

Accessible Books Consortium

*Bringing books to
persons with print disabilities*

Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) Factsheet

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:

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.

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 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.

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.

For further information, please go to www.AccessibleBooksConsortium.org or follow us on [@ABCbooks4all](https://twitter.com/ABCbooks4all). You can also contact: Accessible.Books@wipo.int