The IFLA Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities Section (LPD) organises its biannual preconference in 2009 from Monday August 17th to Thursday August 20th. This preconference is a cooperation between different specialised libraries and organisations from Flanders (Belgium) and the Netherlands.

The P3-Conference is a three-day satellite conference to IFLA WLIC 2009 in Milan (Italy). This conference will highlight the importance of delivering better library services for print disabled people through partnerships and cooperations with Publishers and Public Libraries.

### Key Issues of the Conference

In many ways, new library policies on inclusive services and new technologies are praised for making access to information more efficient, easier and effective. What used to be a special library service for those who cannot read print, is now in many countries rapidly becoming an integral part of standard public library services. Many libraries of blind are tearing down the walls that exists between their institutions and mainstream services, such as public libraries.

The right to freedom of expression and the right to access to information are basic human rights. Acknowledging these rights is a driver in this development. Another driving force is coming from technology itself: digital information can be more easily adapted to other formats than the old format of ink on paper. A third driver can be found when mainstream publishers are looking for innovative alternative formats for commercial publishing such as web-publishing including forms of audio and video. However promising these developments may be, there still exist many barriers and even new obstacles appear at the horizon. Publishers express a fear that audio books, produced under the exemption of copyright laws, will spoil their market. Implementing protection measure on digital materials (DRM) might hinder the access to information for the print handicapped in new and unexpected ways. The rationale for giving government grants to producers of special formats is challenged by the public opinion that technology and the market have solved (or will solve) the issues around accessible information.

The **publishers**, together with the authors and creators are at the very beginning of the publishing process, make information available and known to people. The **libraries**, both public and special, have a public task to provide services to the whole population, including special groups.

The third partner are the **people** themselves, who by indicating their needs, by experimenting with new technology and testing content in different formats, are able to improve the content processing and facilities for their reading and learning activities. This way Publishers, Public Libraries and the People are the 3 partners that together hold the key to unlocking the information society for all, including the print disabled.

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**Programme of the P3-Conference**

**People, Public Libraries, Publishers**

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Arrival day: Monday 17th August 2009

14.00 Registration opens in Centre Lamot

14.00 - 18.00 Visits:
- visit to a recording studio
- visit to the public library
- guided tours to the city center
- visits to accessible museums
(practical information in the conference bag and at the registration desk)

19.00 Opening and get together

Opening of the exhibition in Centre Lamot (room: Mechelen Centraal)

Word of welcome by Geert Ruebens, director
Luisterpuntbibliotheek (Flemish Library for Audio Books and Braille)

Speech by Frank Nobels, Alderman City Council of Mechelen

The Flemish blind female singer Severine Doré sings in Dutch, English and French

Reception in the exhibition room, offered by the City Council of Mechelen

22.00 End
Programme Tuesday 18th August 2009 : Focus on ‘Publishers’

On the first full day of this conference the focus is on the **publishers**. Building specific partnerships with publishers can significantly improve the situation for the print handicapped and is instrumental in pushing forward the concept of a global library. The global library concept is central in the vision of IFLA LPD Section, where our member libraries build a network of online digital content that can be accessed 24/7 from any place in the world.

What possibilities and obstacles for cooperation can we identify when we are building partnerships with publishers to create accessible content? Can we find clever ways to work with the publishers, how can we share knowledge on publishing in more adaptive formats? What models are there so that accessible content can become available in mainstream formats and in alternative formats at the same time and for the same price? And what about copyrights: can we find a balance between the publishers and authors needs, and needs and rights of our end-users? It all boils down to inclusive thinking from the beginning and keeping this inclusive line of thinking alive, during the whole process of production of information sources and the delivery of information services to all users who may benefit from it.

**Information about the meeting rooms:** registration takes place in the room ‘Mechelen-Centraal’, which is also the room of the exhibition, breaks, lunches, reception on Monday evening and dinner on Tuesday evening will also be held in ‘Mechelen-Centraal’. On Tuesday all sessions and discussion panels are held in the Auditorium.
08.00 Registration

09.00 Opening session

Welcome by Bente Dahl Rathje (IFLA/LPD-chair, Denmark)

Official welcome from the Flemish Minister of Culture Joke Schauvlieghe (to be confirmed)

Keynote speaker Ellen R. Tise (South Africa), IFLA-president elect: Reflection on the Global Library and her theme ‘Libraries Driving Access to Knowledge’

10.30 Break
11.00  Session ‘cooperation with publishers’

Convenor: Koen Krikhaar (Dedicon, the Netherlands)

Focus on copyright and global aspects from two perspectives:

Publishers vision: Alicia Wise (Chief Executive of PLS, the Publishers Licensing Society and Digital Consultant to The Publishers Association, England)

Libraries vision: Victoria Owen (Head Librarian Toronto Scarborough Library, Canada)

12.00  Discussion panel

Driver of the panel: Peter Osborne (Head of International and Partnership Development, RNIB, United Kingdom)

Panel Members: Ellen R. Tise (President IFLA), Erik Timmermans (Dutch Publishers Association), Berhard Heinser (Daisy-Consortium), Victoria Owen (Toronto Library) and Alicia Wise (Publishers Licensing Society)

13.00  Lunch
Session ‘cooperation with publishers’

Convenor Koen Krikhaar (Dedicon, the Netherlands)

Focus on adaptive publishing techniques

Presentations

Guidelines for licenses to provide accessible material in compliance with copyright and related rights. by Kathleen Asjes (Pro Access, the Netherlands)

Books for everyone, by Anne Marit Godal (Leser soker bok, Norway)

World Braille books without limits, 4Kids Only, by Adrienne Hak (Rubinstein, the Netherlands)

Inclusive publishing Projects in Germany, by Thomas Kahlish (Deutsche Zentral Bibliothek, Germany)

15.30 Break
16.00 Discussion panel

Driver of the panel: Peter Osborne (RNIB, England)

Panel Members: Kathleen Asjes (Pro Access), Adrienne Hak (Rubinstein), Thomas Kahlisch (DZB), Anne Marit Godal (Books for Everyone)

17.00 Closing session
Marian Koren interviews Ellen R. Tise (president Ifla)

17.30 End

18.00 Visits in Mechelen
Choice between visit to a recording studio, a public library with adapted reading point, a guided city tour (in Dutch or English) or a museum accessible for blind persons.

20.00 Dinner in Centre Lamot
Programme Wednesday 19th August 2009:

On the second full day the focus lays on the ‘Public Libraries’: special and public libraries join together to create new ways of reading, to reach more people and to sustain lifelong learning; public libraries will showcase the best practices for supporting print disabled people.

The focus on cooperation with public libraries will be introduced by drawing attention to the structural changes in the Netherlands and in Flanders (Belgium). This approach is an example of the actual progress all over the world.

We also have about twenty contributions from different countries of different continents. The sessions are clustered around national level, regional level and local approach. Participants may have to choose between parallel sessions.

Two workshops will be interactive: one on reading groups and the other on the all important subject of ‘The Global Library’.

**Information about the meeting rooms**: all sessions and discussion panels are held in the Auditorium, except some tracks will be held in the Dijlezaal.
9.00 Session ‘cooperation with public libraries’

Convenor: Marian Koren (Public Library Association, the Netherlands)

Presentations

Situation in Flanders by Geert Ruebens (Luisterpunt, Flemish Library for Audio and Braille Books, Flanders, Belgium)

Situation in the Netherlands by Thea van Lankvelt (Public Library Association, the Netherlands)

10.00 Best practices on a national level

The Reading Sight: bridging the reading gap for UK blind and partially sighted readers, by Pat Beech (Royal National Institute for the Blind, RNIB, United Kingdom)

Recent user and target group surveys in Sweden, by Bitte Kronkvist (TPB, Sweden)

10.30 Break
11.00 Best practices on a national level (continued)

Media partnerships and accessible newspapers, by Julie Rae (Vision, Australia)

Digital Reading Place for persons with print disabilities by Lone Soegaard (NOTA, Danish National Library for persons with print disabilities, Denmark)
11.30 Best practices from local public libraries
Two parallel sessions of each 3 presentations

**Track 1**: (room: Auditorium)

Convener: Thea van Lankvelt (Public Library Association, the Netherlands)

Presentations

- Newspapers and ‘books-on-wheels’ digitally, by Bitte Kronkvist (TPB, Sweden)

- The key role of cooperation to keep library service for the blind and visually impaired sustainable, by Dijana Sabolovic-Krajina (Public Library ‘Fran Galovic’ in Koprivnica, Croatia)

- Braille corners in local public libraries, by Irene Muthoni Kibandi (National Library, Kenya)
Track 2: (room: Dijlezaal)

Convenor: Saskia Boets (Luisterpunt, Flanders, Belgium)

Presentations

Get going! How to bring library services to dyslectic into focus at your library, by Jette Bendix Pedersen and Helle Arendrup Mortensen (Denmark)

The Typlo & Tactus Project: using tactile books, by Philippe Claudet (Editions Les Doigts qui rêvent, France)

A local public library in Hirakata near Osaka, by Atsushi Hattori (Japan)

12.45 End

13.00 Lunch
14.00 Interactive workshops
Two parallel sessions of workshops (each topic to be seen as a short presentation followed by an interactive and open discussion)

Workshop 1 on reading groups: (room: Dijlezaal)

Driver of the discussion: Helen Brazier (RNIB, United Kingdom)

East Midlands Reading Group Pilot Project, by Sheelagh Gallagher (United Kingdom)

Hampshire’s reading groups for visually impaired people, by Nick Coe (Hampshire County Library Service, United Kingdom)

Workshop 2 on the Global Library: (room: Auditorium)

Driver of the discussion: Global library for the blind, by Francois Hendrikz (South Africa Library for the Blind, South Africa)

15.00 Break
15.30  Best practices on a regional level
Two parallel sessions of each 3 presentations

Track 1: (room: Dijlezaal)

Convenor: Saskia Boets (Luisterpunt, Flanders, Belgium)

Presentations

Casestudy: cooperation between Luisterpunt and public libraries in the province of Antwerp concerning the distribution of Daisy, by Kris De Winter (Provincial Government Antwerp, Flanders, Belgium)

Innovation in regional support for public libraries serving the visually impaired, by Peter Spuij (Probiblio and Biblioservice, the Netherlands)

Partnerships for print disabled people: proposal from North East Accessible Library and Information Services (NEALIS), by Jane Hall (Sunderland City Council, United Kingdom)
Track 2: (room: Auditorium)

Convenor: Thea van Lankvelt (Public Library Association, the Netherlands)

Presentations

Partnerships and Social Inclusion: accessible book clubs and reading groups in public libraries, by Julie Rae (Vision, Australia)

Services for Visually impaired people in public Libraries in the Province of Gelderland, by Yvonne Sinkeldam (Biblioservice Gelderland, the Netherlands)

Taking the library to the people: The Mdantsane digital mini library project, by Francois Hendrikz (South Africa Library for the Blind)
16.30 Closing session

Closing session remarks

Cooperation with public libraries, by the convenor Marian Koren

The Ulverscroft Awards 2008, by Helen Brazier

New name and logo of the LPD-section, by the Chair Bente Dahl Rathje

17.00 End

18.30 – 22.00 Dinner

Choice between a boat trip and dinner or a gastronomic walk through the city
Programme Thursday 20th August 2009 : Focus on ‘People’

Are all efforts of publishers, special and public libraries to meet the needs of persons with print-disabilities successful? How do the users experience these dedicated services? What role does it play in their daily life? What would they recommend to the professional organisations?

This day is a true adventure! Conference participants will travel to the beautiful public library in Maastricht (by the same architect as the Amsterdam Library!) located in the multipurpose Centre Céramique. Examples of User Promotion are just the beginning. A number of special service organisations and local networks for persons with a print-disability will present their activities in a dynamic information market, spread all over the library. Go on an adventurous tour! Experiences with user organisations and user board in different countries will be the subject of an international panel where the voice of the users is heard and listened to.

As this is the last day of the Conference, the closing session entails lessons learned, experiences shared and encouragements for the future. We will enjoy the famous Limburg hospitality at a late lunch. For the most adventurous ones there will be a scheduled excursion to Dedicon in Grave, to learn about the audio production and library services. All international participants will have scheduled transport back to Mechelen.

8.00 Transport to Maastricht (the Netherlands)
Visits and meetings in Maastricht in the Netherlands (transport by bus from Mechelen and back to Mechelen, bus leaves at 8 am sharp!)

9.30 Start session ‘Focus on people’
Welcome by the hosts at the venue in Maastricht Centre Céramique: public library

Eric Wetzels, and

Jean Jacobs
An introduction on the theme: ‘Focus on People’

Convenor Marian Koren (Public Library Association, the Netherlands)

Movie about services in public libraries for the print disabled persons in the Netherlands: user focus

In groups:

Tour of the public library of Maastricht and visit of the information carousel with presentations by:

Library for print disabled (Menno Stein, Loket Aangepast Lezen, the Netherlands) (room: Fons Olterdissenzaal I)

Adapted Reading Point Maastricht, Annemie van Bavel (Stadsbibliotheek Maastricht) (room: souterrain)

Local partner network (Netwerk Blinden en Slechtzienden Maastricht) (room: Druppel, 1st Floor):

Mee South Limburg, Wendy Maes, the Netherlands

Trajekt, Judith Hoogendijk
Sensis Regio Midden en Zuid-Limburg, by:

Marja Burmanje

Wilma van Maarseveen-Arts

Astrid Stijfs

PGBM (Platform Gehandicaptenbeleid Maastricht), Saskia van Swaay, and NVBS (Nederlandse Vereniging van Blinden en Slechtzienden), Ria Kromjong-Haesen

Mosae Zorggroep, presented by

Pieke, Philippe, Ine and Nelly
Braille production at Dedicon (room: Pierre kempzaal, 6th floor)

Emilia Persoon, Dedicon, the Netherlands, and

Edmar Schut, Dedicon, the Netherlands

Daisy-pipeline, user oriented software (room: Boardroom, 5th floor)

Ted van der Togt, Dedicon, the Netherlands

IFLA Library Services to People with Special Needs Section (room: Stadshal, main floor)

Tone Moseid, Norway, and

Helle Mortensen, Denmark
Access to tactile diagrams (room: Fons Olterdissenzaal 2)

Jaap Breider, TactileView, the Netherlands

12.00 Discussion panel (room: Pierre Kempzaal, 6th floor)

Focus on the users: Experiences with user organisations and user boards

Convenor: Frans van der Horst (Maastricht University, The Netherlands)
Panellists on international examples from a.o. the Netherlands, Flanders and Sweden:

Marja-Leena Ahola, Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille

Ellen Kil, User Board Luisterpunt, Flanders, Belgium

Inge Tacke, User Board Libraries for the Blind and Partially Sighted, the Netherlands

12.45 Closing session

Bente Dahl Rathje (IFLA/LPD-chair), with the presentation of a Conference Pamphlet
13.00 Lunch

14.00 Visits

Choice between:
- bus trip to Grave to see the audio production and library services (bus leaves at 13.30!)
- enjoy the cultural heritage in Maastricht

17.30 Bus trip back to Mechelen (B)