

From Dream to Reality

CNIB Library year in review
2014-15



Making Dreams Come True

More than 11 years ago, Jim Sanders, past president of CNIB and a CNIB Library user, shared his dream of walking into his local public library and having access to a full array of literacy services. In April 2014, this dream became a reality when the Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) launched at more than 600 public library systems across Canada.

Why did CNIB consider this vision so important that it advocated for years to make it a reality? Simply, it's what our library users were telling us they wanted – accessible library service through their local public library. And in fact, it's their right under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to have information available to them in accessible formats through mainstream organizations.

It took tremendous resolve and endurance on the part of many to achieve this goal - advocacy by the CNIB President and many others; the engagement of the Canadian

Urban Libraries Council (CULC), which worked with CNIB to establish CELA; governments and donors whose contributions were integral to our ability to build a comprehensive alternative format library collection and offer library service; and CNIB Library staff and volunteers, who ensured that our services and operations were ready to support public libraries.

To all, the CNIB Library management team extends profound appreciation.

Joan Robinson and Marcia Aranson
Co-Chairs, CNIB Library Services
Sub-Committee

Margaret McGrory
Vice President and Executive Director,
CNIB Library

By the Numbers

While our primary objective this year was to ensure our service was ready for the coming responsibility of supporting public libraries in their delivery of equitable library access, the CNIB Library also had operational targets to attain. Here is a sample...by the numbers.

2,100,000	Accessible items circulated or downloaded online
325,000	Books, magazines and newspapers provided in alternative formats
120,000	Braille pages transcribed
104,000	New books added
50,000	Books downloaded using new Direct to Player service
32,000	People who benefitted from our services
30,000	Volunteer hours
1,600	Service points in public libraries
1,500	Downloads of the Direct to Player app
1,000	New books added through international exchange

What is a print disability?

A print disability is any condition that makes it difficult or impossible for a person to read traditional print. This includes disabilities that affect:

- Vision – blindness or partial sight
- Agility/mobility – inability to hold or manipulate a book
- Learning – impairments related to comprehension (such as dyslexia)

Opening the Book

In April 2003, Jim Sanders, then President of CNIB, challenged Library and Archives Canada, Council on Access to work with CNIB to develop the necessary partnerships with governments at all levels to challenge, debate and implement his dream. In his presentation "A Closed Book," Sanders speaks of his dream...

"My dream is to walk into my local public library, register as a client, be told what I can receive, make that selection and then have access to the services without worrying whether it is going to come from CNIB, the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec or wherever else it comes from.



Carolyn Mazmanian serving Jim Sanders at his local public library in Guelph, Ontario

I dream to be able to get access to the full array of services – braille, audio, digital audio, descriptive video, research and reference service in alternate format."

Two years later, the work towards creating what is now known as CELA began.

In September of 2005, the Canadian Library Association responded with "Opening the Book," a strategy for equitable library service for Canadians with print disabilities. Following in 2007, the Government of Canada through Library and Archives Canada announced the Initiative for Equitable Library Access (IELA) to create the conditions for sustainable and equitable library access for Canadians with print disabilities. Then in March 2012, CNIB published "Reading Re-Imagined: A National Digital HUB to support service delivery to Canadians with print disabilities." With the endorsement of the Canadian Library Association and crucial leadership of the Canadian Urban Libraries Council, CELA was launched, April 1 2014.

¹A Closed Book: Library Services for Print-disabled Canadians.
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/obj/s36/f2/s36-300-e.pdf>

CELA Is Here

Public library service is the right of all Canadians, and people with print disabilities are no exception. These Canadians no longer have to rely on charitable donations to support their love of reading.

Through our work with stakeholders, including more than 600 public library systems, CEOs from the Canadian Urban Libraries Council and Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, we have finally created a library service that offers Canadians with print disabilities the access that is their right.

The Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) offers people with print disabilities access to an extensive collection of accessible materials through their public library system. Materials are available in the formats of the reader's choice, including audio, e-text, braille and large print -- at their local library, delivered straight to their home or online.

CNIB is a critical partner in CELA. It refers new clients to their local public library, produces books and other materials in alternative formats, and under contract to CELA, provides book distribution services, support for public libraries in accessibility matters and community outreach, and a user helpline.

For more information on CELA, visit celalibrary.ca



“I feel good knowing that my library can offer CELA to library patrons who have needs we cannot fully satisfy. Borrowing books from the Greater Sudbury Public Library combined with CELA provides them with a wide array of titles to fulfill every need.”

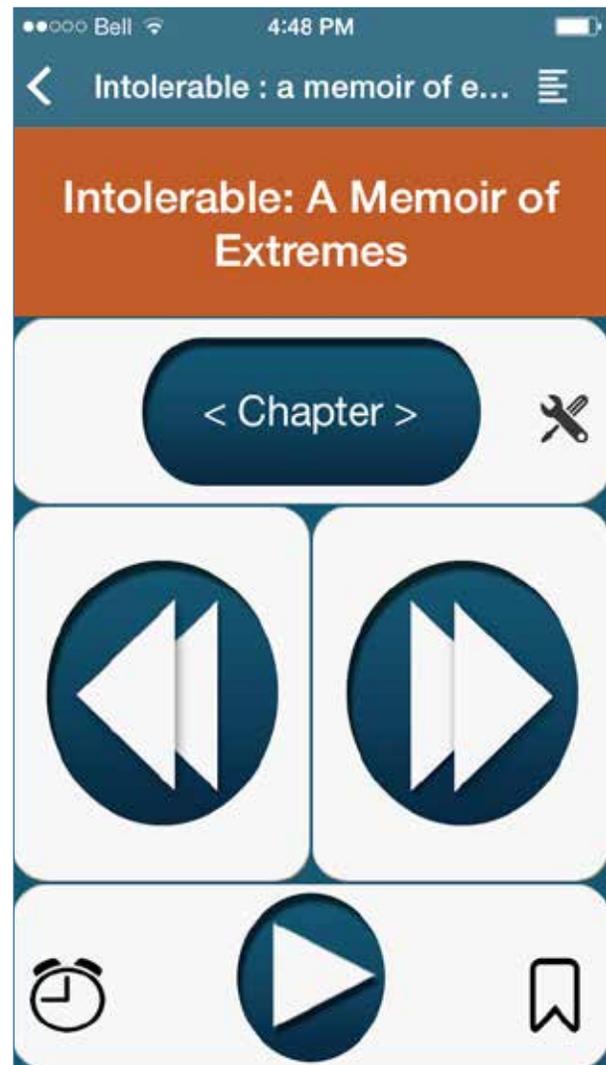
**- Anna Slusarczyk,
Greater Sudbury
Public Library**

Direct to Player Gets Better

DAISY books available in a snap thanks to new app

Direct to Player service makes it easy for avid readers to access their favourite book without waiting, walking to the mailbox and loading it onto their DAISY player. In 2014, the Direct to Player service got even better!

Downloading DAISY audio books and magazines is a snap with the new Direct to Player apps for iOS and Android tablets and mobile devices. It's also free! Check out an item and it appears on the app's 'bookshelf' on your device. Simply select the item to start listening. No cumbersome downloading and transferring of files! The apps work with out-of-the-box accessibility features such as VoiceOver (iOS) and Talkback (Android). Enhanced search and check out capabilities are planned for the coming year.



Children and Youth

CNIB Library, public libraries and our supporters value the inclusivity, fun and knowledge provided through children's literacy programs. That's why we've made it a priority year after year to offer our young library users with activities that encourage their love of reading. This year was no different.

Raise a Readasaurus!

In the last year, more than 300 families and early invention specialists received CNIB's new Readasaurus literacy kit for children, birth to age six. Developed with an advisory group, the kit includes tips that parents can use to play and read with their child and ideas for creating literacy-based activities specific to their child's world. The kit also has a web page with links to additional resources at AltLit.ca.



Braille Creative Writing Contest

In 2014, we made the Braille Creative Writing Contest even more fun with braille swag for all entries and an early bird prize draw. Forty students from across Canada submitted entries. Winners (Joshua from Cupar, SK, Marie-Eve from St. Nicholas, QC and Maggie from Caledon, ON) were invited to read their entries and accept their prizes in person at CNIB's National Braille Conference.



TD Summer Reading Club

Over the summer of 2014, 300 children and youth participated in the TD Summer Reading Club. CNIB Library staff played a vital role in training public library staff on how to offer an engaging and accessible TDSRC, and provided resources and books in alternative formats on the Eureka! theme.

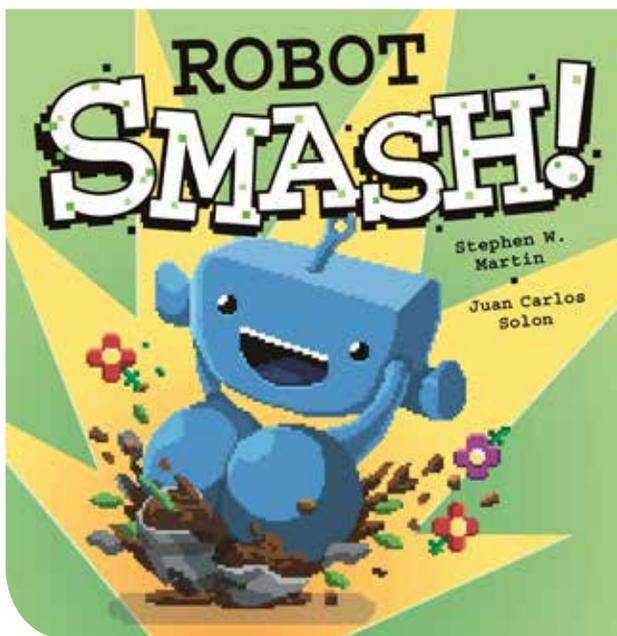
Collections

Bestsellers hot off the press

Thanks to a new business partnership with Recorded Books, more bestsellers are being added to the collection than ever before. We receive the audio files pre-publication and make them available through CELA to public libraries and their patrons with print disabilities at the same time as the commercial edition. In addition, thousands of backlist titles have helped to fill gaps in the collection.

Ever asked an author to rewrite his book for you?

We did! Author Stephen W. Martin and his publisher, Owlkids, responded to our call for help to produce his book "Robot Smash" in printbraille. One of the Top



Ten Recommended Reads for TD Summer Reading Club this year, it's a book that relies on illustrations and has very little text. The author supplied full descriptions of the action, which our production team added to the book. The new text and braille was printed onto labels and pasted onto the print-book pages. The result provides an enhanced experience for braille readers. It turned into a whole other fun story we're using to explain accessibility to publishers and librarians.

Global exchange

Marrakesh Treaty

The Marrakesh Treaty was signed in Morocco in June 2013. Its purpose is to help end the book famine faced by people who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled worldwide. In March 2014, the Government of Canada announced its intention to join the Treaty and, on June 8, Bill C-65 was introduced to the House of Commons, which will amend the Canadian Copyright Act to allow Canada to comply with the Treaty and thus facilitate the legal exchange of accessible books across borders.

Accessible Books Consortium (ABC)

ABC supports the goals of the Marrakesh Treaty through practical initiatives such as the TIGAR international book exchange, capacity building in developing countries and advocacy for inclusive (accessible) publishing, all of which are designed to help increase the global availability of books in accessible formats. This year, through its participation in ABC, CNIB

added more than 1,000 books through international exchange.

First consumers try TIGAR service

The CNIB Library was one of four accessible libraries internationally to run a trial of ABC's TIGAR exchange service with consumers. The trial let users search the TIGAR international catalogue directly and request copyright-cleared books.



Production Highlights

Choice Words

Choice Words

The books and authors program co-produced with AMI-audio featured interviews with writers such as KD Miller, Kenneth Oppel, Robyn Doolittle and Michael Winter. Several episodes were selected for the year-end special broadcast series, "The Best of AMI-Audio 2014."

MP Carmichael in the studio



To celebrate Flag Day, MP John Carmichael requested 35 audio CD copies of "Our Canadian Flag" which he narrated in CNIB studios to donate to Don Valley West riding schools.

A Final Word...

Canadians with print disabilities have access to equitable library service through CELA offered at their local public library. Going forward, CNIB will continue to produce published works in multiple formats to suit the varied needs of public library patrons and to support CELA in the operation of its service to public libraries.

We are proud of our accomplishments this year and indeed over the decades that CNIB has been offering library services to Canadians who are blind or partially sighted. The Library and its users have transitioned through many different reading options: from the 1920s, when the Library was producing and distributing braille volumes, to the 1960s when we offered talking books on

discs followed by cassettes in the 1970s, to digital technology in the 1990s using the DAISY standard. This standard allowed us to produce braille and audio from a single source.

Today, it's about choice. Through CELA, public libraries can offer Canadians with print disabilities access to audio, e-text, braille and large print, delivered in the way that's most convenient for them - be it hardcopy or download to their computer, tablet or smartphone, DAISY player or other adaptive device.

Library service for Canadians with print disabilities offered through mainstream public libraries using mainstream accessible technologies - from dream to reality!

About This Review

The large text size used in this review was selected to enhance readability for people with vision loss. Visit cnib.ca/clearprint for more information about these standards.

Visit [**cnib.ca/clearprint**](http://cnib.ca/clearprint) for more information about these standards.





To learn more about the CNIB
Library, please contact us at:

1-800-563-2642

cnib.ca

Charitable registration #119219459 RR0003

