disabilities)  |
| Tuesday, May 05, 2015: 10-11:30am  | [Successful Initiatives in Library Services for People who are Incarcerated](http://www.ala.org/ascla/successful-initiatives)  |

 ASCLA also offers an Accessibility toolkit: http://www.ala.org/ascla/asclaprotools/thinkaccessible/default

ALA’s Accessibility Assembly is tasked with making ALA conferences accessible to persons with print and other disabilities. The assembly is currently working with ALA’s Conference Services committee and Exhibits Round Table to find a way to make navigation through 2500-4000 vendors available to the print disabled. Beacons for users with smart phones is being investigated as an alternative to infra-red headsets and/or braille. At this point a tenable solution is still unavailable but all parties are researching possibilities and the dialogue continues.

**The ALA Digital Content Working Group (DCWG) has named privacy and accessibility as two major avenues of focus for the 2015-16 charge. Privacy of patron data during eBook loans is not necessarily safe as was discovered with Adobe Editions in the Fall of 2014. Even though collected borrower statistics and reading patterns may be guaranteed by vendors as non-shareable, annual data audits are highly recommended. Discussions at the 2015 Midwinter conference in Chicago covered ensuring accessible eBook apps or library web download options for patrons borrowing eBooks via Vendors such as Overdrive . California State Library and ALA’s Office of Information Technology Policy have been working with the Internet Archive on a Daisy online app for reading public domain works and encrypting copyrighted works with NLS encryption so that eligible readers with commercial NLS-enabled playback devices gain access to many scholarly works.**

**After 2 years of feedback from ALA members and library educators and students, ALA’s LIS accreditation standards were revised. For the first time accessibility of services for students and faculty and encouragement to recruit and hire students and faculty with disabilities is included. See:**

<http://www.ala.org/accreditedprograms/standards>.

The Libraries for Universal Access group (LUA), a joint project of ASCLA, the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL), and the Library and Information Technology Association (LITA), has created a web site and BLOG for sharing universal access news and projects: <http://uniaccessig.org/lua/>

1. VPAT: Voluntary Product Accessibility Template. Some libraries are attempting to encourage our vendors, such as database vendors, to be more accessible and compliant with WCAG 2.0 or at least Section 508.  Maybe that is old news, but one new development is the VPAT repository on the Libraries for Universal Accessibility website [http://uniaccessig.org/lua/vpat-repository/](http://uniaccessig.org/lua/vpat-repository/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank) .  This site provides a link to vendors VPAT statements if the vendor filled out a VPAT and agreed for it to be posted.  In a VPAT statement, vendors detail how they comply with federal Rehabilitation Act Section 508 accessibility criteria.  It can be difficult for an uninitiated user to understand VPAT statements in detail, but Library IT staff could help, and the VPAT may give other librarians some idea about accessibility of the resource.  The VPAT may also help to motivate the vendor to pay some attention to accessibility.

2. Some university libraries are providing training for librarians about how to make their websites, emails, Word documents, etc. accessible.  This training generally focuses on non-IT librarians who post webpages.  (Libguides are the most common example of these web resources geared for non-IT librarians.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Preconference, FridayJune 26, 2015

Celebrating its 25th anniversary at the same time as ALA’s 2015 Annual conference in San Francisco, the ADA is a monumental civil rights law that helps ensure equal access to everyone, including people with disabilities.

Understanding the ADA is important for all types of libraries.  The preconference session presented by the Pacific ADA Center will answer many of the questions you have about serving people with disabilities, and even questions you didn’t know you had!

This preconference is ideal for library staff assigned as ADA coordinator for their library, or anyone else with an interest in the ADA.

Preconference session topics will include:

• An overview of the ADA – who and what does it cover?

• Excellent customer service skills and appropriate terminology to use with library patrons with disabilities

• Effective communication with patrons who have vision and hearing disabilities

• Accessible technology and how libraries can use it

• Hiring and accommodation of library staff with disabilities

• The basics about service animals

• The ADA quiz – how much do you know?

1. South African Library for the Blind – F. Hendrikz

The South African Library for the Blind is audited three times a year on Performance Management Information. Internal and External Audits are performed on all performance and governance matters over and above financial information. All information provided to the auditors is evidence based. Audits assist the Library to adhere to good governance practices but very time consuming and onerous.

The Library initiated six years ago the Mini-library initiative to expand services in partnership with public libraries. Training is provided to library staff, members of the community and the provisioning of assistive technologies. The Public Library provides programs for the blind members in their community. It is collaborative partnership with Provincial and Local Authorities. The Project is growing strong with more Provincial authorities providing funding to enable their public library to render services to blind people. It provides a platform for blind people to engage with one another. The Project also provide a taxi service to enable people to attend programs at the library. Distance and poverty makes it impossible for blind members of the community to attend.

The Library is in the process to assess a number of playback devices. The current Humanware product is very good but expensive. All equipment is provided for free but it has budget implications. The current devices is also offering too many options that is not used by the average member. Hence the reason to look for a simpler device but still with good audio quality and basic functionalities. A product from Israel, the MegaVoice, will be piloted with members. It has tactile buttons, basic functionalities required by members and a solar panel at the back to charge the battery which can also be charged via an electrical jack. The price is around 30 Euros making it very affordable. A local supplier will be able to provide the units to the Library. The idea is not to totally replace the Humanware product but to provide that to students who may have more use of the various sophisticated functionalities.

1. Association Valentin Haüy (AVH) – L. Maumet (France)

The National Library of France is developing a repository of Daisy Books. By Law all producers of Daisy books must deposit a copy to the National Library.

AVH is working with TIGAR and their catalog records are now part of the TIGAR catalog. 700 titles have been downloaded thus far and they have requested another 3,000 titles.

AVH is offering BookShare services to their members.

1. Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille – K. Kummeneje (Norway)

4,000 new patrons were registered due to a campaign focussing on young people.

Production has increased. 1,100 Daisy titles were produced during 2014.

The Library is producing material for Higher Education and they are rendering services to Dyslexic people.

The Library pays on behalf of their members to use Bookshare.

They receive e-book files from Publishers and books are produced in partnership with Publishers.

1. Flemish Library for Braille & Audio Books - G. Ruebens (Belgium)

The Library’s budget was cut with 5% which had a huge impact on operations.

Through the Daisy-Online project they have made 20,000 titles available via online, streaming, downloads on various devices. An on-line web-player is also available. It is still too early to determine the success of the project. 300 people are currently using the service. The next step is to expand the service to all Public Libraries.

Training has been provided on the Dyslexia Guidelines. The Public Libraries will be rendering services to Dyslexic people. Good cooperation exists between the Library and Publishers.

1. Dedicon – K. Krikhaar (Netherlands)

Dedicon renew their publisher’s agreements every 4 years for all formats including large print, e-formats, audio and braille to distribute these formats.

Braille books are produced for younger readers up to the age of 7. This initiative is done in partnership with braille schools.

Hybrid books are produced, i.e. Daisy and text which allows the reader to follow text on the screen which is assisting Dyslexic people.

A Daisy App is available which allows reading text books. Electronic newspapers will also be accessible in this manner.

Dedicon is now part of the TIGAR initiative.

e-pub 3 is used as source file standard in the Netherlands.

Dutch Publishers are more open to the Marrakesh Treaty requirements and Dedicon receives from the Publishers to create accessible titles.

1. German Central Library for the Blind (DZB) – T. Kahlish (Germany)

German Libraries serving people with print disabilities work together through Medibus. Swiss Libraries also joined the initiative to serve German speaking people in that country.

DZB recently moved to a new Library Management System.

It is planned to offer downloading of Daisy books in 2016.

Schools and Educational Centers are looking for large print material. DZB present reading events with them.

Membership is not growing. Part of this is the material offered by Audible and Amazon through Kindle books.

DZB is considering working in closer association with Public Libraries in future.