

Unified English Braille Code

This News item is being circulated for your information. If you are interested in being kept up to date, please reply to Alan Thorpe direct at: Braille@eyecan.org.uk

At the end of last year, the UK Association for Accessible Formats (UKAAF) voted to adopt the Unified English Braille code (UEB) for the United Kingdom. The changes are not dramatic and it is hoped that the new code will make Braille easier to learn, easier to convert into print, and easier to share with other English speaking countries amongst other things. If you would like to find out more about the adoption of UEB then please visit the Frequently Asked Questions section on the UKAAF website: <http://www.ukaaf.org/formats-and-guidance/177>

If you would like to see the differences between the current Braille code and UEB these are also on the UKAAF website: <http://www.ukaaf.org/formats-and-guidance/176>

Although UEB has been adopted in the UK, implementation is still some way off. UKAAF has identified 2012 as a planning year when organisations will be looking at:

- Updating teaching and reading materials
- UEB translation packages
- Updating coding books
- Exams
- Training for teachers
- Method of implementation

Also high on the list of issues identified by the UKAAF Braille teachers group was that of effective communication with Braille teachers during the process. We would therefore like to invite teachers who want to be kept up to date on the developments relating to UEB implementation to respond to us. Please send us your name, email address and job role.

The UKAAF Braille teachers group will be compiling an email list and will then provide periodic updates on progress. So if you are able to respond with your place of work, its location (ie. county), job role, who you teach (ie. children/adults), how many learners you have and any other information you think we would find useful please email Alan Thorpe at Braille@eyecan.org.uk