

NNELS



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NNELS Overview by Province

Every province participating in NNELS provides annual funding for the service, and most also participate in service design and delivery at the operational level. These overviews illustrate where participants have focused their attention.

Alberta

The vision for NNELS in Alberta is that public libraries make NNELS their own and incorporate the service in a way that works best for each library and community. For this reason, a “train-the-trainer” model has been adopted and PLSB partners with NNELS to offer in-person training at local and provincial conferences and online training for public library staff.

Alberta has also been successful at procuring content; at the Alberta Library Conference in April 2016, the Minister of Municipal Affairs announced a ground-breaking partnership with the Alberta Book Publishers Association, part of which will see 1,000 e-books titles added to NNELS.

British Columbia

British Columbia’s Libraries Branch is a funder for NNELS; the Co-op is tasked with promoting the NNELS service in BC, on behalf of the province, and within an allocated budget. In this capacity, several training and conference sessions have been delivered each year, and ~90% of BC’s public libraries authenticate directly against the NNELS service. While the branch is currently unable to support NNELS operationally, it has provided additional funding, as follows:

- Funded a partnership between BC Public Library InterLINK and the Co-op that sees InterLINK staff burn and ship hard copy format materials to requesting BC libraries for their eligible patrons.
- Funded NNELS to digitize part of the legacy BC Audiobooks Collection held by BC Public Library InterLINK.

Manitoba

The Manitoba Public Library Services Branch has been very active in digital content production (e-text, pdf and DAISY). On the library development side, regular teleconference training has been an effective way to introduce library staff from across the province to the NNELS service model and collections. PLSB staff have also worked to build relationships and partnerships across the library sector (Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning, for example), and the province is interested in creating opportunities for the K-12 and post-secondary education systems to join NNELS.

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan public library patrons with print disabilities can access NNELS through the shared provincial catalogue or from the NNELS website. Anyone with a print disability can fill out a self-declaration form and sign up for a card at their local public library to access NNELS materials. For registered patrons most comfortable using a physical disc, the NNELS Talking Book Disc Service at the Saskatoon Public Library can burn discs and send them to any requesting library.

A NNELS Collection Development subgroup reviews title requests on a monthly basis. Saskatchewan has written a local NNELS Collection Development Policy that guides our title selection. Saskatchewan also funds the production of specific titles (primarily pertaining to Summer Reading Club or Saskatchewan Book Awards) in live narration format. Their eBooks initiative (to convert Saskatchewan books to accessible EPUB 3 format) is ongoing – 10 books have been added to NNELS so far. NNELS has been promoted at the provincial library conference for the past three years. A province-wide Communications Strategy is currently in development.

Northwest Territories

No summary provided.

Nova Scotia

A NNELS priority for Nova Scotia has been training for libraries, which has been done by staff from the Provincial Library. The Provincial Library has also produced a rackcard to promote accessible library services directly through public libraries, and has distributed this through libraries and other communities of interest. Recently, Provincial Library staff made a presentation to Novanet (shared post-secondary ILS) board members about NNELS, and a number of university librarians expressed interest in finding out more. As for content, the Provincial Library purchased books from the Atlantic Publishers Marketing Association and made them available through Overdrive, and are working through the legal process of adding copies of the same titles to NNELS. Another contribution that Nova Scotia has made to the NNELS pool is a MARC template for libraries that wish to catalogue NNELS materials.

Nunavut

No summary provided.

Yukon

Yukon Public Libraries (YPL) serve close to 30,000 people through 15 community libraries located all over the Yukon Territory. YPL joined NNELS about five months ago. At this point, we're starting to train more staff and to promote the program officially. Patrons with perceptual disabilities are invited to contact their local libraries for registration and more information about the program. Whitehorse Public Library (WPL), the central branch, offers all kinds of supports such as filling out a self-declaration form, registering for NNELS and providing technical assistance. Two staff are coordinating this project.

After patrons fill out the self-declaration form, the staff contact the patron to make sure they're able to access and download books from NNELS. Users are also invited to attend a training session at the Library or in their house. The staff take the one-on-one training sessions as an opportunity to know the patrons, learn about their disabilities, their computer skills, their devices and their needs. They also offer help to users from remote communities through email, telephone and via visual chatting and screen sharing software such as join.me and Skype.

— Submitted by Operational Group and NNELS Staff, with some edits by Ben