# How to access 320,000 ABC titles available for cross-border exchange

The ABC catalogue is unique in the global market, with titles in 76 languages. A majority of its titles are high-quality, humanly-narrated audiobooks. Of ABC’s catalogue of 424,000 accessible titles, over 320,000 titles are ​available for cross-border exchange without the need to request authorization from the copyright owner, covering the following countries that have ratified, and implemented, the provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty: Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Israel, Poland, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Uruguay.

For those countries that have not yet implemented the provisions of the Marrakesh Treaty, the ABC has over 20,000 titles with world-wide permissions’ clearances obtained from the copyright owner, which can be exchanged around the globe.

## Countries that have ratified the WIPO Marrakesh Treaty:

1. ABC members are called “authorized entities” and include organisations, schools and libraries that provide accessible information for persons with vision impairment – basically, a country’s local agencies that produce information in braille, audio and other accessible formats. To become a member of the Global Book Service of the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC), the local agency should email Monica Halil and Luc Maumet – email monica.halil@wipo.int and luc.maumet@wipo.int
2. Once the local agency is an ABC member (i.e., an authorized entity), individuals in that country may request titles from the local agency in their preferred format. The agency will contact the ABC to request the relevant file.
3. The ABC Secretariat will send the requested file to the local agency (that is now an ABC member) and it is the local agency’s responsibility to distribute the text in the requested format to the end-user who has a print disability, using the agency’s standard distribution mechanisms (e.g., streaming, mailing CDs, etc).

## Countries that have not ratified the WIPO Marrakesh Treaty:

* The local agency that produces alternative formats can apply to the Accessible Books Consortium to become a member and may request files of texts. The local agency should email Monica Halil and Luc Maumet – email monica.halil@wipo.int and luc.maumet@wipo.int
* However, as the country has not ratified the Marrakesh Treaty, the traditional cross-border copyright restrictions apply and the ABC must seek publisher permission before sending through the requested file. This process may take a long time.
* The process of ratification includes updating a country’s copyright laws.

## Steps for individuals in Australia:

* Australia has ratified and implemented the Marrakesh Treaty, and the two ABC authorized entities are Vision Australia and VisAbility – see <https://www.visionaustralia.org/> and <https://www.visability.com.au/contact-us-wa/>
* Persons with vision impairment or other print disability should be encouraged to become members of the Vision Australia or Visability library, and to direct their requests for titles as library members to these two authorised entities..

## ABC services

The Accessible Books Consortium offer the following services:

* Global book service;
* Support with inclusive publishing – the ABC will work with publishers to ensure that texts are “born accessible” (I love this term!); and
* Capacity Building projects

The ABC website which will give you more information on the Global Book Service, Inclusive Publishing and Capacity Building

<https://www.accessiblebooksconsortium.org/globalbooks/en/>