

Good morning, and thank you for inviting me to this pre-conference. My name is Pål Hals, I come from the Norwegian Library of Talking Books and Braille. I will give a short presentation of what DAISY fulltext books are. I will also present the NLB model for making text accessible. As the program says, my presentation will be followed by Miriam Nes who will talk about the advantages of DAISY and Mai-Linn Holdt who will give a user testimony to DAISY books.

What is DAISY?



Digital **A**ccessible **I**nformation **S**ystem

DAISY is a standard used by a large number of libraries and content producers world wide.

“The DAISY Consortium's mission is to develop and promote international standards and technologies which enable equal access to information and knowledge by all people with print disabilities and which also benefit the wider community.” (from www.daisy.org)



The picture shows a world-map with all the member organizations. As you can see there are many members worldwide.

Fulltext?

- A complete text
- A text that is unabridged
- The total text of a particular book.



DAISY Fulltext Audio Books

Are accesible texts with audio.

vil være knyttet til organisasjonens deltakelse i forskjellige nettverk. På samfunnsnivå finner vi refleksjonen som en uhyre viktig del av samspillet mellom politiske organer og aktører innenfor «det politiske systemet». **Fra som organisasjonsteori, statsvitenskap og sosialøkonomi inngår som en del av denne refleksjonen.** Fagene er med på å forme den organisatoriske og politiske virkeligheten.

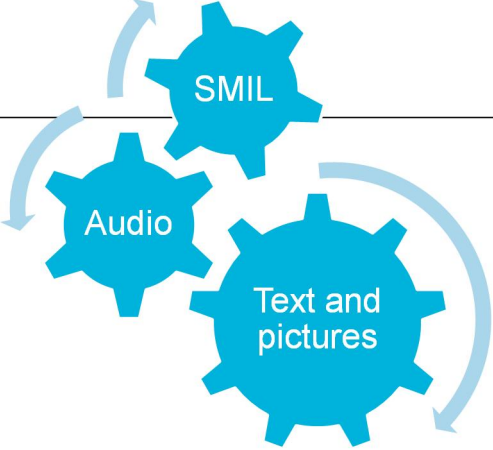
Figur 1-4: Input – prosess – output

Bildebeskrivelse


Disse fire punktene er ingen trosbekjennelse, men de har vist seg nyttige i samfunnsforskningen, både når det gjelder å formulere interessante problemer, og når det



I will show an example. This book is in Norwegian, but I hope you understand some of it anyway. (Kurt blir grusom)



A DAISY fulltext book is a set of files working together. There are text files and pictures which you can see on a screen or read on a Braille display. There are audio files which you can hear and there are the SMIL files which binds them together and coordinates a synchronized playback.



Show the file-set

Common features (player dependent):

- Zoom text (increase or decrease font size)
- Adjust playback speed
- Change fonts
- Page number navigation (skip pages forward or backwards in the book)
- Phrase navigation (jump forward or backwards, one phrase at a time)
- Heading navigation (switch between headings)
- Word or phrase search (find a particular word within the text)
- Bookmarks
- Automatically resume reading from last position



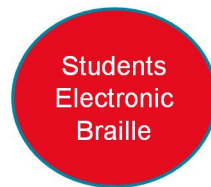
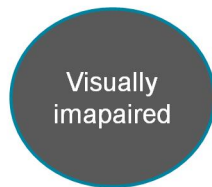
I will give you an example (Kurt blir grusom)...

How to make good DAISY fulltext books?

- NLB is currently working with a project called the "Fulltext Project". DAISY fulltext books make up a large part of this project.
- It is not a scientific project, the aim is rather to determine a *best practice* regarding to how our books should be, e.g. levels of synchronization, pictures, layout etc.
- The project involves people with dyslexia and visual impairments. These two groups have different needs when it comes to DAISY fulltext.
- Our main objective is to produce a digital book that fits as many needs as possible.



The project consists of 4 sub-projects. Each project perform its own survey. The technical production group produces test books for the other groups.



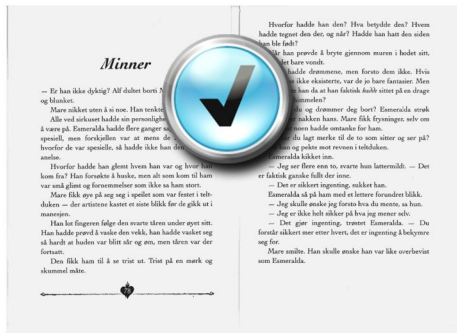
Technical production

The participants are given testbooks, and are later invited for discussion and/or interviewed. The results from the interviews and discussions will hopefully create a guideline for fulltext production in NLB.



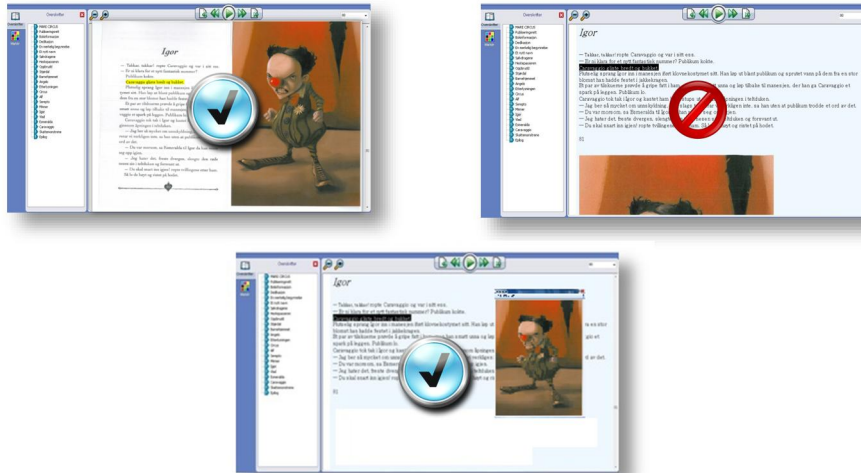
So far the project indicates that:

- The dyslexic participants in the project would in general prefer a layout more similar to regular books as opposed to the classic 'scroll down' layout in current DAISY fulltext books. This is mainly because it gives a better overview of the text and improves the reading experience, according to the test persons answers in the survey.



The preferred book to the left is basically an open book with two pages. To the right is the most common layout in DAISY fulltext books today, the classic layout with scroll down.

- We need to find a way to represent the pictures in the fulltext books so that they are shown as intended by the author. Pop-up images that can be moved, resized or closed during playback may be a possible solution within the current DAISY standard.



To the left is the preferred open book layout which represent the picture very similar to the printed book. To the right is the classic layout which too often only will represent fragments of a picture during playback. I will give you an example of that.

At the bottom there is an alternative layout with classic scroll down and a pop-up image.

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- The text in our electronic books have to be compliant with equipment for Braille reading in order to have a relevance for blind readers. (Braille displays etc.)



The picture shows a laptop with an open DAISY fulltext book. The laptop is connected to a Braille display.



We expect this project to be finished by the end of 2010.
The results from this project will guide us in making a standard for
fulltext production in NLB.

NLB

NLB's model for making text accessible...

In NLB we increasingly base our entire production on a DTBook-file (DAISY XML). These files are turned into various formats, such as Braille, DAISY talking books or large print, in automatic and semi-automatic operations. Our clients may also choose preferred distribution and playback tools.

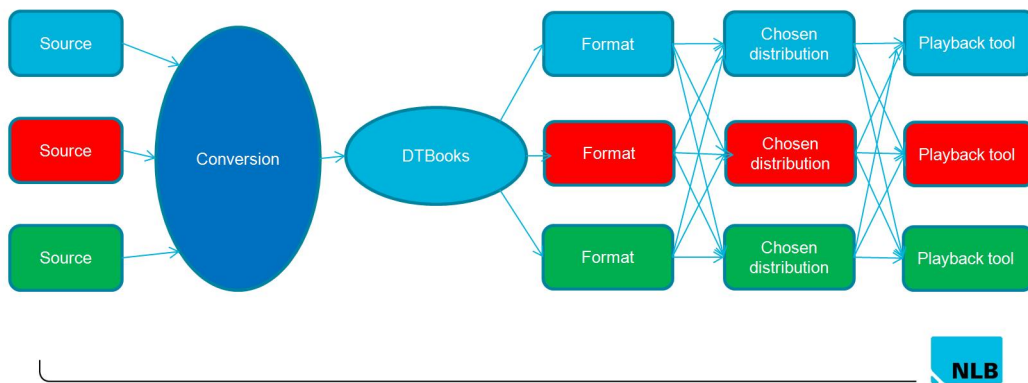


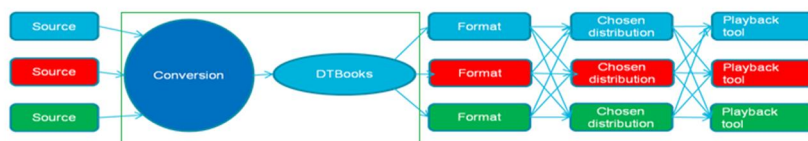
Figure explanation. The action in this figure moves from left to right. There are several sources to the left which are routed to conversion into DTBooks. Then the DTBook splits into several formats, which each can be distributed in several ways and ultimately be played on several playback tools. The many arrows in the figure indicate the multiple choices.

Converting a source into a DTBook

- The DTBook-file is a tagged text document in XML format.
- Today we receive books in several formats from the publishers. Some books come electronically as PDFs and some books come as prints and have to be scanned.
- The PDFs are then sent online to a collaborating company in India for conversion into DTBooks.



For the future we hope to receive books from the publishers in a marked up format such as Epub etc. This will dramatically ease the conversion process.

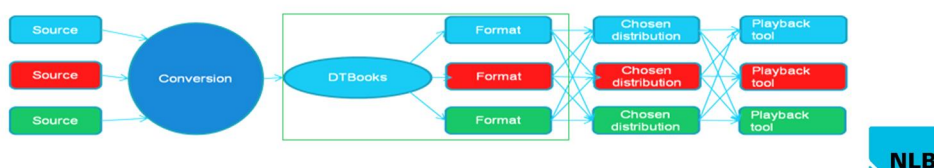


NLB

Converting a DTBook into different formats

For this operation we use both off the shelf software (Dolphin Producer), software developed by NLB (NorBraille) and software from the DAISY Consortium (DAISY Pipeline).

This software enable us to produce books in several formats fast and effectively.

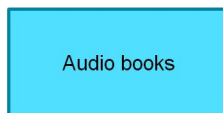


Distributing

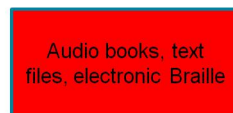
We are currently developing a new distribution system that will enable streaming and downloading.

Our distribution system will by the end of 2010 rely on three major channels.

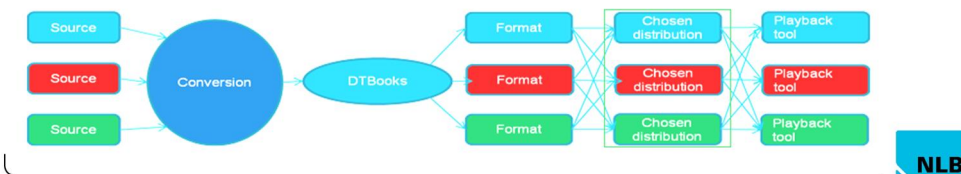
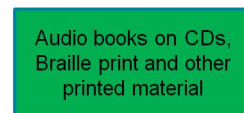
Streaming



Downloading



Public post service



Playback tools for PC/Mac

•There are several commercial and non-commercial playback tools available for representing DAISY fulltext books with audio.



•See www.daisy.org webpage for more info

•NLB has participated in developing the AMIS player, which is available for free and supported by the DAISY Consortium.



NLB is currently developing our own “NLB Direct” for our future streaming services, and all our Audio books distributed on CDs are dispatched with an integrated player, Dolphin’s EasyReader Express. This integrated player starts playback immediately when inserting the CD into your PC.



NLB today and plans ahead



- 60% of literature produced for students in NLB are made with the use of synthetic speech. As a “side-effect”, these books are also DAISY fulltext productions. So we produce around 500 fulltext books annually using synthetic speech.
- In 2010 we will produce 50 books for leisure reading with human narration and fulltext, our hope is that this amount will increase in the years to come.
- In 2011 we are planning to participate in developing a software-tool that will make fulltext production with human narration more efficient.



Why DAISY fulltext audio books?

DAISY fulltext books adds more value to the reading experience

They may be a powerful tool for students.



They make compilation books technically possible and simple to make,

they may prove to be useful as training books for dyslexic or Braille readers.





Thank you for the attention. Before I give the word to the next speaker, I will inform you that my colleague Kari Kummeneje is attending the conference and will be able to provide you with more information about DAISY and NLB, so do have a word with her. Thank you.