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**Nisbet, P. D., and Aitken, S. (2007) *Books for All: Accessible curriculum materials for pupils with additional support needs***

**Abstract**

A scoping study commissioned by the Scottish Government into the need for and availability of accessible learning materials for pupils with disabilities and additional support needs.

It determined the approximate numbers of pupils with additional support needs in Scotland who have difficulty reading printed curriculum materials or writing/recording their responses and who may benefit from having printed materials in alternative formats for reading, study, writing or recording.

The second phase established possible mechanisms for providing accessible curriculum materials.

**Main findings**

The availability of books and other resources in Braille, Large Print and audio formats for the relatively small number of blind and partially-sighted pupils, while not complete, is good, in comparison to the availability of accessible books for the much larger number of pupils with physical disabilities, specific learning difficulties, learning difficulties or hearing impairment. These pupils may require, for example, adapted printed materials, digital versions that can be accessed by switch or read out by a computer, audio recordings or signed multimedia resources.

Responsible bodies, including local authorities, national government and other relevant agencies, are obliged to consider the needs of all pupils with disabilities and should therefore make provision of accessible learning resources and services for all pupils who have literacy support needs, not just those with a visual impairment. The project has reviewed two possible models for developing such provision, and is recommending one for consideration by the Scottish Executive, local authorities and other relevant agencies.

The proposed model aims to support local authorities in addressing current inequalities of provision and to reduce existing inefficiencies and duplication of effort by developing mechanisms for sharing resources both within and between local authorities and other service providers.

**Web link for additional information**

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/06/05081600/0>