

# Building Accessible Academic Libraries in Greece

**AMELib's creation and development**



# A Global Movement, a Late Start in Greece

Library services for people with disabilities began developing in the 1990s, alongside the spread of user-centered library design. In Greece, progress lagged — despite a sociological foundation already visible in academic libraries.

1

## IFLA

Issues global guidelines for accessible library services, drawing on international standards.

2

## UN Convention

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities anchors the legal foundation.

3

## Marrakesh Treaty

Enables cross-border exchange of accessible-format works for print-disabled readers.

*IFLA goals: a globally accessible library environment for people with print disabilities, best-practice guidelines, standards for accessible books, and promotion of the Marrakesh Treaty.*

## Universal Design

"The design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design."

- Supports an inclusive society with equal opportunities to participate, regardless of disability status or age
- Demands that products, environments, programmes and services be usable without adaptation
- Guides the design of new or renovated library spaces
- Focuses on the environment — not on fixing the person

# Greek Academic Libraries Step Up

Greek academic libraries have developed accessibility services for several years, equipping workstations with assistive technology hardware and software for students with print disabilities.

These services run independently or alongside assistive-technology labs and Accessibility Units — given formal legal standing under Law 4957/2022.

*To receive and act on requests for accessible course materials — as an "authorized entity... to provide beneficiaries with education, instructional training, adapted reading, and access to information on a non-profit basis."*

Law 4957/2022 formally establishes Accessibility Units within Greek higher-education institutions.

# AMELib: One Repository, Many Formats

AMELib is the multimodal digital library of HEAL-Link and its Collaborative Network of Accessible Bibliography Providers — created exclusively for certified users with print disabilities, delivering accessible books on request.

More than a repository, AMELib stands as a model of sustainability built through unified, collective action across Greek academic libraries.

# 3,320

textbook titles as of June 2026 — and growing

[Login](#) [Register](#) [Book search](#) [Contact](#) [Ελληνικά](#)

## AMELib: Accessible Multi-modal Electronic Library



### AMELib: Accessible Multi-modal Electronic Library

Disability is not just a congenital or acquired physical limitation. It is, according to the United Nations, primarily a social condition between the individual and his environment. To put an end to the discrimination of disability in practice, an environment capable of overcoming any obstacles is required. In this regard, the development of new technological applications can enhance the required support services..

The development of AMELib (Accessible Multi-modal Electronic Library) in the framework of HEAL-link, aims to strengthen the effort to remove barriers for print-disabled users of Greek academic libraries. The goal is to offer accessible content through an equally accessible web application, which is based on the application of copyright exemption provisions for print-disabled people, as provided for in copyright law.

### Είσοδος Χρηστών

Username \*

Password \*

[Log in](#)

[Reset your password](#)

Συνεργάτης του Accessible Books Consortium στην Ελλάδα



[Μάθετε για την AMELib](#) [Για τη χρήση της AMELib](#) [Για βιβλιοθηκονόμους](#) [Νομικό πλαίσιο](#)

# HEAL-Link's Accessibility Team



The Accessibility Team of HEAL-Link, established by a decision of its General Assembly on December 16, 2020, was formed to implement common inclusive practices, ensuring equitable access to educational resources for people with print disabilities.



Developing and publishing guidelines for producing accessible educational materials and organizing nationwide training seminars  
—the team has demonstrated its vital role in advancing accessibility.



Moving forward, the Accessibility Team plans to collaborate with publishers and relevant stakeholders to produce accessible e-books in preparation for the full implementation of the **European Accessibility Act (EAA)**.



This partnership aims to ensure that libraries, publishers, and institutions align with accessibility standards, fostering an inclusive academic environment for all.

# Shared Tools, Shared Knowledge

1

## **Guides & Manuals**

Accessibility guidelines and instructional manuals for library staff

2

## **Seminars & Workshops**

Hands-on training delivered to librarians and other professionals

3

## **Website Accessibility**

Audits and enhancement initiatives across library websites

4

## **Global Engagement**

Active participation in the international accessibility community

## HEAL-Link (Hellenic Academic Libraries Link) signed an agreement with the **Accessible Books Consortium (ABC)**

- Our students with print disabilities have the opportunity to access the international catalogue of accessible publications

The screenshot displays the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC) website. At the top, the ABC logo is on the left, and a navigation bar includes links for Home, Catalogue, About ABC, FAQ, and Help. A search bar is positioned on the right, with a message indicating that the ABC catalogue now offers browsing by Subject Category. Below the navigation bar, a 'Reset All Filters' button is visible. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains filter sections for 'Format' and 'Language', each with a list of options and their respective counts. The right column shows the search results, starting with a 'RESULT' heading and a message indicating that 1 to 10 of 558,684 titles are available for searching. Three book entries are displayed, each with a title, author, publication year, a brief description, and production details.

**Accessible Books Consortium**

NEW! ABC catalogue now offers browsing by Subject Category.

Home Catalogue About ABC FAQ Help

Search the ABC catalogue

Reset All Filters

**Format**

- ☐ Braille (49,953)
- ☐ Braille Music (5,646)
- ☐ Daisy Audio (310,347)
- ☐ Daisy Audio with Text (11,826)
- ☐ Daisy Text (37,259)
- ☐ Epub Text (9,070)
- ☐ Epub With Audio and Text (2)
- ☐ Large Print (747)
- ☐ MP3 audio (12,310)

**Language**

- ☐ English (247,722)
- ☐ French (127,777)
- ☐ Dutch (58,997)
- ☐ Korean (38,797)
- ☐ German (22,264)
- ☐ Spanish (18,205)
- ☐ Thai (12,126)

**RESULT**

Showing 1 - 10 of 558,684 titles available for searching

**Pour rien au monde**  
by FOLLETT Ken - published: 2021  
De nos jours, dans le désert du Sahara, deux agents secrets sont sur la piste d'un groupe de terroristes trafiquants de drogue l'Europe. Elle est aidée par un...  
Producer: LBB, Format: Daisy Audio, Language: French

**Pour rien au monde**  
by FOLLETT Ken - published: 2021  
De nos jours, dans le désert du Sahara, deux agents secrets sont sur la piste d'un groupe de terroristes trafiquants de drogue l'Europe. Elle est aidée par un...  
Producer: LBB, Format: Daisy Audio, Language: French

**Schemermeer**  
by Studio 100 - published: 2018  
Producer: LPB, Format: Daisy Audio, Language: Dutch

# Volunteer Groups in many universities and libraries

As AMELib became better known, demand grew year on year.

Students of Panteion University e.g. — including several with print disabilities — founded the AMELib Volunteer Group.

Its members — mostly students and graduates — believe in volunteerism, unpaid service, collaboration, solidarity, and equal access to knowledge: a democratic, inclusive University where every student can study without barriers.



# Looking Ahead

Make AMELib's services known to every potential user

Open AMELib to the wider community of citizens with print disabilities

Partner with the National Library and relevant Ministries

# Thank you for your attention!

Constantia Kakali

Director of Panteion University Library & Information Center

Coordinator of HEAL-Link's Accessibility Team