

LIA – Libri Italiani Accessibili

Using ICT for social innovation based on culture

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LIA

**LIBRI ITALIANI
ACCESSIBILI
FONDAZIONE**

362.000 visual-impaired
1,5 milion partially sighted

access:

- ✓ **the same titles**
- ✓ **the same distribution channels**
- ✓ **the same bibliographical information**
- ✓ **the same reading solutions**



Thanks to LIA, visual impaired:

- ✓ **are involved in the same market environment than everyone else;**
- ✓ **read what, how and when they want like everyone else.**

LIA manifesto: everyone's books

- ✓ Accessibility, freedom and equal opportunities for everyone to do the same things
- ✓ Everyone has the right to read, with no discrimination
- ✓ Everyone has the right to choose what to read between all the opportunities the market offers
- ✓ Everyone has the right to read well, enjoying the quality of contents
- ✓ Everyone has the right to read in order to know, grow and progress
- ✓ Everyone has the right to enjoy the pleasure to read and to share it with others
- ✓ Reading improves mood, health and life

LIA: a project, a service, a foundation

2011 LIA Project

- Project set up by AIE- Associazione Italiana Editori, thanks to the **financing of the Italian Ministry of Culture** in order to increase the availability of accessible editorial contents



2013 LIA Service

- Service realised by AIE in collaboration with UICI- Unione Italiana dei Ciechi e degli Ipovedenti
- Online catalogue with over **7.000 titles of fiction and non-fiction** on the website www.libriitalianiaccessibili.it



2014 LIA Foundation

- No profit, membership foundation which **promotes books and reading**, in all its forms, traditional and digital, through activities in education, information, awareness campaign and research, with a particular focus on **visual-impaired** and other disabilities and conditions of **social and cultural disadvantage** which have a difficult relationship with reading



LIA: the value chain



LIA enables the choice of what, how and when to read but, above all, it encourages the **integration** and **active participation** of visual impaired and partially sighted within the world of culture.



LIA realized a project of **social innovation based on culture**, with a distinctively collective dimension which converted an original idea into a widespread procedure.



LIA is an expression of **corporate social responsibility** by all the publishers and all bodies, public and private, which intend to commit themselves to making available accessible content.



LIA has reconceived the chain of accessibility in the publishing field, making itself into a **facilitator and activator of synergies** among the various stakeholders who intervene in the process of devising, producing and distributing e-books.

Accessible reading: the context

BEFORE 2013

Accessible versions were produced on ad hoc basis on demand from individual users by specialist structures which, starting from a print book, produced the following specific formats:



Braille



Enlarged characters



Audiobook

AFTER 2013

With **LIA-Libri Italiani Accessibili service**, accessible texts are produced and delivered through mainstream channels in the e-book format (EPUB) and can be read:



with Braille display



with enlarged characters



with speech synthesis

Accessibility: which is the impact of digital?

TRADITIONAL



1 book=10
Braille books



1 book=10
books with
enlarged
characters



1 book=1
audiobook in
different
formats (cd,
mp3)



1 book =3
digital files with
a poor editorial
quality

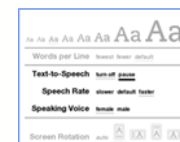
MANY WORK FLOWS FOR 1 USER

DIGITAL

1 book=1 e-
book (EPUB)
which can be
read with a
Braille display



1 book=1 e-
book (EPUB)
which can be
read with
**enlarged
characters**



1 book=1 e-
book (EPUB)
which can be
read with the
**speech
synthesis**



1 book=1 e-book
(EPUB) which is a
file with a high
editorial quality



1 WORK FLOW FOR MANY USERS

The result: The LIA service

LIA-Libri Italiani Accessibili is a service managed by Fondazione LIA that provides over 8.000 titles in Italian in accessible format, with a wide variety of offer: classics, best sellers, literary prizes and children books.

The service is online from June 2013 at www.libriitalianiaccessibili.it



The service is **in progress (400 new titles each month)**:

- June 2013: 3.000 titles of 44 publishers
- June 2014: **6.500+ titles of 65 publishers**

LIA: technological development and innovative workflows

LIA defined new ways to produce and distribute accessible titles based on:

- use of **standard and interoperable digital formats** which integrate into editorial **productive processes** already existing;
- implementation of **digitally advanced platforms** for archiving;
- **distribution** of the titles in the customary channels (bookstores and libraries online);
- identification of innovative technological tools for the optimal **fruition** of contents (pc, tablet and smartphone).



International recognition

- Recommendation for **international best practice by G3ict (Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs), a United Nations initiative on ICT.**
- **Nomination for 2012 e-Inclusion awards**, a competition held by the European Commission intended to sensitize and to recognize excellence and good practices in the use of digital technologies to reduce digital and social exclusion in Europe.
- Nomination as **one of the most innovative practices selected for the 2014 Zero Project**, an initiative which supports the rights of the disabled at an international level.
- LIA will be presented as best practice during the next **WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) General Assembly**
- Leading international bodies such as EDItEUR, FEP (Federation of European Publishers), BISG (Book Industry Study Group) IDPF (International Digital Publishing Forum) and the DAISY Consortium have expressed their full support for the solutions adopted by LIA.

Lesson learned: collaboration and pro-active approach

A shared effort is necessary, involving all the actors:

- Publishers
- Reading software developers
- Producers of e-readers and tablets
- Online stores and e-commerce platforms
- Electronic payment system



- LIA supports innovation actions to encourage publishers “to produce directly their books in accessible formats”, as stated in the **Digital Agenda for Europe** (Pillar VI, Action 65).
- LIA is a continuous work in progress. It started in Italy, anticipating the request of the European **Digital Agenda**. From the very early days of its planning, LIA has played an active and creative role within an international network at the forefront of digital accessibility.
- LIA also addresses the **public sector**, providing services to improve accessibility of their publications. Initial contacts with the Office of Publication of the European Union



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QrH-wnaEqs>

English subtitles are available by clicking the Subtitles option in the toolbar



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