

Born Accessible Publications Global Regulations & Availability for Print Disabled



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Creating the Best Way to Read and Publish



Global view on regulations

United States: Section 508 regulations now apply to websites and publications. Universities either need to ensure procurement of accessible publications or provide accessible equivalent.

Canada: One of the purposes of Accessible Canada Act 2019 is to prevent accessibility barriers in information & communication technologies. Budget 2019 proposes \$22.8 Million for five years to help in increasing production of accessible publications.

U.K.: The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018, states you must make your website or mobile app more accessible by making it 'perceivable, operable, understandable and robust'. There is regulation in place to improve the ebook services offered by universities, but it is not widely known about or acted on yet.

Global view on regulations (contd.)

European Union: The European Accessibility Act 2019 forms a robust base for access to information and knowledge. It reinforces the demand for accessible content, by requiring publishers to produce their digital publications in an accessible format, and also by requiring that the whole supply chain make accessible content available to people with disabilities (PWD).

Australia: Signing of WIPO Marrakesh Treaty in 2014 catalyzed publishers to consider their potential obligations under Disability Discrimination Act 1992. It requires businesses to make adjustments to enable DWD to access their goods services or facilities where equal access can reasonably be provided. AHRC notes, digital content providers should ensure their systems & content comply with WCAG AA.

Global view on regulations (contd.)

Brazil: Law of Inclusion (Law 13.146/2015) requires that if any person with visual impairment requests a book in a bookstore (physical or online), the publisher has to offer an accessible copy (delivery time is dependent on complexity of the content). It also includes the accessibility requirement, mandatory in any government books purchase or tax exemption based production.

India: The new Persons With Disabilities Act 2016 states that Electronic goods & equipment which are meant for everyday use are available in universal design. EPUB 3 was recommended by EXPERT COMMITTEE ON e-Books, Electronics & IT, Ministry of Communications & IT, while mentioning its accessibility benefits.

Is born accessible publications a reality?

In U.S., born accessible is a reality in higher education. The higher Education publishers are now competing on their accessibility features. K-12 is lagging behind but there are efforts underway by the Department of Education to encourage and promote the use of born accessible materials.

In Italy, LIA had established collaborations with the publishers for making available born accessible publications. More than 24,000 publications are already available on www.libriitalianiaccessibili.it

In Brazil, born accessible is a reality in K-12, because of the national textbook program for public schools, all books used by students (60 million students) are produced in EPUB3 and ink/Braille formats.

In U.K., the regular novels are available as accessible in accessible apps (from Kindle, Apple Books etc.). Many are also available as audiobooks, unabridged, on publication day (but usually little expensive).

Is born accessible publications a reality? (contd.)

In India, the govt. education publishers have started to provide the text books in accessible EPUB 3 format.

In Canada it is yet not a reality but govt. Funding and commitment to putting in place a strategy will ensure the sustainable production and distribution of accessible reading material over the longer term.

In France, the French Ministry of Culture has established a steering committee of stake holders for making born accessible publications a reality.

Some more countries are developing infrastructure for making born accessible publications a reality like Sweden, Netherlands, Australia, Kenya etc.

Thank You

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