Regional Seminar
Exceptions and Limitations to Libraries, Archives
and Educational Institutions
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Topic 6 Libraries and Accessibility
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Libraries and the Marrakesh Treaty

Benefits of the Treaty
• By growing their collections of accessible format materials, libraries throughout the world will be able to better serve persons with print disabilities
• Increases study, education and employment options
• Empowers persons with print disabilities to participate fully in the social, cultural and educational life of the community
• Ensures rights to freedom of access to information in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Libraries are key to the success of the Treaty for two main reasons:
• Throughout the world, libraries are one of the primary source of Braille, audio, large print and digital format materials for blind and visually impaired people.
• Only blind people’s organizations, libraries and other so-called "authorized entities" can send accessible format copies to other countries.

In Mongolia, there are approx. 16,500 blind and visually impaired people
• Access to learning and information is extremely limited
• Most are unemployed and live in poverty
• 2011 survey by the Mongolian National Federation of the Blind (MNFB) found that only 16% of its members had completed primary or secondary education, and just 1% had graduated from university

In 2010, DAISY Talking Books Service launched by Ulaanbaatar Public Library (UPL) and Mongolian National Federation of the Blind (MNFB).
• Since 2012, blind people have the legal right to be issued with a free DAISY talking book player.
• But digitizing textbooks for blind children is a big problem, as publishers do not give their permission.
• So blind children have no modern books in DAISY format, only very old Braille books in Russian.

23 September 2015: Mongolia became 10th country to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty
Half way mark to entry into force of the Treaty
• Mongolia Libraries Consortium (MLC) led campaign for ratification in partnership with the Mongolian National Federation of the Blind (MNFB), in a project supported by EIFL
• Consultations took place with policy makers including the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism
• Translated Treaty into Mongolian, approved by Min of Foreign Affairs
• Organized national media campaign, national TV, etc.
• Next steps: implementation into national law
I encourage other countries to ratify the Marrakesh Treaty

It's a great thing to help blind and visually impaired people in your country to improve their lives

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Thank you!

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Recommended reading

http://www.eifl.net/resources

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Thank you!

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