



SCHWEIZERISCHE BIBLIOTHEK FÜR
BLINDE, SEH- UND LESEBEHINDERTE

Common Position on the Importance of Accessible Reading

The European Accessibility Act promises a more accessible and inclusive book market for readers with print disabilities. We, the organisations and agencies who today produce accessible reading solutions, welcome this promise. We look forward to creating new solutions and sharing our knowledge about our readers' needs with a more inclusive publishing industry.

Together, we commit to the following:

- Building a network to work on accessible reading and inclusive publishing in collaboration with the publishing industry
- Sharing our knowledge of our readers' needs and how we best meet them as agencies, organisations, and market actors
- Promoting universal design and striving to ensure that every reader gets to read on their own terms

The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) declares that to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, you need access to information and communication. The organisations and agencies that we represent all work with that right at the centre of operations. We create solutions for readers with print disabilities, and we operate as a knowledge centres with regard to those readers' needs in terms of literature, news, public information, and other information.

We welcome the development and intent of the European Accessibility Act. We hope more of our readers will, once the directive is implemented, have the possibility to access digital books on their own terms, at the same time as readers without disabilities. That is progress, not only for the individual reader, but also for society, which will benefit from better-informed citizens and a more equal market for all. Developments in accessibility often benefit more people than those who need them.

We believe that, together with the publishing industry, we have a remarkable opportunity to ensure that people with disabilities can access information and communication on a more equal basis than ever before. The knowledge in our organisations regarding accessible reading and inclusive publishing is a resource we hope to share with the publishing community and the book

market, to help them become more accessible. We hope that, together with the publishing industry, we can innovate so that future formats of digital books are accessible from the start.

We believe it is of prime importance for our organisations to continue to work with readers' rights front and centre. It is important that the right to information, the right to read on your own terms, is protected. We will continue to make sure that readers with needs beyond the scope of the EAA will still be able to read on their own terms. Today, for example, we are still seeing some of our readers living with economic vulnerability and some in digital exclusion. We will continue to work for these readers, trying to ensure they have access to information and communication.

We realise that making the publishing industry more accessible will affect our organisations and our mission. We hope that by engaging in research, by innovative co-creation, by sharing existing knowledge and finding new knowledge, we can make the book market more inclusive for all readers. We will work to create a network that gathers the actors in inclusive publishing, such as agencies, organisations, and the commercial market, so that together we can provide readers with greater opportunities for accessible reading.

The Swedish Agency for Accessible Media (MTM), Sweden

Celia, Finland

HBS, Iceland

The Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille (NLB), Norway

Nota, Denmark

Schweizerische Bibliothek für Blinde, Seh- und Lesebehinderte (SBS), Switzerland