

# TIGAR PROJECT SUMMARY

## FOR RIGHTS HOLDERS

This summary has been produced for publishers, reproduction rights organizations (RROs) and other rights holders (including authors' societies, author's agents, publishers' associations and other rights holders) that are new to the TIGAR Project.

### BACKGROUND

Print impaired people<sup>1</sup>, wherever they are in the world, should be able to read the same published books that sighted people have access to. Ideally these books should be available at the same time and not at a higher price than others.

Over recent decades, the majority of accessible versions of books have been produced by charitable organizations ("trusted intermediaries" or "TIs") that provide library membership services to people with visual impairments. Generally, these were narrated audio books on tape or CD, or hard-copy Braille or large print books produced using national copyright exceptions or licenses. Braille or large print books have traditionally been produced by scanning purchased copies of the original print version and editing them to the required format.

However, the digital era is now enabling great advances in how books in 'accessible' formats can be produced and distributed. While TIs operating in many countries throughout the world continue to build their collections of accessible books, publishers are now also able to produce accessible versions themselves.

Publishers, RROs, TIs and the UN organization WIPO<sup>2</sup> are working together to enable greater availability of 'accessible books' throughout the world.

### THE TIGAR PROJECT

TIGAR (Trusted Intermediary Global Accessible Resources) is establishing a global, virtual online catalogue of books produced in accessible formats that can be exchanged across national borders for print impaired people. Accessible versions<sup>3</sup> of books produced by Trusted Intermediaries in many languages can be shared electronically across national borders using TIGAR's technical and copyright solutions. The project, which has the strong support of the international publishing industry<sup>4</sup>, requires the permission from rights holders to allow this exchange of electronic files.

The project was established by the WIPO Stakeholder Platform<sup>5</sup>. It is directed by a Steering Committee that includes four representatives from the rights holder community (Jens Bammel, IPA; Olav Stokkmo, IFRRO; Alicia Wise, Elsevier and Rainer Just, VG Wort). Operational implementation of the project is the

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<sup>1</sup> Print impaired people are those that are unable to read commercially available standard editions of books due to visual impairments like blindness, dyslexia or other disabilities. Disabilities may include for example the inability to handle books physically.

<sup>2</sup> The World Intellectual Property Organization ([www.wipo.int](http://www.wipo.int)) chairs the [Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights](#) (SCCR), the body responsible for progressive development of international law in copyright and related rights.

<sup>3</sup> Accessible formats include DAISY and Braille. DAISY books are digital audiobooks where text and audio can be synchronised and navigation is built in to assist visually impaired readers to find their way around a book. TIs have adopted DAISY as a standard for digital audiobooks. See more at [www.daisy.org](http://www.daisy.org).

<sup>4</sup> TIGAR has the full support of the International Publishers Association or IPA ([www.internationalpublishers.org](http://www.internationalpublishers.org)), the International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organizations or IFRRO ([www.ifrro.org](http://www.ifrro.org)) and many participating national and international publishing organizations.

<sup>5</sup> WIPO chairs a forum of representatives from the publishing industry, including IPA and IFRRO, and trusted intermediaries, called the Stakeholder Platform. This forum funds and oversees a number of accessibility projects including the TIGAR project. See [www.visionip.org](http://www.visionip.org).

responsibility of a Project Management Team that includes Jim Russell ([jim.russell@rpm-associates.co.uk](mailto:jim.russell@rpm-associates.co.uk)) who is responsible for coordinating rights holder aspects of the project.

The project will significantly widen the choice of accessible versions of books available to print impaired people in each participating country and will also facilitate more efficient production of new accessible versions by reducing duplication amongst TIs.

As an example, Kari Kummeneje of The Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille (a TIGAR TI), explains: 'A research student in Norway needed an accessible version of a scientific book called Essential Cell Biology for her studies. It didn't exist in Norway but, through the TIGAR project, a DAISY audiobook was found in the collection of Learning Ally in the USA and supplied, with the support of CRC Press, through the WIPO technology solution. This demonstrates the real impact TIGAR can have on the lives of print-impaired people.'

## TIGAR LICENSING FRAMEWORK

The TIGAR Memorandum of Understanding<sup>6</sup> (MOU) forms the licensing solution for TIGAR. Participating rightsholders and TIs in every country each sign the MOU.

The MOU sets out the conditions for the exchange of copyrighted materials across national borders and requires permissions to be granted by rights holders on a title-by-title basis. Permission is only required to allow cross border exchange of the electronic files of accessible versions of books that have already been produced by a TI. Such accessible versions will have already been produced legitimately under copyright exception or license for distribution to print impaired people within a TI's country.

In many countries, RROs, publishers associations and author societies already work with TIs to provide collective rights management services and, if mandated by publishers and other rights holders, can sign the MOU and either provide permissions on their behalf or manage the permission clearance process for them. Alternatively, publishers may prefer to sign the MOU and grant permissions directly.

The permission clearance process is centrally coordinated by the TIGAR 'Permission Clearance Coordinator'<sup>7</sup> (PCC) who will give specific guidance to publishers or RROs when they join the project. The PCC receives requests from TIs and then contacts the relevant publisher or RRO to ask for permission for their title(s) to be exchanged through TIGAR. If the publisher or RRO is unable to grant permissions for all territories, the PCC will work with them to find and contact the primary rights holder to seek their permission. The PCC will ask for a 'global' permission so that any TI that is already within the TIGAR network or may subsequently join will be able to receive the accessible version of the book.

## FILE EXCHANGE

Electronic files can only be exchanged between TIs using the TIGAR technology solution developed by WIPO<sup>8</sup> and WIPO are required by the MOU to provide regular and transparent reports of all files exchanged. A TI that receives a file from another TI can then only make it available to print impaired members and must have systems and procedures in place to ensure this is controlled.

## TIGAR PARTICIPATION

MOUs have been signed by TIs in 19 countries and 44 publishers, authors' organisations and RROs organisations (see Appendix), and the list continues to grow. New TIs are only accepted into the project following consultations with relevant rights holder organizations in their country and when they have signed the MOU.

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<sup>6</sup> The full name is the TIGAR Fast Track Memorandum of Understanding which can be provided by Jim Russell.

<sup>7</sup> Helen Turner ([hturneredit@gmail.com](mailto:hturneredit@gmail.com), +44 (0)1491 873668) has been appointed as Permissions Clearance Coordinator.

<sup>8</sup> The WIPO technology solution enables TIs to search each others' catalogues of accessible books, request permission from rights holders via the PCC and then exchange the files using secure protocols.

Established by the WIPO Stakeholder Platform and working closely with the TIGAR Project Team, a working group<sup>9</sup> has been established to enable print impaired people in developing countries to benefit from the accessible resources made available through TIGAR. Representatives from RROs, publishing and accessibility organisations are establishing a process to assess the readiness of local TIs and rights holders in developing countries to participate in TIGAR and to identify any 'capacity building' activities required before a TI can be fully accepted into the programme. Namibia and Bangladesh have been selected as the first trial countries with initial assessment visits being held in February and March 2013. The results will be reviewed by the TIGAR Steering Committee before any decisions on active participation are made.

## PROJECT TIMESCALES AND CONTINUATION

TIGAR is a three year pilot project that is scheduled to conclude at the end of October 2013. The WIPO Stakeholder Platform has agreed in principle to a 'continuation' project of two or three years that would lay the foundations for establishing an on-going, sustainable TIGAR entity and operation. Work is in progress to prepare proposals for how best to achieve this.

## QUARTERLY UPDATE

If you would like to receive a TIGAR quarterly progress update by email, please send a request to Jim Russell using the address below.

Jim Russell, TIGAR Project Management Team, Rights holders

+44 (0) 1454 415410

+44 (0) 7860 488027

[jim.russell@rpm-associates.co.uk](mailto:jim.russell@rpm-associates.co.uk)

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For more information about TIGAR go to [www.tigarnetwork.org](http://www.tigarnetwork.org)

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<sup>9</sup> The Capacity Building Working Group includes Nicolas Faasen, an independent publisher from South Africa, who is leading rights holders activities.

## APPENDIX: SIGNATORIES OF THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

### TRUSTED INTERMEDIARIES (January 2013)

1. Association for the Blind of Western Australia (Australia);
2. Association pour le Bien des Aveugles et malvoyants Bibliothèque Braille Romande et livre parlé (Switzerland);
3. BrailleNET Association (France);
4. Canadian National Institute for the Blind (Canada);
5. Danish National Library for People with Print Disabilities (Denmark);
6. Dedicon (The Netherlands);
7. Dorina Nowill Foundation (Brazil);
8. Learning Ally (USA);
9. Library of Congress/ National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (USA);
10. National Library of Jamaica (Jamaica);
11. Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille (Norway);
12. Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind (New Zealand);
13. South African Library for the Blind (South Africa);
14. Swedish Library of Talking Books and Braille, TPB (Sweden); as per 1<sup>st</sup> of January TPB has a new name: Swedish Agency for Accessible Media (MTM)

### *Trusted Intermediaries located in Developing Countries*

15. DAISY Lanka Foundation (Sri Lanka);
16. Malawi National Library Service (Malawi);
17. National Library of Namibia (Namibia);
18. Tanzania Library Service Board (Tanzania); and
19. Young Power in Social Action (Bangladesh).

### RIGHT HOLDERS

1. Annick Press Ltd (Canada);
2. Bloomsbury Publishing (Global);
3. Brick Books (Canada);
4. Cengage Learning Inc (USA);
5. Cambridge University Press (Global);
6. Canadian Scholars' Press Inc. (Canada);
7. Copyright Licensing Limited [RRO] (New Zealand);
8. D & M publishers Inc (Canada);
9. DALRO [RRO] (signed behalf of Macmillan SA (Pty) Ltd.) (South Africa);
10. DALRO [RRO] signed on behalf of NB Publishers (South Africa);
11. Editions Albin Michel (France);
12. Editions de la Martiniere (France);
13. Editis Holding (France);
14. Elsevier (Global);
15. HarperCollins Publications (Global);
16. Hachette Book Group USA;
17. JAMCOPY [RRO] (Jamaica);
18. John Wiley and Sons (Global);
19. Kopinor [RRO] (Norway);
20. La Societe Hachette Livre (France);
21. Les Editions de Minuit (France);
22. Les Editions du Boreal (Canada);
23. Les Editions Gallimard (France);
24. Les Editions Liana Levi (France) ;
25. Les Editions Quae (France);
26. Macmillan Publishers Ltd (UK);
27. Media Participations (France) ;

28. Oxford University Press (UK) and its subsidiary in South Africa;
29. Pearson France (France);
30. Pearson Education Limited;
31. Pearson Education (Korea);
32. Pearson Education (Turkey);
33. Pearson Education (Spain);
34. Pearson Education (Brazil);
35. Pearson Education (South Asia);
36. Penguin Group (UK);
37. Playwrights Canada Press Limited (Canada);
38. [ProLitteris \[RRO\] \(Switzerland\)](#);
39. SAGE Publications (Global);
40. [Taylor and Francis Books \(UK\) \(re: Global for humanities and social science titles\)](#);
41. The Random House Group Limited (UK);
42. The Swedish Writers' Union [RRO role] (Sweden);
43. [Uitgeverij Verloren BV](#) (The Netherlands); and
44. University of Alberta Press (Canada).