



Newsletter

IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section
IFLA Best Newsletter 2000 and 2001

2007/2

The IFLA/LBS Newsletter is issued twice a year.

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The Newsletter is available in Braille
and on www.ifla.org

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Words From The Acting Chair:

In the Section's last newsletter, Beatrice Christensen Sköld wrote about our vision of a global library for print disabled people. Our business plan sets out various ways that we propose to remove the barriers that prevent print disabled people from getting access to the same books and information as sighted people.

Since Beatrice wrote those inspiring words a few months ago, we have made good progress. Two highlights show how the Section is leading innovative work that will help drive change. In June, an expert group of cataloguers met in Helsinki to initiate work on the development of international guidelines for cataloguing DAISY books. Shortly afterwards, in August, we saw the publication of a study on the governance and funding of library services for blind people. The study identified key factors associated with best practice and made recommendations for all kinds of stakeholders. We hope that our member organisations will use the findings to initiate a discussion in their own countries that will lead to lasting improvements.

These are just two examples of our ambitious programme of work, none of which would happen without the enthusiasm and

expertise of our members and supporters, led by the Section's Standing Committee. This being an IFLA election year, we are sad to be saying goodbye to several committee members who have made a massive contribution to the Section's work, especially Beatrice Christensen Sköld and Päivi Voutilainen. We hope you both enjoy your retirement! At the same time, we are delighted to welcome several new members to join our great team, including our new Chair, Bente Dahl Rathje of DBB, Denmark. I am confident that Bente will lead the new Committee and the Section to further achievements in 2008.



We are always on the lookout for new talent, so if you would be interested to join the Section's Standing Committee or help organise an event or a project, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

With warm regards
Helen Brazier
Acting Chair

New SC Members



Third from left: Marja-Leena Ahola-vom Dorp, Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille

Fifth from left: Bente Dahl Rathje, The Danish National Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

In the back: Koen Krikhaar, Dedicon

Third from back: Francois Hendrikz, South African Library for the Blind

Not in the picture: Steve Prine, NLS
Jenny Craven, Centre for Research in Library & Information Management, Manchester Metropolitan University
Minna von Zansen, Celia Library

Under The African Sky: IFLA LBS Conference In Grahamstown, SA

The IFLA-LBS Pre-conference was an experience that I believe many will remember for a long time to come. Weeks before the Pre-conference began, there was a buzz that ran throughout Blindlib. Things were being finalized with various parties, preparations were

being made at the various venues and loose ends tied up where they were needed.

By the 12th of August the guests began to arrive in Grahamstown, and by the 13th the majority of the guests arrived for registration. What a delight it was to see such a myriad of individuals from all walks of life. Delegates came from as far a field as Japan, Sweden, Holland, Korea, the United Kingdom, USA, and many of the African countries were represented such as Kenya, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Botswana and Zimbabwe.



Each of the days was divided into 4 sessions, 2 in the morning and 2 in the afternoon. The First day of the conference started of with the opening address by the Blindlib Director, Mr. Francois Hendrikz. This was followed by the commencing of the first of the sessions of the conference.

Speakers such as Hiroshi Kawamura, Chairperson of the DAISY consortium, Beatrice Christensen Sköld, Chair of the

IFLA LBS, Margaret McGory, executive director of the CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind), Helen Brazier, Head of the library services division of the RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind people) and the Secretary of the LBS (Libraries for the Blind Section) committee, Dr William Rowland, Chairman of the South African Library for the Blind and president of the World Blind Union, Judge Zak Yacoob, a constitutional judge and the Chairman of the SANCB (South African National Council of the Blind), and others from all over the world presented papers of great diversity.

Papers that were presented ranged from cataloging in relation to DAISY titles; Copyright issues (inter-lending between different countries, etc); country reports on what was happening in each of the countries in relation to services regarding the blind and visually impaired; there were papers presented on assistive technology; Judge Zak Yacoob spoke on the effect of access to information for him as an individual; Wendy Ling from Blindlib spoke on the Integrating of library services with public libraries in relation to developing digital minilibs.

Many more papers were presented, giving the conference a wide scope of what is going on in the world in terms of providing services for

print and visually disabled people. The conference also provided an exhibitors space where companies such as Humanware UK, Aurora Information Systems, Sensory Solutions, SANCB (South African National Council for the Blind), "I Read With My Hands" and GADRA could exhibit their products. Exhibits included players of all sorts, large print viewers, talking watches, scales, etc. Breaks for refreshments allowed delegates and guests time to view these products and to reflect on what they had absorbed during the sessions.

During the evenings different experiences were provided such as African Drumbeat on the first night at the Protea Hotel, an African Bush Dinner on the second night at Olive Park just outside Grahamstown which included performances by Centrestage and Halejoetse Tsehlane, a poet from CapeTown. This was followed by a relaxed evening at the Graham Hotel in Grahamstown on the last night with entertainment from an African Marimba band.

The IFLA-LBS Pre Conference 2007 Grahamstown hosted by Blindlib was regarded as one of the most successful International conferences and will certainly not be forgotten very soon.

(Article also published in the Makwenzeke, quarterly newsletter of BlindLib)

Report On WLIC 2007: Durban, South Africa

This year's IFLA World Library and Information Congress was held in Durban, South Africa, on 19-23 August at the International Convention Centre (ICC). Durban is famous for its Golden Mile beachfront and its Indian cuisine, both of which were comprehensively explored by conference attendees at a Beach party organised by the Mayor's office. The Ministry of Arts and Culture also hosted a gala at the City Hall which gave visitors a flavour of some of South Africa's other cultural and culinary highlights.

Although there were serious security concerns about walking from hotels to the venues, the frequent buses provided kept these to a minimum. It was very difficult, however, to explore the wider city. The ICC itself was a good venue, being large enough to comfortably house the enormous number of parallel sessions running at IFLA, but not so vast that there was a very long way to walk between them.

A particularly memorable highlight of the conference was the opening ceremony, which was hosted by Gcina Mhlophe, one of South Africa's foremost storytellers. The addresses by IFLA officers and South African dignitaries were

interspersed with dance, music and storytelling. The keynote address of Justice Albie Sachs, once a prisoner of the South African Apartheid regime and now a Judge on the Bench of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, was unmissable. He spoke movingly about how important reading became to him during his time in captivity.

The ceremony also featured an address from outgoing IFLA President Alex Byrne, who will be succeeded by Claudia Lux. Ellen Tise of South Africa is now President-Elect. During the ceremony the flags of the attending 120 countries were displayed in turn to the applause of each nation's delegates (and their assorted supporters from other countries). It was notable that out of 3,051 attendees, 1,463 were from Africa. Dr Byrne challenged the Western nations present to support the attendance of a similar proportion of delegates from South America at next year's conference in Quebec.



The opening of the Exhibition, also within the ICC venue, was extremely busy; possibly partly as a result of the large amounts of free food and wine laid on by the exhibitors. In an odd juxtaposition, the booths of well known companies from the sector like Oxford University Press and Infor stood next to tables selling local beads and handicrafts: it was quite possible to order an A2 document scanner, subscribe to some new journals and pick up a Zulu shield all at the same time.

Perhaps befitting the venue, there was a strong thread of useful sessions on indigenous cultures and traditional knowledge, including the Art Libraries section's *Developing and documenting contemporary indigenous and minority culture* and an exploration of *Traditional knowledge, cultural expressions and folklore* by the Copyright and other Legal Matters section.

Professional matters in developing countries were also effectively

explored by Division VIII with Education and Training section's *Advancing LIS education in Developing Countries: views from LIS educators and practitioners*. Continuing professional development was a particularly popular theme. From attendance at previous events, New Professionals section's *Developing new professionals for the future* session was expected to comprise about four tables each working with an individual speaker in focus groups. In the event, by the time the session began, all the tables in the room were full, and people were sitting on the floor and standing. The session also served to highlight the numbers of young professionals and first timers attending this year's conference. A following session from Academic and Research Libraries section entitled *Find a mentor: an opportunity to network and to learn from colleagues* was also well populated.

Inevitably, the theme of Web 2.0 and Library 2.0 ran strongly through the sessions. National Libraries with ICABS and Information Technology's session on *National libraries and resource discovery strategies - local, national and global* featured an excellent presentation from Patrick Danowski of the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin on *Libraries 2.0 and user-generated content*, which challenged the importance of the role of traditional

library catalogues in the future. Caroline Brazier also gave two interesting papers on the British Library's developments in these areas at this session and at IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards (ICABS)'s *Libraries contributing to web 2.0*.

The Section's own session with Libraries for Children and Young Adults on *Best practice in library services for print-disabled children* was scheduled immediately before the closing ceremony. Although, as Marion Ripley from ClearVision said, given the choice she perhaps wouldn't have chosen to speak last in the final session of the whole conference, there was in fact a good attendance throughout. Her paper on *Creating a loans collection of books with tactile illustrations for young children with a visual impairment* was a timely reminder of the range of resources that can be developed for young readers without dependence on the electronic developments which dominated some of the other sessions.

The preceding papers from Beatrice Christensen-Sköld, Ratna Bandyopadhyay of Calcutta University and Dijana Sabolovic Krajina of the City and County Library "Fran Galovic" in Croatia were an excellent reflection of the incredible diversity of initiatives which were displayed throughout this year's conference by countries

of all sizes and in all stages of development, and served as a very fitting close to IFLA 2007.

John Hardisty, RNIB NLS

Standing Committee Meetings In Durban, August 2007

As usual, the Section's Standing Committee met during the World Library and Information Congress which this year took place in Durban, South Africa. Fourteen members attended the three meetings, along with seven observers.



This being an election year, we were sad to say goodbye to some long serving committee members, namely Beatrice Christensen Sköld, Chair; Helen Brazier, Secretary; Lina Kouzi, Information Co-ordinator; Elke Dittmer; Carolyn Sung; Elsebeth Tank; Päivi Voutilainen; and Keun Hae Youk. Special thanks were given to Beatrice Christensen Sköld for stepping in as Chair 2006-7 at short notice.

New members of the Standing Committee were heartily welcomed. Bente Dahl Rathje becomes the new Chair, and Minna von Zansen and Jenny Craven are the new Information Co-ordinators. We are currently seeking a Secretary.

The highlights of the Committee's business were as follows:

- Updating the Section's strategic plan for 2008-10
- Progressing the creation of a global library for print disabled people (projects developed jointly with the DAISY Consortium): removing copyright barriers, creating a global catalogue, promoting resource sharing
- Promotion of best practice, including international research on governance and funding of libraries for the blind and preparation for future conferences in Eastern Europe and Quebec
- Staff development and training: launch of the new Ulverscroft Foundation-LBS best practice award scheme
- Putting plans into place to encourage IFLA to become a model of best practice in accessibility
- Joint work with the World Blind Union to engage customers

- Making the Section fit for purpose: increasing reach and impact, launching a review of the scope and name of the Section

How To Keep In Touch

If you would like to keep in touch with the Section's activities and have access to our documents and network of contacts, please join our free-of-charge Yahoo group. Go to your local Yahoo site, search for the IFLALBS group and follow the instructions. Please contact one of our Information Co-ordinators if you have any problems joining the group.

Official documents can also be found on the Section's pages on the IFLA website www.ifla.org.

Helen Brazier, outgoing Secretary

International Research On Governance And Funding Of Libraries For The Blind

This ground breaking research report, commissioned by IFLA LBS, the British Library and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (England and Wales) was published in August.

It has three sections: Part 1 Summary Report; Part 2 Country Studies; Part 3 Appendices. David

Owen, reviewing the report for Shate the Vision in the UK, wrote:

Part 3 sets out the study brief in detail and reproduces the questionnaire that was sent to potential respondents. It is in 4 parts and is designed to cover the country situations as a whole; public libraries; education libraries and special libraries for VIP's. Respondents were requested to answer as many general and specific questions as possible in the section which was most appropriate to their knowledge and experience so STV submitted a response on the UK situation overall. It was the most comprehensive and time consuming questionnaire I can recall completing but now I have studied the report I can see that the time was well spent.

Part 2 provides details of the situation in the following 11 countries: Australia; Canada; Croatia; Denmark; Japan; South Korea; The Netherlands; South Africa; Sweden; UK and USA. There is a mass of interesting and useful detail which should assist practitioners to learn from experiences and developments elsewhere in the world.

Part 1 attempts to synthesise all of the country findings and produce an international summary. The main conclusions would appear to

be that it is difficult to generalise because of the lack of comparable quantitative data. However, there is a remarkable degree of international consensus on the preferred model of service delivery. The crucial elements are:

- clearly defined and coordinated roles and responsibilities, whether fulfilled by private, voluntary or public bodies.
- funding of services by regular government expenditure
- delivery of services via mainstream physical and digital channels

The report is especially useful in setting out the problems of copyright restrictions and the opportunities and potential pitfalls of IT. "There is no single best practice model because of the variations from country to country" but the report makes 14 detailed recommendations to improve matters. These are addressed singly or severally to National and Local Governments; Service Providers; Funders other than National and Local Governments; the EC and WIPO; Publishers; IFLA and User Organisations.

This is a substantial, major report which merits detailed study. The main conclusions are not surprising but that only validates the quality and value of the report. The report is available from the Libraries for

the Blind Section's part of the IFLA website at:

[www.ifla.org/VII/s31/pub/FGpart1\[2+3\].htm](http://www.ifla.org/VII/s31/pub/FGpart1[2+3].htm)

Ulverscroft Foundation/IFLA LBS Best Practice Awards 2007-8

The Ulverscroft Foundation and the IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section are pleased to announce that the Foundation has agreed to provide renewed sponsorship of 20,000 GP Pounds in 2007 to continue a best practice development programme which commenced in 2003. Since then seven individuals have been sponsored to visit libraries in other countries. In addition, the programme has funded the Ibadan University Library School to create an online union catalogue of alternative format materials in Nigeria, www.alvi-laris.org

This programme provides a wonderful opportunity for both personal and organisational development and both IFLA LBS and Ulverscroft wish to encourage worldwide applications from all persons and organisations interested in improving library services for visually impaired people. Whilst this will be of particular interest to special library services for the blind, applications are also welcomed from public libraries, school libraries, university

and college libraries, national libraries etc

Further details of the awards and an application form for individual awards can be found on the Ulverscroft Foundation website at www.foundation.ulverscroft.co.uk Applications should be submitted by 30th November 2007. For further details please contact: Ulverscroft: Joyce Sumner at j.sumner@ulverscroft.co.uk IFLA LBS: Lina Kouzi at lina.kouzi@ncbi.ie

Tactile Book Workshop in Grahamstown, SA, Aug. 2007

A two-day workshop on the design and construction of tactile books for young children with a visual impairment took place in



Grahamstown, South Africa this summer. Held immediately after the Libraries for the Blind Section conference, the workshop was attended by about twenty participants, mostly from Africa.

The participants from Vietnam and the Netherlands had considerable experience of tactile book design; the rest of the group had little or no experience and for some it was their first encounter with such books. Five of the participants were blind or partially-sighted.

The workshop was presented by Annica Norberg from the Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille, Marion Ripley from ClearVision Children's Braille Library in the UK, Robin Nation from the Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind and Lynette Rudman, a teacher and tactile book producer in South Africa. Topics covered in the workshop included why tactile books are needed; suitable topics for tactile books; principles of design; different levels of complexity; the various methods of production; adapting mainstream books; and training volunteers to make tactile books.

Throughout the two days, participants showed a keen interest and participated in discussions, although there were few questions. The session on suitable topics for tactile books for older children and teenagers was particularly productive and animated. Suggested topics included AIDS awareness, growth changes at puberty, national dress, a recipe

book, make-up, sports, cars and heroes.

The visually-impaired participants were able to take part fully in the workshop. Almost everything used to illustrate points made during the presentations was passed around to be examined by touch. It was rewarding to see the pleasure and interest with which all the participants explored the tactile books and samples by sight and/or by touch.

On the final afternoon participants were split into groups of 3-4 (with one visually-impaired member per group where possible) to design and make tactile books, using a wide variety of materials provided by the presenters. In the limited time available, two groups completed simple but very satisfactory and well-designed books. The other groups produced one or more pages of varying suitability. Blind members of the group participated in the activity either as advisers and testers or more fully in actually cutting and sticking their own illustrations.

At the end of the workshop, any leftover materials were given to the participants, along with a CD on designing and making books (from New Zealand); a booklet on the same topic (from United Kingdom); examples of tactile illustrations (from Sweden) and tiny tactile

books (from South Africa) to encourage further production.

The workshop was funded by the Force Foundation.

Marion Ripley
info@clearvisionproject.org.

Putting Libraries for the blind and print disabled on the agenda.

Taking advantage of co-operation. Introducing IFLA and DAISY.

A seminar arranged by IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section and the DAISY Consortium in cooperation with the Croatian Library for the Blind.

Zagreb, Croatia. February 27-28, 2008

Target group: Libraries and organizations for the blind and print disabled in Central/Eastern Europe

Venue: Hotel Sheraton, Zagreb
Fee: Free of charge

Accommodation: Hotel Sheraton, Zagreb

Single room: 136 Euro

Double room: 151 Euro

Alternative accommodation: Hotel Central

Single room: 68 Euro

Double room: 97 Euro

Double room, French bed: 90 Euro

Day 1: Wednesday, February 27

11.00-14.00

Registration

12.30-13.30

Lunch

14.00-14.40

Opening session

Convenor: Bente Dahl Rathje

Key note speaker

Claudia Lux, President of IFLA.

Putting Libraries for the blind and print disabled on the Political agenda.

Representative of Croatian Ministry of Culture

Sanja Frajtag, Director, Croatian Library for the Blind

Hiroshi Kawamura, President of DAISY Consortium

Chair of IFLA Libraries for the Blind Section

14.40-15.30

Session 1A: Introduction to IFLA.

Introduction of IFLA. The Libraries for the Blind Section; present and future strategies

Helen Brazier, Head National Library Service

RNIB UK. Special adviser, Libraries for the Blind Section

Session 1B: Introduction to DAISY.

DAISY Consortium: A history, and current developments

George Kerscher, Secretary General of the DAISY Consortium

15.30-16.00

Refreshments

16.00-17.30

Session 2: Country reports

Convenor: Marja-Leena Ahola

The Current Situation in Croatia
Sanja Frajtag, Director, Croatian
Library for the Blind

The Current Situation in Estonia
Marja Kivihall, Information
specialist, Estonian Library for the
Blind (ELB)

The Current Situation in Bosnia &
Herzegovina
Sanela Osmanagic, Assistant
Manager, Library for the Blind and
Visually Impaired, Bosnia and
Herzegovina

The Current Situation in
Montenegro
Bozidar Dendar, President of Union
Blind of Montenegro and Director of
Montenegrin Library for the Blind

Questions

17.30-18.30

Visit to the Croatian Library for the
Blind

19.30-

Dinner hosted by the Croatian
Library for the Blind

Day 2: Thursday, February 28

9.00-12.00

Session 3: DAISY now and in the
future.

Convenor: François Hendrikz

9.00-9.30

An introduction to DAISY: the best
way to read.

Presentation and demonstration by
Lynn Leith, Head of Information
Services, DAISY Consortium and
George Kerscher, Secretary
General of the DAISY Consortium

9.30-10.00

The DAISY Roadmap: future plan,
technical directions and DAISY
Consortium open source tools and
developments

George Kerscher

10.00-10.30

Refreshments hosted by XML-text,
Denmark

10.30-11.00

Production of accessible material –
the XML-centric way
Jesper Klein, Project manager.
Swedish Library of Talking Books
and Braille (TPB)

11.00-11.30

Cataloguing digital material
Marcus Westlind, Project manager.
Swedish Library of Talking Books
and Braille (TPB)

Questions

11.40- 12.00

Demonstration of DAISY-players by
HumanWare

12.00-12.30

Exhibition Preview

Visit XML-text, HumanWare

12.30-13.30

Lunch hosted by HumanWare

13.30-15.00

Session 4: The developments of library services for the blind and print disabled.

Convenor: Minna von Zansen

Cooperation between a public library and the Croatian Library for the Blind

Dijana Sabolovic-Krajina, Director of the Public Library of Koprivnica

Integrating library services with audiobooks in the public libraries
Geert Ruebens, Director, Flemish Library for Audiobooks and Braille, Belgium

Introducing Daisy to the Finnish Public Libraries.

Sanna Schildt, Information Officer, Celia Library for the Visually Impaired, Finland

Questions

15.00-15.30

Refreshments

15.30-16.30

Session 5: Copyright and the Global Library

Convenor: Koen Krikhaar

Copyright; an obstacle or opportunity

Aleksandra Horvat, Professor at Department of Information Sciences, University of Zagreb, Croatia. Member of IFLA / CLM

The DAISY Global library and the impact of copyright laws

Stephen King, Group Director, Access & Innovation, RNIB UK.

Boardmember of DAISY Consortium

Discussion and examples

16.30-17.00

Closing remarks

Helen Brazier

17.30

Sight seeing tour (optional)

Registration Form

Putting Libraries For The Blind And Print Disabled On The Agenda

Taking advantage of co-operation
Introducing IFLA and Daisy

Hotel Sheraton, Zagreb, Croatia
February 27-28. 2008

Please complete this form and send
it to Bente Dahl Rathje
(BDR@dbb.dk) and Lynn Leith
(lynn.leith@gmail.com)

Deadline for Registration: Feb 1,
2008

Mr./Ms Last name:

First name:

Title:

Organization/Company:

Street:

City:

Postal/Zip Code:

Country:

Fax:

Telephone:

E-mail:

I require my seminar materials in
the following format:

Print Braille e-text

I need a personalized invitation:

YES NO

I have the following requirements
for the meals:

Any other needs?

Will you attend the dinner hosted by
Croatian Library for the Blind on
Wednesday evening, February 27th:

YES NO

When will you arrive in Zagreb?

At which hotel are you staying?

Looking forward to seeing you in
Zagreb.

Best regards

Sanja Frajtag

Croatian Library for the Blind

News

Initiative for Equitable Library Access:

The Library and Archives Canada
(LAC) is pleased to announce the
Initiative for Equitable Library
Access (IELA). The mandate of
IELA is to develop and cost a
strategy for implementing nation-
wide partnerships, activities and
services to meet the long-term
library and information access

needs of Canadians with print disabilities. A description of IELA's key activities can be found on LAC's website for the Council on Access to Information for Print-Disabled Canadians at the following address:

www.collectionscanada.ca/accessinfo/005003-3000-10-2007-e.html

Trisha Lucy, Initiative for Equitable Library Access, Strategic Office, Library and Archives Canada.

Library and Information Services for Visually Impaired People: Library Trends: Volume 55, Number 4, Spring 2007:

A special issue of the international journal Library Trends is available on the theme of library and information services for visually impaired people. Edited by Helen Brazier and David Owen, it includes contributions from international authors and covers topics such as provision and improvement of library services to visually impaired people around the world; the role of IFLA; the DAISY standard; web accessibility; resource discovery; user's perspectives; an overview of research; and new opportunities and challenges in the digital age.

New Director At TPB

The Swedish Government has appointed Roland Esaiasson Executive Director of the Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille (TPB) from September 1st 2007.

Mr Esaiasson was born in 1951 and his latest employment was as Head of the department for audiovisual media and talking books at library suppliers BTJ Sweden. The department sells talking books to public libraries.

Dates for Your Diary

28 January 2008: Brailletnet's accessible e-books conference, Paris

27-28 February 2008: Taking advantage of co-operation. Introducing DAISY and IFLA. Location: Zagreb, Croatia. Venue: Hotel Sheraton, Zagreb. Theme: Utilising networking, collaboration and cooperation for the transition to a world where accessible information is the norm. Target group: Libraries and organizations for the Blind and print disabled in Eastern Europe.

29 February-1 March 2008: Standing Committee mid year meeting, Zagreb

10-15 August 2008: WLIC, Quebec

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Standing Committee Members

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Secretary/Treasurer: Bente Dahl Rathje, Chief Consultant, The Danish National Library for the Blind and Print Disabled – DBB, Teglvaerskgade 37 DK-2100 COPENHAGEN, Denmark, Tel. + (45)39134600 Fax + (45)39134601, E-mail: bdr@dbb.dk

Jenny Craven CERLIM, Manchester Metropolitan University (Joint Information Co-ordinator). Courtney Deines-Jones, Principal and Founder, The Grimalkin Group, LLC. Marja-Leena Ahola-vom Dorp, Librarian Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille. Galina Sergeevna Elfimova, Head Librarian, Russian State Library for the Blind. Francois Hendrikz, Director, South African Library for the Blind. Thomas Kahlisch, Director, Deutsche Zentralbücherei für Blinde zu Leipzig. Hiroshi Kawamura, Information and Culture Center for the Blind. Koen Krikhaar, Head of Public Services Dedicon. Luc Maumet, Librarian

Association Valentin Haüy (A.V.H.). Margaret McGrory, Vice President + CIO and Executive Director of CNIB Library. Misako Nomura, Deputy Director, Information Center, Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (JSRPD). Steve Prine, Jr. Assistant Chief, Network Division, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Library of Congress. Eugenia Viktorovna Shepova Director St. Petersburg State Library for the Blind. Minna von Zansen (Joint Information Co-ordinator) Service Manager, Library Services, Celia Library for the Visually Impaired. Beatrice Christensen Sköld, Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille (TPB), Director. Richard Tucker. Päivi Voutilainen, Head of Library Services CELIA Library for the Visually Impaired. Rainer F. V. Witte, Deutsche Blindenstudienanstalt e.v.