

Alternative formats: policy, procedures and practice showing the way forward

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The legal duty now for “reasonable adjustments”

- DRC Code of Practice for Schools;
- Disability Discrimination Act 1995;
- Disability Equality Duty;
- But little reference to alternative formats, much less for dyslexia;
- SEED guidance more explicit.

The issues

- Legal
- Technological
- Logistical
- Moving it On

Legal -- Copyright

- UK Copyright (Visually Impaired Persons) Act 2002;
 - Exemption to create accessible formats;
 - Single copy for personal use;
 - Approved bodies can make multiple copies;
 - Includes physical disability but **not other reading impairments.**

Copyright:

- Gowers report on Intellectual Property ignored the issue;
- General Agreement reform is needed including at UK IP Office;
- Copyright Licensing Agency “soon”;
- Current consultation on Gowers implementation;
 - General right to format shift;
 - But still needs permission for organisations.

Technology issues:

- Still no fully adequate electronic book platform;
 - Quality as print & colour;
 - Sand proof;
 - Battery life;
 - Readable in sunlight;
 - TTS, change size, colour, font.

Technology (2):

- Part satisfactory:
 - Cheap sub notebooks:
 - ElonexOne;
 - Asus EEPC;
 - One Laptop Per Child;
 - Mobile phone/PDA;
 - MP3 players (podcasts);
 - Ordinary laptops etc.

Technology (3):

- Better TTS (see Jean Hutchins presentation);
- Better authoring tools (WP) for Incidental Obligatory Accessibility;
- Better publishing workflow;
- Better training & knowledge.

Logistical Issues:

- Publishers working with RNIB:
 - Books Expansion for the Visually Impaired Feasibility Project Report, May 2007;
 - Book trade distribution model;
 - Large Print;
 - Braille;
 - DAISY Audio;
 - Royalties;

Logistical Issues (2)

- Publishers' Accessibility Action Group;
- Pilot not digital for end user. Still very frightened of digital books “escaping”;
- BUT
- Random House & Penguin are removing DRM from audio books in USA;
- “Experiment”.

Moving it On

- Give all “literacy excluded” the right to alternative formats, not just the “disabled”;
- A functional definition, not from cause -- including:
 - Travellers;
 - English as a second language;
 - Sick people;
 - Badly taught (or badly learnt).

Moving it On (2):

- Fits with government inclusion agenda;
 - Every Child Matters;
 - Personalised learning;
- Fits with Gowers' “right to format shift”;
- Society demands it.
 - Rightscom international report;
 - Books for All;

Moving it On (3):

- Alt Format policies (for DED);
- BDA's draft;
- Iansyst policy draft.

Question:

- How to get publishers happy to publish their books electronically?

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- Altformat (Dolphin): www.altformat.com;
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