

September 27, 2018

The latest on our new initiatives

A big next step for the NLS eReader project

We have a couple of updates for you in this month's *On the Move*.

Just as it has provided audio playback equipment since the 1930s, NLS has long been interested in providing an affordable, easy-to-use **braille eReader** to its patrons. In the summer of 2017, NLS took the first step toward achieving that goal when it partnered with Perkins Library to test the effectiveness of distributing digital braille files for use on eReaders. Now we are ready for the next step.

NLS will soon have a contract to purchase eReaders designed specifically to read NLS materials. Initially, NLS will purchase enough devices to conduct a pilot project with a few network libraries. The pilot will cover all aspects of acquisition, quality assurance, distribution, cleaning and maintenance, technical support, training, media distribution, and other relevant topics. We expect the pilot to last two years.

NLS is able to move ahead with this exciting project thanks to a 2016 amendment to the 1931 Pratt-Smoot Act—the NLS authorizing legislation—that now allows it to provide playback equipment in all formats, not just audio. A report by the Government Accountability Office recommended that Congress make that change.

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Last week, the House of Representatives passed the **Marrakesh Treaty Implementation Act**, which makes changes to U.S. copyright law that would bring the United States into compliance with the terms of the [Marrakesh Treaty](#). The Senate gave its advice and consent to ratification of the treaty and passed the implementing legislation in June. Now the implementing legislation goes to President Trump for his signature.

The treaty, which so far has been ratified by 43 countries, facilitates the reproduction and cross-border distribution of books in accessible formats. Once the implementing legislation is signed by the president and the State Department has formally notified the World Intellectual Property Organization—the treaty's administrator—of its ratification, we will provide guidance on how it will impact NLS and its network libraries.

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A reminder that **full-year readership and circulation reports** for FY 2018 (October 1, 2017, to September 30, 2018) will soon be due. All regional libraries, subregional libraries, and advisory and outreach centers must submit reports by Monday, October 15, via the [Network Library Database](#).

Keep an eye on your inbox for an Operations Alert early next week that will provide additional information and detailed instructions on how to use the database interface. And email Reference Section Head Meredith Beckhardt at mbec@loc.gov if you have questions.

Watch for the next issue of *On the Move* in your inbox on October 25