# EIFL ANNUAL REPORT 2015

# Case Study Mongolia

## CASE STUDY - M. TSENGEL


*Accessible Technology Expert, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia*

Tsengel manages Ulaanbaatar Public Library’s accessible publication service, which converts books from print into digital accessible formats for blind and visually impaired people. However, restrictive copyright laws hinder the library’s efforts to provide knowledge for Mongolia’s 16,500 blind and visually impaired people.

In 2014/15, with support from EIFL, the Mongolian Libraries Consortium, in partnership with the Mongolian Federation of the Blind, led a campaign for ratification of the Marrakesh Treaty. The treaty creates an international legal framework that allows creation of accessible versions of copyrighted works and makes it possible to share them across borders.

On 23 September 2015, Mongolia became the 10th country to ratify the treaty. Once the treaty enters into force globally and its provisions are incorporated in Mongolia’s copyright law, libraries can immediately start to provide accessible format copies, and obtain material from other countries.

Tsengel can’t wait for that day: “Before we had to cut out parts of the text for copyright reasons. It’s very exciting to know that in future we’ll be able to produce whole books in accessible formats.”

Quote from M. Tsengel:
*“The Marrakesh Treaty has opened the doors of learning for blind and visually impaired people in Mongolia.”*