

Collection Development Policy: Legimus 2018



MYNDIGHETEN FÖR
TILLGÄNGLIGA MEDIER

Introduction

MTM works on the basis of a strategic approach: We promote accessible reading for all, with our extensive knowledge and focus on the user.

One of MTM's tasks is to present and lend literature in accessible formats to individuals with reading impairments in accordance with section 17 of the Act (1960:729) on Copyright of Literary and Artistic works.

In order to present accessible media, MTM has been given a grant from The Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Education and Research. The grant from the Ministry of Culture finances the presentation of books for entitled individuals via schools and public libraries and the grant from the Ministry of Education and Research finances books for students at universities and university colleges.

What is Legimus?

Legimus is the Swedish Agency for Accessible Media's digital library. Legimus is available in two versions, a website at www.legimus.se and an app called Legimus which can be downloaded to tablets and smart phones. Users can borrow and/or order books via the Legimus app or the Legimus.se website. Libraries can also send requests for new talking books via the website.

You will find talking books, e-text, Braille books and sign language literature available to borrow from the website. Books in Braille are ordered for home delivery and the others are downloaded or streamed. You will find all the talking books available for borrowing or reading on mobile or tablet in the Legimus app.

At Legimus.se you will also find a large amount of editorial reading tips, reviews, articles and book circles as inspiration for librarians and users.

Who can borrow?

Anyone with a type of functional impairment that causes problems with reading printed text can have an account with Legimus.

Students at university colleges and universities can contact the library at the college; other borrowers can contact their local public library for assistance in setting up an account.

Persons with impaired sight who read Braille do not need to go via a library, but can contact MTM directly for an account and to borrow Braille books.

What does Legimus contain?

At Legimus you will find approximately 140,000¹ titles in talking books, Braille books and e-text books, as well as sign language literature (see the explanation of the various media types below) The collection is increased by approximately 5,000 new titles every year. Most of these are produced by MTM, with a small number obtained from other producers. Legimus therefore also has books presented by other authorities, such as the National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools, SPSM We also have books published by The Swedish Association of the Visually Impaired, SRF, local recordings from regional and

¹ Mikromarc 05/12/2017

county libraries as well as foreign books from sister libraries and organisations around the world.²

Titles available, by media

Below you will find tables showing the distribution of titles within Legimus. The numbers shown are for both the cultural and educational grants. The same title can be found in different media types.³ The large proportion of literature for adults is due to the fact that books produced from the educational grant are almost exclusively non-fiction works for adults. You should, however, note that of the talking books produced under the cultural grant, children's and young people's literature represents 25% each year.⁴

Distribution of media types

Media type	Number
Talking book (talking book and talking book with text)	119,985
Braille	18,343
E-text	4,129
Sign language	148

Distribution of children's and adult literature

Category	Number
Children	18,371
Adults	108,262

Distribution of fiction and non-fiction literature

Category	Number
Fiction	57,282
Non-fiction	69,737

How does MTM choose books for Legimus?

The educational grant

Course literature for university college students is produced on order from the university college library in consultation with a student. Some university college literature is also produced prior to anyone ordering the book. This occurs following a suggestion from the

² RNIB, Celia, Nota, NLB, Iceland, Estonia ABC-books

³ Legimus 04/12/2017

⁴ *MTM's strategy for children and young people 2018 - 2020*

university college or through MTM's media intelligence. In this way MTM is able to offer a selection of current university college literature that is ready when the course starts.

The university colleges *order* talking or Braille books from MTM for students with a reading impairment, in cases where the book is part of the course literature set for a course where the student has been admitted. A university college can also *suggest* books which might become part of future courses.

Orders are in principle never refused, while *suggestions* are judged on the same selection criteria as books produced within the framework of the cultural grant; see below.

There are exceptional circumstances for refusal of university college books:

- The Statute Book and FAR (Regulation online)
Sweden's statutes and FAR are accessible in electronic format at *Lagrummet* and *FAR online*
- The title is available as an audio book
From the educational grant, MTM only records in exceptional cases titles that have been recorded as commercial audio books
- Compendia
Compendia and articles used in the course are recorded by the university college. Note however that compendia in Braille are produced by MTM
- MTM does not produce e-text if the book is available as a talking book. Exceptions are made for students with visual impairment.

The cultural grant

Borrowers can suggest new talking books via their local library. Case officers at MTM examine each separate suggestion and make a decision on recording or not. The assessment is completed in several steps.

During step 1 the case officer examines whether the suggested book can be made accessible:

- Is the suggestion a published book?
- Is there a publication that can be purchased in the book trade or borrowed from a library?
- Does the book work as a talking book? For example: books that only contain pictures do not work for recording and some cartoons cannot be fitted into an accessible format

During step 2 the case officer takes several aspects into account. The most important is resources. MTM receives 3,000 suggestions every year from public libraries and the grant from the Ministry of Culture makes recording of approximately 2,000 books possible. MTM therefore has to refuse some of the suggestions because of lack of resources. Priority is decided from the following:

- Demand/popularity
- Have many books on the same subject been recorded already?
- Distribution. Is the printed book available at many libraries?

Many people suggest books of a local nature; these cases are referred to the regional library for recording.

In general, the content of the book is not taken into account when deciding on production. The content does however influence what *type* of talking book is produced. Certain texts work best as a talking book with text, others can be produced as a talking book recorded with a synthetic voice, and some books are best as a traditional talking book without text.

Note that suggestions for Braille books are rarely refused, and then only due to reasons described in step 1.

Disposal

Non-fiction literature in certain subjects is cleared regularly. The books that are removed from the catalogue are substituted by a newer or more current book on the same subject. Old editions are replaced or complemented by later published editions.

Types of media

Different types of talking books

The greater part of MTM's stock consists of talking books. There are a number of different versions of talking books.

Talking book and talking book with text

A "normal" talking book is recorded with a human voice and is a recording of the text of the printed book.

A talking book with text contains a recording, as well as the text and pictures of the printed book. When listening to a talking book with text, the text and pictures are displayed on a screen at the same time as the sound is played back. A talking book with text is either recorded by a human voice or produced with a synthetic voice.

All the children's and young people's books produced by MTM are talking books with text, recorded using a human voice. The exception is books in non-European languages that only contain a recording (no text).

It is MTM's ambition that all books in Swedish offered in Legimus for children and young people shall have both text and sound. Note that books acquired by MTM from foreign libraries and organisations do not usually have text.

In the longer term the intention is that all talking books for adults produced by MTM shall also have the publisher's text and pictures.

Talking book with synthetic voice

A small part of the general literature and approximately half of the study literature is produced as talking books with synthetic voice. These books always contain the printed book's text, which can be read on a screen at the same time.

During 2017 MTM developed new synthetic voices in both Swedish and English. The production of books with synthetic voice will increase in 2018. This increase applies in the main to non-fiction literature in English. There are currently no plans to increase the production of fiction recorded with synthetic speech.

Talking book for reading practice

A talking book for reading practice is a book containing easy language and clear text. There are two recordings of the book, one at normal speed and one slow. Talking books for reading practice are aimed at adults and children with reading and writing difficulties.

Literature for sighted persons

Pocket books or other illustrated books where the pictures are so important that the reader must see them in order to understand the content of the book are produced as “non-fiction or fiction for sighted persons”. These are mainly recorded for persons who can see the pictures but need to have the text read aloud.

Special recordings

Special recordings have an easy text and a straightforward story. The recording is slow, clear and performed with feeling; sometimes there are several different voices. The book can contain elements of music and sound illustrations. Special recordings are talking books which are mainly produced for individuals with an intellectual disability

Different types of Braille books

MTM produces various types of Braille books to accommodate the requirements of the different borrowers. You will find books for beginners and for experienced Braille readers, for adults with a visual impairment who read to sighted children and for sighted adults reading for children with a visual impairment.

Braille book

A “normal” Braille book is printed in Braille on A4 format paper. The Braille books are ordered via Legimus; most Braille books are so called “one-way loans” which do not have to be returned. Some of the specially produced Braille books described below are lent out as a “circular loan”, meaning they have to be returned to MTM. The type of loan that applies is always stated in Legimus.

Original book with interleaved Braille

Here the original book is complemented with see-through plastic sheets with Braille. The complete text of the book including descriptions of the pictures is included on the plastic sheets. The books are intended for adults with a visual impairment who are reading for sighted children.

Original book with Braille glued in

Here the Braille sheets are glued directly into the original printed book. This format is used for books with a small amount of text, such as picture books and picture books with moveable parts. The books are intended for adults with a visual impairment who are reading for sighted children.

Braille book supplied with the original book

Picture books for children with longer texts. The printed original book comes in a pocket in the Braille book binder. The Braille book contains the text and picture descriptions of the printed original book. The books are intended for adults with a visual impairment who are reading for sighted children.

Braille book supplied with an easy to read book

Simpler books with double line spacing for own reading. The book contains a maximum of 1 volume of Braille. The printed original book comes in a pocket in the Braille book binder.

Braille book for reading practice

The printed original text accompanies the Braille book, either as the whole original book or as original text printed into the Braille book. A sound recording of the text in two (or for older books three) reading speeds is enclosed. Braille books for reading practice are available for both adults and children.

Braille book with tactile images

Some Braille books for children and adults contain tactile images, which are produced in relief on the page. These can for example be maps, animals or children's book characters.

Braille books for persons with intellectual disabilities

Here the text is adapted partly to target groups and partly to publications. The books can for example be produced with double line spacing. Double line spacing means that every other row in the Braille book is blank, which assists the reader in the page orientation.

Tactile picture books

In a tactile picture book the printed pictures of the original book have been transferred as tactile pictures. This is done using collage pictures and relief in contrasting colours, forms and materials. The text of the original book is included as Braille and as large type.

Sometimes Signs for support are also included in the book. The books are available both for borrowing and for sale to libraries and institutions.

MTM is continuing the production of tactile picture books during 2018.

E-text

An E-text book contains digitally stored text which is read in a PC together with adaptations such as speech synthesis, screen enlargement or a Braille screen. Reference works and dictionaries are usually produced as e-text, since this type of literature is difficult to make into a talking book.

Sign language

The sign language titles that the National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools, SPSM has produced in DVD format are available via legimus.se.

MTM does not provide for...

- Teaching aids:
The National Agency for Special Needs Education and Schools, SPSM is responsible for teaching aids for pre-school, primary and secondary school, upper secondary school, adult education (KOMVUX) and vocational training (SFI).
- Private education:
For private education it is the educational organiser who is responsible for adapting the course literature.

- **Work literature:**
Individuals requiring accessible literature for their employment can apply for finance from National Insurance or the Swedish Public Employment Service.
- **Commissioned education:**
The educational organiser is responsible for adapting the requested literature.
- **Recordings by the Authorities:**
Individual authorities are tasked with making their materials accessible themselves.

Plans for 2018

- The number of talking books being produced will be at the same level as for 2017. 25% of the talking books production is literature for children and young people.
- The range of talking books in languages other than Swedish will be increased. The greatest effort will be made to increase the number of titles available in Arabic, Somali, Persian, Thai and Kurdish. This is made possible through a Nordic collaboration.
- The collection of accessible media in the Swedish minority languages is continually being developed. This is being done through collaboration with the minority languages interest organisations. During 2018, MTM is investing especially in North Sami and Yiddish.
- By collaborating with ABC Global Book Service, MTM gains access to a large amount of literature in other languages than Swedish, above all in English. MTM's great ambition for 2018 is to integrate 350 titles from ABC into Legimus.
- The production of general literature in Braille will be considerably increased during 2018, from approximately 500 to about 1,000 titles.
- MTM will continue to develop a functional format for cartoons.
- More non-fiction books in English will be produced following the development of a new English speech synthesis.
- MTM intends to produce a special recording during 2018.