

THE PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

Publishers Association Recommendation on Text to Speech

New advances in technology have not only helped to open up new markets for publishers, but have also offered vast new opportunities for published works to become more accessible to a wider variety of people.

It is in the interests of publishers for their published content to be available and accessible to as many people as possible. This includes the broadening of the market to those with visual impairments or other disabilities which make it hard to access traditional printed content, as a result of the leap forward in technology offered by e-readers and e-books.

The text-to-speech functionality on many of today's e-readers offers a new opportunity to make all e-books more accessible to those who find it difficult to engage with traditional printed text products.

The Publishers Association, with the endorsement of the Society of Authors and the Association of Authors' Agents, recommends that text to speech is routinely enabled on all e-books across all relevant platforms, at least where there is no audiobook edition commercially available.

We will continue to work together with all stakeholders to identify how people with print impairments can access e-books that are not text to speech enabled.