



Towards Equal Access for All Resolution of the IPA Copyright Committee

London, 14 April 2008 - On 23 April we celebrate World Book and Copyright Day to honour writers and their works, and the valuable contribution they make to cultural, scientific and political life and the advancement of society.

Today the International Publishers Association draws the public's attention towards the passionate and loyal readers, who because of visual impairment or other physical disability are unable to read books in the same way as sighted readers.

Historically, only few books could be made accessible to them, by transcribing books into Braille and other special formats, an expensive and cumbersome undertaking performed by charities in agreement with, and often supported by, local publishers.

In the past decade improvements in special accessibility technology, technical advances in document standards and the increasing activity of publishers across a variety of traditional and digital formats and media have made the content of books and other copyrighted works more accessible than ever before.

Not all obstacles have yet been overcome, and some new challenges have been created by these new technologies. Still, publishers are confident that the digital revolution, which is still under way, will make further progress.

It is a shared ambition of publishers around the world to make their works accessible to all readers. IPA looks forward to the day where all readers can have the same access, at the same time, in a way suitable to their needs to all books and calls for all stakeholders to collaborate in practical ways to achieve this important goal.

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