



knowledge without boundaries

Why a WIPO Treaty for Persons with Print Disabilities can change lives

DAISY readers in Mongolia a legal right - now copyright law must play its part

EIFL supports the conclusion of an effective treaty for the benefit of print disabled people at the Diplomatic Conference in Marrakesh, 17-28 June 2013. By ‘effective’ we mean an international copyright framework that will make a real difference to the lives of blind, visually impaired and print disabled people around the world.

Most of Mongolia’s 15,000 blind and low vision people are unemployed. Their access to learning and information is extremely limited, and many live in poverty. Since 2010, Ulaanbaatar Public Library (UPL) and the Mongolian National Federation of the Blind (MNFB) built two recording studios to create talking books in digital DAISY format that has increased the amount of accessible materials, and opened up new worlds of learning for visually impaired people¹.

Following the success of the DAISY Talking Books service, the Social Welfare law was amended in 2012 so that all blind and visually impaired people in Mongolia now have the legal right to be issued with a free DAISY talking book player.²



Mongolian children get to grips with DAISY readers

“This represents a huge opportunity for blind and visually impaired people to have equal access to the information and knowledge which they so desperately need to improve their lives”, said Mr M. Tsengel, DAISY Expert at Ulaanbaatar Public Library (UPL).

Now copyright law must play its part. “An extensive challenge is digitizing textbooks for blind children. Publishers, who own all the rights, do not permit the DAISY Center and the Mongolian National Federation of the Blind to convert the textbooks. So blind children learning at school have no modern books, and rely instead on ancient Braille textbooks printed in Russia during the socialist period. We must fix this situation urgently”, said Mr Tsengel³. “We need to be allowed to access DAISY content from organizations in other countries. We have raised the hopes of blind people in Mongolia to read books, copyright law can’t let them down”.

Supported by the Mongolian Libraries Consortium

Read more at EIFL in action: www.eifl.net/news/wipo-diplomatic-conference-vips

¹ Library improves lives of visually impaired people <http://www.eifl.net/ulaanbaatar-city-public-library-mongolia>

² <http://www.eifl.net/news/mongolia-library-success-sparks-law-change>

³ <http://www.eifl.net/case-study-copyright-law-review-mongolia>