The future is already here – it is just unevenly distributed

William Ford Gibson
Science fiction writer
1948-

Partnerships and Social Inclusion

The biggest barrier to full participation: Lack of access to information

Only 5% of printed information is accessible
Print Disability

- A person with a print disability is:
  - a person without sight; or
  - a person whose sight is severely impaired; or
  - a person unable to hold or manipulate books or to focus or move his or her eyes; or
  - a person with a perceptual disability

Accessibility and Inclusiveness

- Yarra Plenty Regional Library
- Eastern Regional Libraries
- Goldfields Library Corporation
- Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation
- Vision Australia Information Library Service
The Project

- Establish book clubs and reading groups
- Provide 280 playback devices
- Library – the 2nd Place
- Connect community based libraries with a specialized public library service
- Engage the print disability community with the public library experience

DAISY Technology

- CD players & Software
- Can be simple - use it without hi tech
- Online devices provide amazing flexibility
Learnings

- Project launch is an involved affair
- Early contact with operational people
- Communicate and Engage
Borrower feedback

- "DAISY books have been an absolute joy for me. I have been an avid reader since I was nine years old. When I could still manage large print I read out the entire library of my hostel and now I am working my way through yours."
- "Thankyou very much for the help you give me. I honestly don't know what I'd do without it. That little machine [DAISY] is so good. I took it to Sydney on my holidays and told everyone that my motto is now 'have books will travel' "

The National Library for people with a print disability