



**Newsletter**, June 2017  
**IFLA Libraries Serving Persons with Print  
Disabilities Section**

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This is the IFLA/LPD Newsletter  
for June 2017

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The Newsletter is available at  
[www.ifla.org/en/lpd](http://www.ifla.org/en/lpd)

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In this edition of the IFLA/LPD newsletter we will begin a series of presentations about all our different organizations. First in line is the Swedish Agency for Accessible Media, MTM.

### **Update on Marrakech**

At the time of writing this, there are 29 completed ratifications or accessions to the Marrakesh Treaty. This represents nearly 1/6 of all the Member States of the United Nations and WBU is aware of several more in the pipeline. Hopefully by the next LPD newsletter the Marrakesh family, representing tens of thousands of visually impaired and print disabled readers, will have grown significantly.

However, our work is not yet done. Phase 1, negotiating the treaty in Geneva, took five years and we are already four years into phase 2, being the ratification process which must continue until we have universal ratification by all 190+ Member States. To all readers of this LPD newsletter, has your country ratified the Marrakesh Treaty yet - if not WHAT ARE YOU AND YOUR LIBRARY DOING ABOUT IT?

In addition to continuing phase 2, the ratification phase, we are now also into phase 3, securing the best interpretation of the Marrakesh Treaty when domesticated into national copyright law. There are a few Articles which allow Member States some flexibility in their interpretation. Two of these concerning commercial availability and concerning remuneration are of specific concern to the beneficiaries as if written into national copyright law will significantly dilute the use of the treaty by authorised entities including your libraries. As those countries who have ratified move to domesticating Marrakesh into their copyright law we are finding further barriers through their interpretation of Marrakesh definitions or lack of inclusion of several other areas such as import/export provision. These issues are clearly outlined in the recently published WBU Guide on the Marrakesh Treaty [www.wbu.ngo](http://www.wbu.ngo) and in a number of guidelines published by EIFL [www.eifl.net](http://www.eifl.net) (These resources from both organisations are available in several language versions)

As Governments process the domestication, it is normal for them to go to public consultation on their first and subsequent drafts. It is important

for all interested parties, including your library, to participate in that consultation exercise to ensure that the beneficiaries are provided with the very best interpretation of the Marrakesh Treaty which will be useable and unrestrictive.

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### **The Swedish Agency for Accessible Media, MTM, a short presentation**

MTM is under the administration of the Ministry of Culture. Our mandate is to be a national centre for knowledge about accessible media. MTM also works to ensure that all persons with reading impairments can access literature and daily newspapers through media appropriate to them regardless of their reading impairment.

### **Activities**

Our activities include the production and distribution of talking books, Braille books and easy-to-read-books. MTM is the central lending facility of these materials for Swedish libraries, with the <http://www.legimus.se/> digital library acting as the hub in this area. In Legimus you will find about 118 000 talking books in 79 different languages and about 18 500 Braille books.

A large and crucial field is research and development relating to new techniques for production and reading. One special mandate is to provide university and college students access to their required reading through media appropriate to them.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2015 MTM has the mandate to produce and distribute easy-to-read-literature that is not available in the commercial market. We also work to stimulate the discussion about easy-to-read and accessibility. MTM works intensively with easy-to-read-books together with schools, libraries and the health and welfare.

MTM has about 110 employees, and our premises are located near the Globen Arena in Stockholm. Our operations are financed by the Ministries of Culture and Education, and are supported and regulated by laws and ordinances.

MTM plays an important role in the technological development of accessible media. We also cooperate with our sister libraries all over the world.

To help the libraries provide information about accessible media, we publish various materials and arrange study days and conferences. Our three publications, *Läsliv*, *Vi punktskriftsläsare* and *Läsombudet*, present various aspects of our activities. Our newsletters provide current information to different target groups.

MTM is also present on social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

#### Councils at MTM

The Talking Newspapers Council is a special decision-making body at MTM tasked with improving access to daily newspaper content for persons with visual impairment, aphasia and dyslexia, as well as for persons with functional impairments that make it difficult or impossible for them to hold or page through a newspaper. The Talking Newspaper Council decides on the distribution of support to daily newspapers that wish to publish a recorded or synthesized speech version of the printed newspaper.

The Swedish Braille Authority is a council at MTM tasked with promoting and developing tactile

reading and Braille as a written language for persons with visual impairments. The Authority develops and follows principles for accessibility to information, both for conferences and with regard to written material.

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<http://www.mtm.se/>

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