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Australian Inclusive Publishing Initiative

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The Australian Inclusive Publishing Initiative, supported by publishers, booksellers, authors, editors, libraries and disability groups, is making good progress in promoting an “accessible by default” approach to book production in Australia.

Since the annual AIPI meeting in Sydney in November 2017, draft protocols for implementing the Marrakesh Treaty¹ have been drafted, with a soft launch planned at the Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities, 5-8 May, Sydney.

In addition, the first draft of a plain English guide to accessibility standards is scheduled for June, and an investigation is taking place into the use of the Australian Publishers Association’s TitlePage platform and the National Library of Australia’s Trove, to develop metadata repositories for commercial and non-commercial titles, including disability organisations’ holdings of accessible books. Meanwhile, the Institute of Professional Editors has been talking to the federal government’s Digital Transformation Agency about including accessibility issues in its review of the *Style Manual for Authors, Editors and Printers*.

There are nine projects underway, ranging from research into the economics of accessibility through to embedding accessibility in the publishing workflow.

The next meeting of AIPI will be in Sydney, on 2 November 2018.

¹ <https://www.communications.gov.au/policy/policy-listing/marrakesh-treaty-people-print-disability>