# Bridging the gap – Addressing the Accessible Book Famine in Canada

Accessible publishing activities

Only 7 out of 100 books are accessible.

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# Marrakesh Treaty:

- To facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled
- First users' rights treaty - based on human rights principles
- A WIPO treaty, agreed upon at a Diplomatic Conference on June 27, 2013 in Marrakesh, Morocco
- Entry into force in Canada on September 30, 2016; in USA on May 8, 2019

# Marrakesh Treaty:

- Each country must ratify; 89 ratified to date
  https://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/marrakesh/
- MT created an exception to copyright, with mandatory exceptions in national ratifying legislation
  - Allows the making and distribution of accessible format copies
  - Allows for the sharing of accessible works internationally
  - Permits the circumvention of technological protection measures

# Legal Framework for Marrakesh Treaty

- Each Marrakesh Treaty country must develop national enabling legislation that complies with the requirements of the Treaty
  - Variation in legislative language among countries
- Marrakesh Treaty has optional articles;
  - Canada added a commercial availability clause and a royalties clause, and the U.S. did not
- Numerous initiatives are underway with Canadian authorized entities (AEs) (BAnQ, CELA, NNELS, and libraries) to understand how the legislation is operationalized in their processes and for international lending
- Legal experts in Canada and U.S. are engaged with us on the processes and implications of the differences in national law.

# CARL-ARL Marrakesh Treaty Implementation

- September 2020 - CARL and ARL pilot implementation on behalf of member libraries (140 total); collectively hold 760 million print and electronic books
- Four pilot libraries: Cornell University, University of Florida in US and York University, Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ)
- Policy, Metadata, Systems, Beneficiary working groups
- Goals:
  - Implement discovery and delivery within each country and cross-border
  - Identify and resolve barriers

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# Project Considerations

- High quality descriptions ensure that end-users can locate and access accessible format works
  - Identify best practices for description of accessible formats
- Unfettered access to accessible works by beneficiary communities
  - Convert from print to accessible version once
  - Determine how the plethora of accessible versions created by all library types, globally, are searchable and discoverable by all beneficiary users

# Project Considerations

- Develop a framework for:
  - Adapting formats of works as users and technology change over time
  - Ongoing reinvestment into technology infrastructure for description of works and accessible, digital works

# CRKN Vendor Licence Review

- Included: e-books and e-journals listed at https://www.crkn-rcdr.ca/en/publishers
- 56 active vendor licences
  - 23 reviewed
  - Exclusions: databases, services, select backfiles

# CRKN Vendor Licences Review

- 3 do not use model Licence
  - No accessible format clause
- Using model licence
  - All contain accessible format reference
  - 1 license clause "intentionally deleted"

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# CRKN Vendor Licences Review

## *What is available to users?*

# Testing EPub for Accessibility



- DAISY Consortium ACE EPUB Validator (https://daisy.org/activities/software/ace/)

Ace by DAISY

File　View　Edit　Window　Help

<

Check EPUB

Rerun

History

Export

Settings

# Report

| Summary | Violations | Metadata | Outlines | Images |

| Type | Critical | Serious | Moderate | Minor | Total |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| WCAG 2.0 A | 0 | 0 | 0 | 639 | 639 |
| WCAG 2.0 AA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EPUB | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Best Practice | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Other | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 1 | 640 | 641 |

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# "If [publishers] have no liability, they have no incentive."

- Judith Russell

  Dean of University Libraries

  George A. Smathers Libraries

  University of Florida

# Conclusion

**Take responsibility** for digital curation and accessibility:

- Inform yourself about best practices, standards and legal requirements, including implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty
- Ask accessibility questions of your press, vendors and other publishers
- Confirm that new titles meet accessibility standards
- Include "forward migration" of backlist titles in your e-book workflows

**EMPOWER YOURSELF!**

**ENSURE THAT WHAT IS OPEN IS TRULY ACCESSIBLE!**