PRESS RELEASE

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World’s leading professionals gather to debate the future of publishing and accessibility

An upcoming publishing conference in Copenhagen June 13th-14th 2013 aims to present professionals with the future scenarios for digital publishing and calls for a collaborative approach to inclusive publishing practices for users with print disabilities.

The “Future Publishing and Accessibility” conference uses the challenges presented by the quickly evolving digital publishing age as a framework for a topical debate: Are we heading towards a new division of roles between rights holders, manufacturers and distributors, the public and the private sector? If the answer is yes, then who is to guarantee future accessibility for users with special needs? An estimated 400 attendees from more than 35 countries will participate in the conference and contribute to the discussion. They get a unique chance to hear from the Director of Engineering at Google, Ray Kurzweil. Jimmy Wales, the Founder of Wikipedia, will be among the other highly rated international speakers at the event.

An innovative approach

The international gathering intends to build bridges between re-publishers of content, mainstream publishers, technology providers and libraries to foster an innovative approach towards accessibility in the age of digital publishing.

“We are all being challenged. Publishers, libraries and everyone responsible for accessibility has to face that digitization and globalization means that yesterday’s business models and solutions won’t work any longer.”

Michael Wright, Director General, Nota – Danish National Library for Persons with Print Disabilities

In spite of the digitization and the technological breakthrough of e-books most print disabled people in the world are still facing a “book famine”. It is estimated that approximately 565 million people around the world suffer from dyslexia or are visually impaired and need inclusive publishing approaches and standards. At the conference the attendees will debate the mutual responsibility to guarantee the availability of publications in accessible formats in the future.

“The DAISY Consortium is at the heart of a global partnership to develop and promote inclusive standards and technologies for reading and publishing in the digital age.”

Stephen King, President of the DAISY Consortium
The attendees are able to choose between three content tracks targeting the users, technology and new business models. The conference features an impressive list of speakers:

Michael Seadle, Director of the Berlin School of Library and Information Science, Humboldt University in Berlin, DE, Bill Rosenblatt, President, GiantSteps Media Technology Strategies, US, Alicia Wise, Director of Universal Access, Elsevier, UK, Inga Lundén, City Librarian/ Library Director, Stockholm Public Library, SE, Gunther Kress, Professor of Semiotics and Education, University of London, UK and Erik Van Rompay, President, Gutenberg Technology, FR.

The speakers will present to an audience of publishers, libraries, booksellers, public authorities, politicians, developers, manufacturers, distributors and user organizations from around the world.

Nota – Danish National Library for Persons with Print Disabilities, the DAISY Consortium and The Ministry of Culture Denmark are organizing “Future Publishing and Accessibility”. Take advantage of the early bird discount registration fee, which is in effect until March 30th 2013.

For further information: www.newpubcph.org
Watch the conference video: http://www.newpubcph.org/conference-video.html
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