

POSTER TITLE: WORDS BEHIND VOICES

AUTHORS: Jelena Lešaja; Karolina Zlatar Radigović, hkzasl@hkzasl.hr

Facts:

Croatian Library for the Blind has its own podcast since 2018. In the first two seasons, it has hosted interesting personalities linked to the field of education and services for persons with print disabilities. In 2020, the focus shifted to book reviews from our accessible collection.

In spring of 2022, the podcast takes once again conversational form. Guests are authors whose books we prepare in accessible formats, many of them have narrated Daisy audio versions of their own books. Authors answer user's questions. Conversations with authors have an almost intimate tone, talking about the inspiration, creation but also everyday life, importance of reading and process of writing. Podcast episodes are about opening oneself to another person, connecting authors with their readers and giving a written word access on different levels. Main topics are creative process, invention of characters and situations, reading other authors as an inspiration, observing the world around you and exploring yourself. Some of the guests were colleagues working for many years in the field of production and distribution of accessible literature. Necessity of equal access to knowledge, culture and fun for persons with print disabilities has always been in the background of these conversations.

Our podcast is also one of the gateways where authors can become aware of the readers to whom literature is not easily available. Average member of the Croatian Library for the Blind reads around 45 titles per year. Percentage of titles in accessible formats is still very small compared to the mainstream production.

During the COVID restriction times, when we could not have the regular live events, this has been a nice way of bridging the gap between the library, its users and authors.

Podcast episodes are available on the library's YouTube channel, internet page and are distributed to users together with audio magazines.

Croatian Library for the Blind YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/@hrvatskaknjiznicazaslijepe2275/videos>