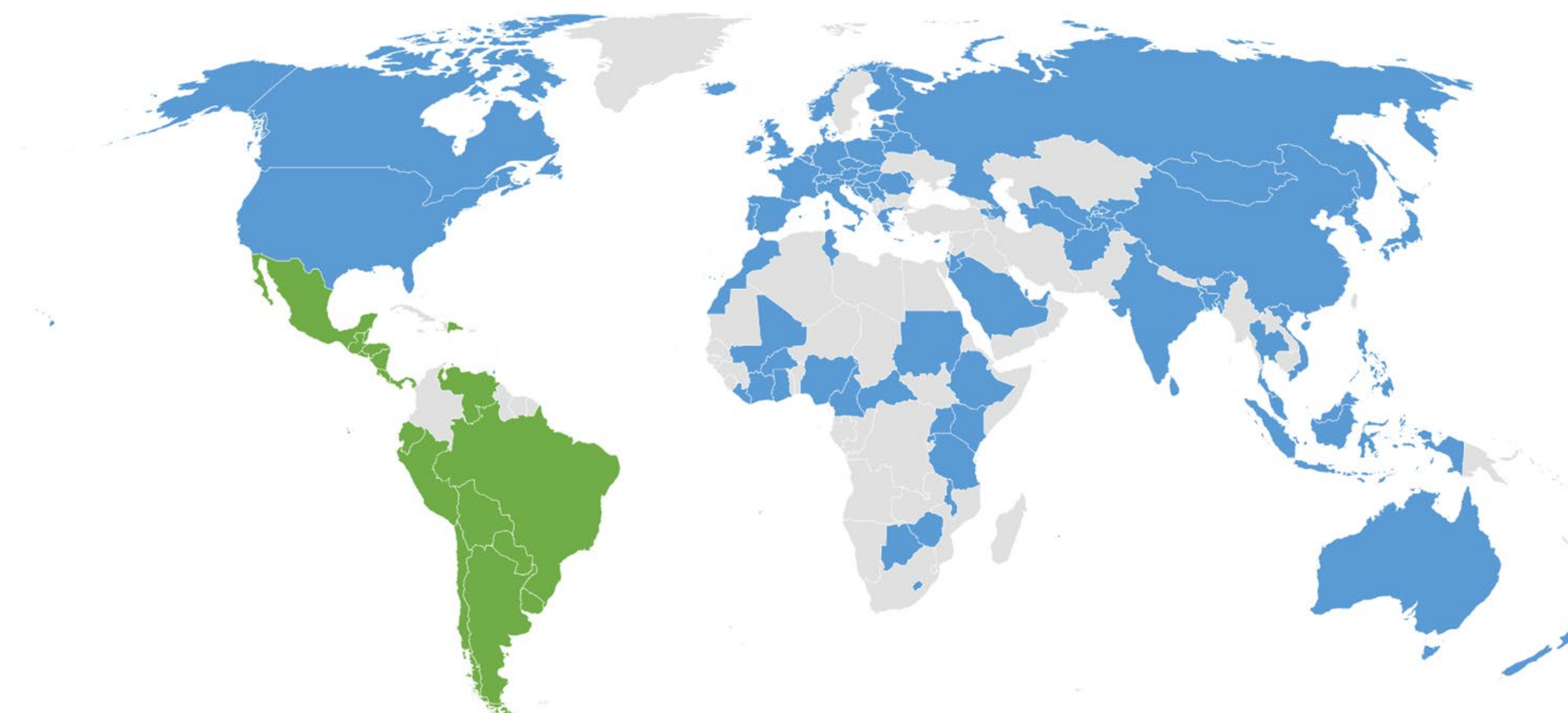
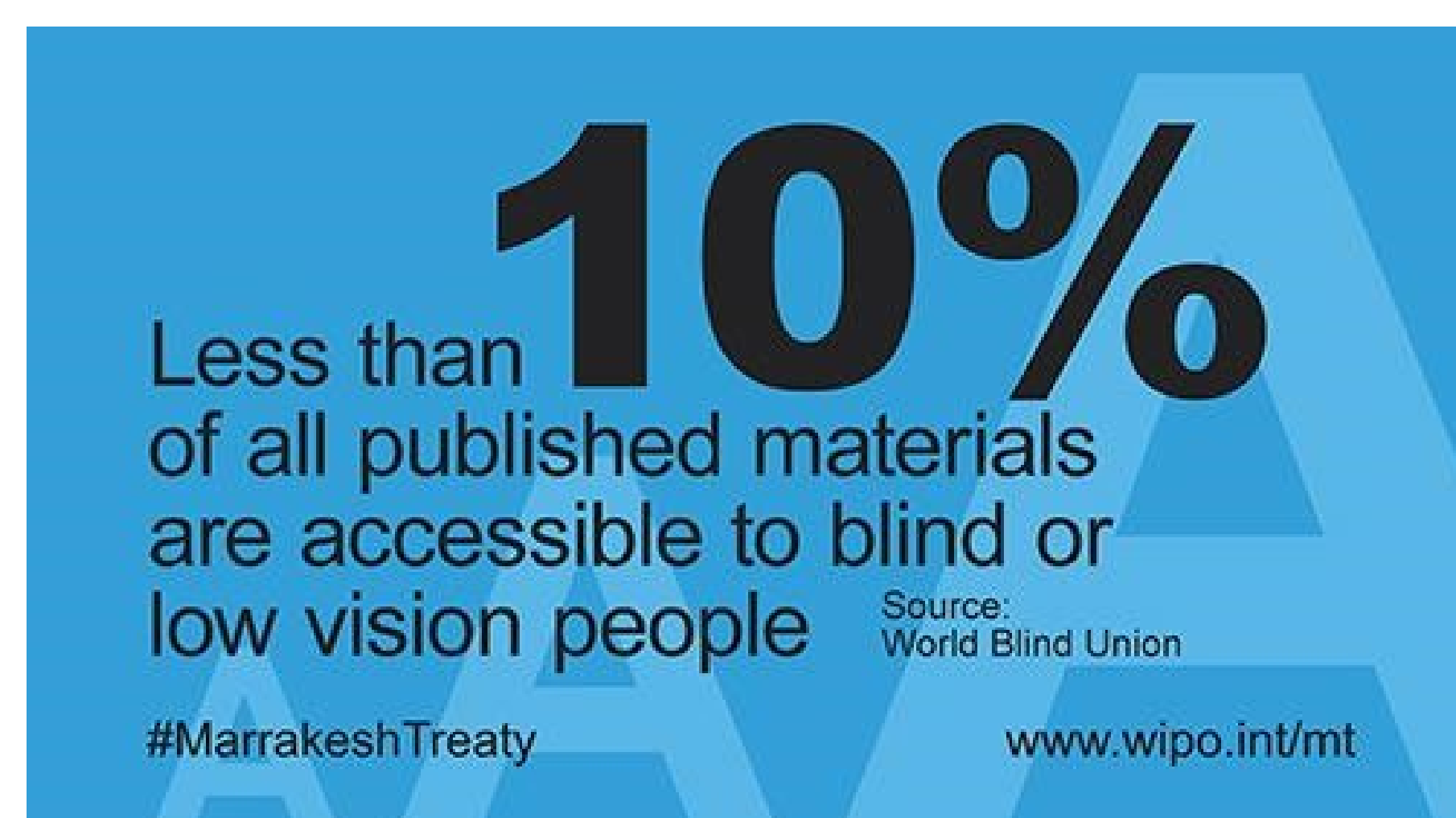


Kelsey Corlett-Rivera

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The Marrakesh Treaty allows for creation and lending of accessible books across borders to address the global book famine.



June 27, 2023, is the 10th anniversary of the Treaty's adoption. The Treaty is in force in 118 countries, including most of Latin America (in green), but not all have fully implemented and begun sharing.

Marrakesh beneficiaries are blind, have a visual impairment or a perceptual or reading disability, or are otherwise unable to hold or manipulate a book or to focus or move their eyes.

Marrakesh and the Library of Congress

The National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) was established in 1931. NLS:

- provides accessible books (audiobooks with advanced navigation features and/or braille) to eligible patrons
- led the legal implementation of Marrakesh in the United States, completed in July 2020
- has added over 5,000 digital audio and braille titles from Marrakesh countries, over 1,000 of which are in Spanish
- has shared nearly 110,000 titles with the Accessible Books Consortium, 5,000 of which are in Spanish. Overall, they have been downloaded over 5,000 times by 46 different countries, including Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, and Uruguay

First Amendment

Disability and Civil Rights Law

Copyright Law

The Treaty bolsters copyright law. The US Constitution and disability law also support accessible lending.

Research libraries in the US and Canada piloted cross-border lending of accessible works under the Marrakesh Treaty

Collectively, these libraries hold 760 million works. The pilot:

- involved two institutions in the US and two in Canada
- focused on improving description, discovery and access, and resources for Ex Libris' Alma (Library Services Platform) and Primo (Discovery System)
- developed MARC 21 metadata templates
- recommends consulting with beneficiaries when developing best practices for metadata display and discoverability

Next steps

- Advocate for accessible publishing, so that beneficiaries do not have to solely rely on libraries to create accessible versions.
- Collaborate with International Federation of Library Associations & Institutions (IFLA) to introduce Marrakesh implementation evidence at World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) meetings.

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Issues are getting texts that are out of print. Once a text is secured, whether or not it's able to be digitized — problems are tight binding, weak or fragile spines. Or if the texts come from special collections or rare books, or if they include answers such as acetate slides, certain micro films are not ... accessible. If dissertations have not been digitized, there's usually a cost that's unclear who you would ask to have that done. So in general, we are speaking in English, so the majority of the material is going to be in English. But if you're accessing it in other languages, like French or Spanish, it's not as accessible.

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Initial Impacts

- The Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) was created by WIPO to facilitate exchange via the Treaty. Over 870,000 digital books are available in ABC's Global Book Service catalog, including over 50,000 in Spanish.
- Technology like the electronic braille display has facilitated access, given that digital files are the primary exchange medium.

