The Marrakesh Treaty and the Accessible Books Consortium:

Turning *Rhetoric into Reality* for people who are blind or otherwise print-disabled

ITU, Accessibility Day, April 8, 2019

Monica Halil Lövblad
Head, Accessible Books Consortium
Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled

Administered by WIPO

Two main exceptions to copyright law:

• Production of accessible format works (e.g., Braille or audio) for people who are blind or print disabled

• Cross-border exchange of such works
Accessible Books Consortium

Public-private partnership led by WIPO

World Blind Union is a founding partner

Established June 2014

ABC seeks to implement the objectives of the Marrakesh Treaty
What is an accessible document or book?
Rhetoric to Reality:

1. ABC Global Book Service
2. Training and technical assistance in developing countries
3. Inclusive publishing with commercial publishers
The best Australian poems 2016
published 2016

The best Australian poems 2015
published 2015

Urban aboriginal poetry
Language: English. Format: Braille. Producer: VA. Publisher: [S.l.: s.n., s.d.]
ISBN: N/A. First listed: 30-May-2017. First cleared: N/A
ABC Global Book Service - Key Figures

Application allowing libraries for the blind to exchange accessible titles

47 libraries for the blind joined

Over 430,000 titles in 76 languages

233,000 accessible titles lent to the print-disabled
Training and Technical Assistance in Developing Countries

Training provided to NGOs, publishers, departments of education in accessible book production

Funding provided to produce educational materials in national languages in 14 countries
Case Study – Seema
Inclusive Publishing

Make books that are “born accessible”

Use accessibility functions in publisher software e.g., Adobe Indesign, HTML

Include accessibility descriptions of the books provided to distributors and retailers
Further Information:

www.AccessibleBooksConsortium.org
Accessible.Books@wipo.int
Monica.Halil@wipo.int