

Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) in a nutshell

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.

Who we are:

The ABC is an alliance led by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and involves advocacy organizations, authors, libraries for the blind, publishers, and standards bodies. Participants include the World Blind Union, DAISY Consortium, International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment, Perkins School for the Blind, Sightsavers, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, International Publishers Association, International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations and the International Authors Forum.

What we do:

- **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 were completed successfully in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka during 2015, with 1,588 accessible educational materials/books produced in national languages benefitting over 23,500 students.
- **ABC Book Service (i.e., TIGAR)** – 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 58,000 people with print disabilities have borrowed accessible books through the 15 participating libraries in the ABC Book Service. Participating libraries saved \$8.4million in production costs by being able to download 4,208 electronic books into their collections.
- **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. Two international coordination meetings were held in 2015, a set of guidelines for self-publishing authors has been produced, and six national publishing associations have endorsed the ABC Charter for Accessible Publishing. The first ABC accessibility excellence awards were presented at the London Book Fair in April 2015 to Cambridge University Press and the Young Power in Social Action of Bangladesh.

For further information, please go to www.AccessibleBooksConsortium.org or follow us on @ABCbooks4all. You can also contact: Accessible.Books@wipo.int