

Overdue

The right to read for three million people in the UK with sight problems and other reading disabilities

An RNIB report

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David Mann, Julianne Marriott and Dan Vale
September 2003

The Right to Read Alliance

Royal National Institute of the Blind (RNIB) is a member of the Right to Read Alliance. Our objective is to significantly increase the proportion of publications in an accessible format over the next five years.

The members of the Right to Read Alliance are:

British Dyslexia Association
Calibre Cassette Library
Clearvision
Confederation of Transcribed Information Services (COTIS)
LOOK (The National Federation of Families with Visually Impaired Children)
National Association of Local Societies for Visually Impaired People
National Blind Children's Society
National Federation of the Blind
National League of the Blind and Disabled
National Library for the Blind (NLB)
RNIB

Scottish Braille Press
Share the Vision
Talking Newspaper Association of the UK (TNAUK)

Many other organisations and individuals are working to support this campaign.

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1. Executive summary

Almost three million children and adults are denied the right to read - just because they have a sight problem, dyslexia or another reading disability. A shocking 95 per cent of all books, magazines and newspapers never become available in large print, audio, braille or electronically. Nearly three million people are left largely relying on charity - just to read.

Not only is there a tiny choice of books but they come out months after the print version and cost far more to buy. In a number of other countries the Governments fund reading for people who cannot use standard print. In the UK there is no statutory system to ensure that everyone can read the same book, at the same time, at the same price.

Reading is booming, bookstores are lifestyle centres with coffee shops and events, the launch of a children's book was a huge event and the Big Read has been a great success. 2003 is the European Year of Disabled People and launches the UN Decade of Literacy.

Yet in 2003, three million people are denied the Right to Read.

The number of people who cannot read standard print is increasing. The UK has an ageing population. There will be more older people living with sight loss who will wish to carry on reading using large print, audio and braille.

Enough is enough. The Government have said they support and endorse efforts to ensure people with sight problems have fair and equal access to published material. But we need action. Why doesn't our Government take a leaf out of other countries' books and fund access to reading? Why doesn't the Treasury remove VAT from unabridged audio books? Why don't all publishers help charities to provide alternative formats of their books?

This report reproduces some of the findings from our research and illustrates how individual lives and aspirations can be affected. It makes recommendations for Government, publishers, libraries and booksellers.

Please read, and where possible act on the recommendations within this report. You can also support this campaign by signing the Right to Read Charter.

The right to read

Reading is central to our lives. We pore over books to prepare for exams and look forward to reading the latest book by our favourite author. We leaf through magazines whilst waiting for an appointment and read a newspaper before we get to work. We read for information, education, leisure and inspiration.

But what if you can't read - not because you have never had the chance to learn, but because you cannot see the print on the page or because you are dyslexic? There are three million people in the UK living with sight loss, dyslexia or another print reading disability, most will need books in large print, audio, braille and electronically. Only five per cent of all books, newspapers and magazines are available in one of these formats.

The facts about readers unable to use standard print

- * There are two million people in the UK with a sight problem and another million people with a print reading disability.
- * One in 12 people over the age of 60 (and one in six over the age of 75) could be registered as blind or partially sighted.
- * Within the next 30 years there will be 2.5 million people living with sight loss.
- * Every day 100 people are registered blind or partially sighted.
- * Most standard books are printed in 8 or 10 point (this is 10 point).

As we age our sight is likely to deteriorate. Often this loss of sight occurs at a time in our lives when we stop working, have more leisure time and want to read more. An RNIB survey found that eight out of ten members of the general public said they would want to continue reading in alternative formats if their sight deteriorated.

"One in six Americans over the age of 45 have trouble reading small print." The Lighthouse National Survey on Vision Loss, 1995. We can expect similar results in the UK.

A small but significant number of blind and partially sighted people read braille. Most older people who begin to lose their sight are unlikely to learn braille and will prefer audio books. Others who have enough remaining sight will also read large print. An increasingly computer literate proportion may wish to read electronically. The demand for books in audio, large print and electronic format is going to increase substantially.

"Some of the print is so small I can't read if there isn't good light - like on a train for example. I think my sight's fine - I don't even need glasses to drive." David, Aberystwyth.

2.2 Three million people largely rely on charity

Blind and partially sighted people have traditionally relied on charity in order to read. Most unabridged audio, some large print and nearly all braille is produced by voluntary organisations. Although some have to levy subscription charges, these by no means cover the cost of running the service, for example RNIB Talking Books charges £60 per person per year but it costs RNIB £150 each year for each member. If charitable donations declined many thousands of people's access to books would drastically reduce.

The economies of scale and initial investments needed to make a profit on alternative format books cannot be achieved by the voluntary sector. Although there are nearly three million potential customers of alternative format works the business case has not been successfully made in the mainstream publishing sector.

The Birmingham Library experiment

A large print publisher carried out an experiment with branch libraries in Birmingham. They flooded one library with large print books and kept the other two libraries unchanged. They found that many people who didn't have a sight problem used the large print books and preferred that format to standard print.

Finding the book you want to read

For three million people even finding out if the book they want to read exists in a format they can read can be a real struggle and likely to involve at least one if not more of the following steps:

- * Contact a charity like RNIB, NLB or Calibre to see whether they or another charity have produced the book.
- * Contact your local library to see if they or another library has a copy.
- * Contact your local book shop. It's very unlikely they will stock it but they may find if it's available and then order it for you.
- * If you have access to the internet, you can now check Reveal (the new web based database of alternative formats produced by the voluntary sector) or Amazon which will tell you if a book has been published in audio or large print commercially.

If you can't find the book you want (which is quite likely) you are left with the option of buying the print book and either:

- * Asking someone to read it to you.
- * Sending it to a voluntary transcription agency, you may be waiting many months as this could be considered a low priority.
- * If you have a computer you can spend many hours scanning the book page by page and then have the computer read it to you.

2.3 Public library users

- * There are around 3,500 libraries in the UK.
- * Only 120 subscribe to Big Print (the only national large print newspaper).
- * Only 20 subscribe to taped magazines and newspapers from the Talking Newspaper Association of the UK (TNAUK).

Virtually all public libraries stock some unabridged audio and large print books. There are many examples of good practices where libraries run dedicated services for people who can't read print such as reading group. Nonetheless RNIB and other organisations receive plenty of feedback from people who want more choice, and wish that there was more help available within their library.

"Having read all the audio books in the library I am now forced to listen to the murder mysteries and rubbish romantic fiction books." Peter, Liverpool

"There isn't a catalogue in tape of the taped books, and the CCTV which might help me read the print one, is kept under the counter." Bill, Nottinghamshire

2.4 People with a sight problem and another disability

* Two out of three older people with a sight problem have another disability or health problem like hearing loss or arthritis.

The situation is extremely bleak for deafblind people or those with a learning disability and sight problem. Many deafblind people depend on braille for their reading. There is hardly any fiction or leisure reading materials for people with a learning disability and loss of sight. Using illustrations might not help with this group and audio productions have to take into account concentration spans and cognitive experience.

2.5 Research

In 2002 the book trade sold 417, 026 titles and 125,390 new (and revised titles) came out. In 2002 only 4,839 alternative format books were produced by the voluntary sector. There are no figures available for how many large print and unabridged audio books

were produced by the commercial sector but by adding up the number of books produced by the main suppliers of large print and audio books we know it isn't substantial.

RNIB wanted to find out how many of the bestsellers would be available to a typical person with a sight problem or a reading disability. We chose the Hot 100 bestsellers according to Nielsen Book Scan for the week ending 9 August 2003

Our research found that only 22 of the titles in the Top 100 were available in unabridged audio.

78 of the nation's best selling books cannot be read by almost 3 million people. The situation is far more dismal if you want to read a book that isn't a bestseller.

The best selling book that week was "Dr Atkins, New Diet revolution: The No-hunger Luxurious Weight Loss Plan that Really Works". However almost three million people in the UK have not been able to read about this controversial diet. The seventh best selling book was last years Man Booker Prize Winner, "Life of Pi" which was not available in unabridged audio. This book will be available from September from Calibre, however the talk has already moved onto this year's shortlist.

It must be noted that both of these books and others from the Top 100 are available in braille. Braille is invaluable for those who have had the opportunity to learn and become proficient. However the vast majority who lose their sight as they get older, and those with dyslexia and other print reading disabilities do not learn braille.

Previous research by Share the Vision produced a bleak picture in libraries. Of the 730 adult non-fiction title supplied over two four-week periods in 1998-99 only 46 (6.3 per cent) had appeared in any alternative format one year later. Of these 43 had been produced at a loss by the voluntary sector.

Adult fiction fared slightly better with 146 of 362 adult fiction titles available one year later.

3. "I want to read the same book, at the same time, at the same price."

3.1 The same book

Only five per cent of all the books, magazines and newspapers published ever become available in another format. Only two per cent are available in unabridged audio.

"There are loads of books my friends have talked about that I can't read: Schott's Original Miscellany, the What Not to Wear book the Gina Ford's Contented Little Baby..." Alison, Devon.

If I had a book I'd throw it at the radio every time they tell me a new title is available at "every good bookshop." Madeleine, Co Down.

The whole book

Nearly all bookshops and libraries stock audio books but these are mostly abridged versions. They may be suitable for people who can choose between reading the original or an abridged audio version, but are not an alternative for three million people.

Some popular books are available in unabridged audio. For example Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix will be available from September, three months after the print version. However voluntary organisations were left to provide the large print and braille versions.

"I want to read a book as it was originally written, not as an editor perceives it. Would you buy a book with missing pages?" Doug, Inverness.

Books other than best sellers

The voluntary sector only has the resources to produce a limited number of alternative format books and must therefore make decisions about which books to produce. Usually these will be books popular with the most number of people. For example RNIB's most popular Talking Book is by Catherine Cookson, reflecting the older profile of members.

The result is that there are fewer books available (especially in audio) that appeal to younger people. In particular there is a lack of non-fiction and special interest books. Children also suffer from a lack of choice, especially if they happen not to like Harry Potter!

"I like reading magazines and books about Astrology, but I can't - there's no call for it." Jane, West Midlands.

"There is plenty of Catherine Cookson and Agatha Christie but I want to read Iris Murdoch or Alice Walker."
Samantha, Tyneside.

"I used to love cooking new recipes. I can't read cookbooks anymore - the writing is too small and often ornate. There's very little in large print." Geraldine, Belfast.

"I always enjoyed reading before I lost my sight. In fact I was a librarian. My preferred language is Welsh - I can't even get basic reference material such as a Welsh-English dictionary or even the bible in Welsh braille." Rhian, Carmarthenshire.

Education

Despite obligations under new legislation many children and adults in education are still not receiving their textbooks and other study materials in the format they need when they need them. RNIB believes that the provision of alternative formats should be co-ordinated at a national level rather than being devolved to individual schools and colleges. RNIB carried out an informal survey with a few teachers. We asked them which GCSE textbooks they would like us to produce during 2003/4. They made 48 suggestions - we have capacity for only 10.

A teacher asked RNIB to transcribe two music scores into braille. To cover our costs we needed to charge £800. The teacher only had £500 to cover four students for a year. A clear case of the public purse failing blind children and expecting a charity to pick up the bill.

"I am driven mad trying to find text books and novels for my pupils in either large print, braille or audio." Jenni, Teacher from the Scottish Borders.

"I've just finished a course at Glasgow University. I was really hampered because I couldn't read the books, journals, overheads and handouts." Derek, Motherwell.

Newspapers and magazines

In your local newsagent there will be rows and rows of brightly coloured magazines about dozens of different interests and topics. If you cannot read the print in these magazines your choice is very different. TNAUK provides electronic and edited audio versions of newspapers and magazines to anyone who cannot read the print versions. This is an excellent service but are not complete audio copies of the magazines and

newspapers. Internet users can read newspapers like the Guardian on-line. However not all newspapers can be read on-line for free or are accessible.

"I would like magazines and especially newspapers to be available to me whilst the news is NEWS." Anita.

Reading books electronically

E-books could provide a real solution for people who cannot use print. They can be read using access technology which can magnify the text or convert it into speech or braille. However access technology can only work if the document is published using accessible standards. Another method of reading electronically is to spend hours laboriously scanning a print book into your computer. The book can then be printed out in large print or read with access technology.

"If I've spent hours scanning a book I'm not going to make a friend do the same. Of course I'll email it to them. It's a ridiculous situation. We have to break the law - just to read." Damon, London.

3.2 The same time

At midnight on the 21 June this year thousands of children and adults queued up to get hold of a book - "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix." Thousands more spent the weekend with their head in the book. Children with sight problems and print reading disabilities were not amongst them.

As well as the lack of choice, most alternative format books come out months after the print version. One of the historic reasons for this delay has been the need for voluntary organisations to wait for copyright permission. The Copyright (Visually Impaired Persons) Act (2002), which should, we hope, be in force by the time you read this, will remove these delays for blind and partially sighted people, but not for people with dyslexia.

The biggest challenge now to achieving simultaneous publication is the time taken to scan each page of the print book into a computer in order to create large print, braille and accessible electronic versions. If publishers made an electronic copy available to "trusted intermediaries" in advance of publication, for example when sending the text to printers, the alternative format could be ready at the same time as the print version.

Even when large print and unabridged audio books are available commercially there is often a delay in getting them. For example some of the large print books from the Top 100 list were labelled by Amazon as "hard to find" - taking between 4-6 weeks to be delivered (and with an extra charge of £1.99). The print versions were shipped in 24 hours.

"My work colleagues were passing round a magazine that had an article in they were all gossiping about. It's horrid. I either get left out or have to ask someone to read it to me."

Paula, Norwich.

"I can never get hold of books when they come out so I miss out on discussing them with friends. By the time I get the book they've forgotten about it." Steve, Reading.
It can happen

It is possible to bring out books in alternative formats at the same time as the print book. For example Michael Palin has recorded several RNIB Talking Books including his latest book "Sahara". Michael made the decision to publish the RNIB Talking Book "Sahara" before the print version and provided NLB with the digital text files so they could produce braille versions also in advance of the print publication.

"I am very happy to release the first ever Talking Book before the print version. It's fantastic to think that for once blind and partially sighted people are going to be able to get hold of a book at the same time as their sighted friends and family." Michael Palin.

3.3 The same price

As well as the lack of choice and the wait to read the book - it costs a lot more to buy an audio or large print book. Much of this cost is due to lower numbers being produced. Having to pay VAT on audio books also increases the cost. People who cannot read print are getting less and paying more.

Many people who cannot read standard books rely on library services provided by charities. However if their local library refuses to pay the subscriptions for an organisation like RNIB, the individual is left paying for library services twice.

My husband can read books and newspapers free of charge at our local library. However I must pay a subscription for my reading whilst still contributing to the council tax." Alison, Kent.

"Blind people do not expect to read for free. Quite the reverse. At present we routinely pay over £40 for an unabridged audio book rather than not read it at all." Sunil, London.

"I didn't realise I was paying VAT to read. That's completely unfair." Sheila, Worcester.

Case Study

Working together with large print - "The Paperback Oxford Large Print Dictionary"

Oxford University Press (OUP) approached RNIB for advice on producing a large print dictionary. They were keen to produce a large print dictionary that would be both practical to use and affordable.

RNIB worked closely with the OUP editors and made recommendations on all aspects of design and layout, to ensure that the dictionary would provide the user with a text that was exceptionally clear and easy to read. The dictionary was launched in September 2002 and has sold a total of nearly 15,000 copies in its first year; 6,000 of

these were in the UK through the normal book trade. RNIB has sold a further 1,000 copies through its own catalogue and resource centres.

Judy Pearsall, Publishing Manager of English Dictionaries at OUP, said: "We are delighted to have worked with RNIB to create the Oxford Large Print Dictionary. This has been a very successful project all round: from the initial desire to create a dictionary that people with sight problems would want to use. We have had a most productive relationship with our colleagues at RNIB, and sales in the first year have exceeded our expectations. We look forward to working jointly again in the future, and in fact have already begun working with RNIB on a large print thesaurus."

RNIB welcomed the opportunity to work with OUP to produce a dictionary that would be useful for people with failing sight. By way of building on this success, an important next stage is to carry out consumer research to find out more about the people who bought this dictionary and the market for large print books in general.

4. Conclusions and recommendations

RNIB and the Right to Read Campaign are calling upon government, the publishing and bookselling industry, authors, libraries and the voluntary sector to come together as a matter of urgency to resolve the pressing challenges detailed in this report and to deliver reading to three million people in the UK.

4.1 Including three million people

A book is traditionally viewed as something that exists in print contained between two covers. We believe that it is the content that is of value. A book is a book whether it's read in print, large print or braille, in audio or through a computer. Reading must not be the sole preserve of those who can read standard print.

This has been an important year for reading and sees the beginning of the UN Decade of Literacy. Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, has stated that: "Literacy is a human right". RNIB and the Right to Read Alliance couldn't agree more. We call on those organisations supporting the UN Decade to ensure that the literacy of people unable to read standard print is firmly entrenched into this campaign.

Calls to action for Government, devolved administrations and local authorities

4.2 An Access to Reading Fund

The Government has poured millions of pounds into adult literacy programmes but has ignored the literacy needs of almost three million people with sight problems and print reading disabilities, leaving them to largely rely on charity.

We are calling on the Government in Whitehall and the administrations in Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast to set up Access to Reading Funds.

Substantial amounts of public money must be made available to new and existing not-for-profit agencies so they can increase their output. This will mean that three million

people will have much increased access to education, entertainment and information.

4.3 Paying library subscriptions

Public libraries do not always pay the subscriptions required for library services provided by voluntary organisations like RNIB and NLB - leaving the individual or charity to pick up the cost. We call on central Government, the devolved administrations and local authorities to ensure public libraries receive the funding needed to pay these subscriptions on behalf of the library user, as part of a comprehensive service.

4.4 Abolish VAT on audio books

We believe that reading should not be taxed. Print books are, quite rightly, zero-rated for VAT. However audio books carry VAT at the full rate - as if they were a luxury! We are calling on the Government to work with our European partners and bring unabridged audio books and e-books into line with print books. This should be part of a package of measures to promote the commercial market in audio and large print, which is currently very limited.

As we prepare this report, the Chancellor of the Exchequer is standing firm against European Union attempts to impose VAT on children's clothes. We wish him luck and ask him to show the same determination to remove VAT from audio books.

4.5 Guarantee access to the curriculum

Legislation now exists in Scotland, Wales and England to ensure that all children and students can access the books and materials they need for their studies. But despite the legislation - this is still not happening. The Government needs to review the way the budgets for providing alternative format materials are devolved down to individual schools, when a more co-ordinated approach is called for.

The Scottish Executive led the way by funding pilot work which harnesses new technology to make school texts available to blind and partially sighted pupils. Similar pilots are now following in England and Wales, and the Scottish Executive has been asked to finance a more sustained project. Children do not have years to wait for their education. The Government must act now.

Calls to action for the publishing and bookselling industry

4.6 A new compact

Only a fraction of all the titles published each year can be produced in alternative formats by voluntary organisations. However, simultaneous publication of these titles could be achieved if publishers provided an electronic copy of the text to "trusted intermediaries" in advance of publication, for example at the same time as sending the text to print. The time consuming job of scanning or keying in text could be avoided

by having an electronic version, freeing up resources. In return we could pass back to publishers a copy of the accessible electronic version that we have created which publishers could use commercially.

We want to thank those publishers who already work closely with voluntary organisations. We call on the publishing industry as a whole to work with us to ensure more people can read the books they publish.

4.7 E-books for all

E-books could deliver a real solution for people with sight problems and print reading disabilities. E-books can be read using access technology (which can magnify the text or convert it into speech or braille). But access technology can only work if the e-publisher has used an accessible e-publishing standard. Technological Protection Measures used to prevent illicit copying can also freeze out access technology if not designed and used appropriately.

We call on e-publishers to recognise that there is a willing and eager market and work towards establishing an accessible e-publishing standard. Three million people in the UK would welcome print on demand publishing. This means that a bookshop prints off the book to your specification rather than you buying the standard version from the shelf.

4.8 Database of alternative format books

People with sight problems and reading disabilities often struggle to find out which titles actually exist in a format they can read. The voluntary sector has come together, with some government funding and sponsorship, to create Reveal, a recently launched web based database of every alternative format book produced by the voluntary sector. Reveal can be accessed by anyone, including individuals, libraries and organisations supporting people with sight problems. We call on publishers and booksellers to come together to create a database of all large print and unabridged audio books produced commercially. This database could be built onto Reveal.

4.9 Exploring the market

Three million people in the UK have a sight problem or print reading disability. The UK's aging population will increase the number of people with failing sight. We call on the industry to explore and research the market for unabridged audio books, large print books and clear print books.

Calls to action for public libraries

4.10 Further open up library services

We call on libraries to expand their stock of large print and unabridged audio books and large print, audio and electronic magazines and newspapers. As well as providing more stock we call on libraries to open up reading to people with sight problems and print reading disabilities.

The use of Reveal will allow libraries and their users to identify and source books available in alternative formats, but at the same time catalogues in large print and audio are essential so library users can choose independently from the books available in their library. The inter-library loan scheme does not always work well with alternative format books. This must be addressed so as many alternative format titles as possible are available.

Libraries should make full use of the Best Practice Manual. The creation of the manual is a fine example of how the public and voluntary sectors can work together if Government funding is available.

Current best practice models of reading activities, for example inclusive reading groups, should be expanded. As well as providing computers with access technology, training and support needs to be provided to library users.

The Public Library Standards for England are to be reviewed in April 2004 and the standards for Wales will be reviewed one year later. These contain much to help people who cannot access standard print books. The last standards set stock and replenishment levels for different categories of print books. It didn't include any targets for the number of large print and audio books. We call for these to be included in the reviewed standards, and for the standards that are or will be applied in Scotland and Northern Ireland to include similar targets.

Through initiatives such as the Vision Panel in Northern Ireland and the implementation of the Government's Framework for the Future in England the voluntary sector continues to play a positive role in helping build better library services for people with sight problems and other reading disabilities.

Calls to action for general public

4.11 Support our campaign - sign the Charter

If you agree that everyone has the right to read, please join our campaign. You can begin by signing our Right to Read Charter and asking your friends, family, neighbours and colleagues to sign too. We need to demonstrate that there is strong support for our campaign.

Thank you for donating to charities, like RNIB, to ensure that people who can't read standard print have still been able to continue some reading.

If you or someone you know is finding it increasingly difficult to read standard print please do not accept the situation. Go to your local bookshop and library and ask them what they can find for you. Let them know standard print is too small or faint. The choice is limited but there are books available that you can read.

For further information about reading in alternative formats, please contact one of the Right to Read organisations listed at the end of this report.

5. References and links

Copyright (Visually Impaired Persons) Act (an overview)

For individuals with sight problems

The Act allows a single accessible copy of a work to be made by or on behalf of a blind or partially sighted person for their personal use without first seeking the permission of the copyright owners; as long as they are legally in possession of the work (i.e. they've bought or borrowed a print copy).

For educational and "not-for-profit" organisations

The Act allows multiple accessible copies of a master copy to be made for, and distributed to, people with sight problems without seeking the permission of the right holders, but with safeguards for the moral rights of the author, and without interfering with the legitimate exploitation of the work.

Where the Act does not apply

The exception does not apply if there is a commercially available copy of the work in a format accessible to the person requesting a copy. This Act is limited to people with sight problems and some other disabilities and does not apply to most print disabled people, for example people with dyslexia.

www.revealweb.org.uk

Launched in September 2003 Reveal is a web-based database, that makes it easy to find alternative format books produced by the voluntary sector.

You can search for titles and authors, see what books have been put into which formats, and most importantly find out where to get them. Partly funded by the Government, and based on an enormous amount of work by RNIB and NLB staff, Reveal should make it much easier to find out what the voluntary sector has produced.

New legislation for children and adults in education (an overview)

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act, 2001 (SENDA) and Education (Disability Strategies and Pupils' Educational Records) (Scotland) Act 2002 establishes legal rights for disabled students in pre- and post-16 education.

In England, Scotland and Wales there are new duties:

- * not to treat disabled pupils less favourably, without justification, for a reason which relates to their disability
- * to make reasonable adjustments so that disabled pupils are not put at a substantial disadvantage to pupils who are not disabled (but there is no duty to remove or alter physical features or provide auxiliary aids and services in pre-16 education).

In pre-16 only

- * increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
- * improve the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is provided in writing for pupils who are not disabled, within a reasonable time, and in ways which are

determined after taking account of their disabilities and any preferences expressed by them or their parents.

"Information which is provided in writing" includes handouts, timetables, information about school events and, most crucially, textbooks.

RNIB is concerned that the Act is not yet achieving its objectives. We believe that too much responsibility has been devolved to individual schools. With a relatively small and scattered population, some resources could be applied much more efficiently and effectively from the centre.

Contact details for Right to Read partners

British Dyslexia Association
Telephone: 0118 966 8271
Website: www.bda-dyslexia.org.uk

Calibre Cassette Library
Telephone: 01296 43 23 39
Website: www.calibre.org.uk

Clearvision
Telephone: 020 8789 9575
Website: www.clearvisionproject.org

Confederation of Transcribed
Information Services
Telephone: 01829 73 33 51
Website: www.cotis.org.uk

LOOK (The National Federation of Families with Visually Impaired Children)
Telephone: 0121 428 5038
Website: www.look-uk.org

National Association of Local Societies for Visually Impaired People
Telephone: 01904 67 19 21
Website: www.nalsvi.charityskills.net

National Blind Children's Society Telephone: 01278 76 47 64
Website: www.nbcs.org.uk

National Federation of the Blind Telephone: 01924 29 13 13
Website: www.nfbuk.org

National League of the Blind
and Disabled
Website: www.istc-tu.org

The National Library for the Blind Telephone: 0161 355 2000

Website: www.nlb-online.org

Royal National Institute of the Blind

Telephone: 020 7388 1266

Website: www.rnib.org.uk

Scottish Braille Press

Telephone: 0131 662 4445

Website: www.scottish-braille-press.org

Talking Newspaper Association of the UK (TNAUK)

Telephone: 01435 866102

Website: www.tnauk.org.uk