

# Press Release



**Association  
for the Blind of WA**  
Guide Dogs WA

27 November 2012

## **Accessible Format Books Fast Tracked for Equal Access**

On Monday 26 November, the Association for the Blind of WA – Guide Dogs WA made two books available in accessible alternative formats at the same time as the conventional print version was released to the general public.

Copies of *The Last Refugee* by Yemen al-Qaeda and *America's War in Arabia* by Gregory Johnsen were provided to the Association by Scribe Publications in advance of their official release. This allowed the Association's Accessible Information Service to fast-track production of alternative formats, which would usually be released many months after the print copy is published.

Through this historic partnership between a publisher and the Association, the simultaneous publishing of these books allows people who are blind or vision impaired, or those who have a print disability, the same access to newly published books as the rest of the community.

"It's fantastic that we're able to make these books accessible at the same time as they're released," said Chris Whitelock, Director of Information Services. "This is an important step in our pursuit of equal access to information for people who are blind or vision impaired."

The books have been produced as DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) talking books which include a full-text, full-audio version, and digital Braille file version of the books.

The Association is currently converting a further six Scribe books into accessible formats. Scribe Publications will continue to submit books to the Association for conversion to ensure accessibility for people who are blind or vision impaired, or those who have a print disability.

The Association relies on the support of the community to provide life changing services to people who are blind or vision impaired. For more information, visit [www.guidedogswa.com.au](http://www.guidedogswa.com.au).

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## Contact

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