

## **Internet society report**

Date of report (month/year): 01, October 2015 to May 31, 2016

Project Name: Non-Visual Access to Digital Library

Project Duration: 24 Months

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### 1. A description of the activities undertaken by the project during the reporting period

The following activities have been performed

- Setting up committee members from staff and blind beneficiaries and discussions

On December Together! held a brain storming meeting with its visually impaired basic computer skills trainees to get the ideas about what they want or expect from NoVA and what accessibility features they would like to get from this web based digital library. With this it was able to identify key accessibility issues the visually impaired users face like lack of shortcut keys to open tabs on the website. This was then conveyed on the call for the consultancy announcement.

- Announcing “Call for Consultancy” and selection of consultants

Together! announced its “Call for Consultancy” on January 22, 2016 . Interested applicants applied, however the number of applicants are less than what we expected.

The team went and knocked the door of known firms to develop NoVA. However, lack of experience with accessibility we lagged back from the scheduled time frame. It was fortunate for us to meet Cybernet consultancy firm and negotiated with them to lower their fee by 80%

- Holding regular meeting with the consultants and the team

Together! holds regular meeting with the project team from the sides of the firm to discuss the progress of NoVA. So Far two meetings were conducted. In the meetings ideas were shared.

- Purchasing of necessary equipment

### 2. Discussion of the performance to date against the goals of the project

By the meeting convened on May 17, 2016, Together! and Cyber Soft Company has established a web based digital library commute. This commute has the following details discussed up on:

On Together!’s side, the objective of the NoVA has been specified.in this line the main objective was reported to be “accessible web based digital library” to visual impaired clients.

Accordingly NoVA will have the following accessibilities features;

- Language: It was discussed that NoVA to be in Amharic and English languages
- File type: concerning file type the library would have audio, video and text formats. The audio formats are exclusively for users who are totally blind whereas the video files can be accessible for people with low vision.
- Keyboard shortcuts:- as visual impaired persons are totally dependent on the keyboard, the committee decided to have the library to devise keyboard shortcuts for accessibility.
- Links: It was discussed that NoVA should have international links, that direct to other web based digital libraries.
- Forum: The library was side to have an online forum where users can share ideas and inform technological discoveries as well as resolving accessibility problems.
- Back log: With regard to back log the library was side to have records like number of users or visitors, location tracer and user demography in order to identify the sex age and other related issues.
- Freeware: concerning the freeware's, the library provides its clients with application and system software.

### 3. Outcomes & achievements

At the current stage of the project we cannot say that we have achieved our goals but immediate result wise we can see that we have inserted the idea of inclusiveness to the minds of consultancy firms we contacted.

### 4. Lessons learned and disappointments

From the current stage we have learned that prices fluctuate and increases more than 50% from the collected time, hence we tackled this problem especially with web developing fee by negotiating with the firm and shifting some budget lines to increase the fee for the firm.

Although there are many software developing companies in the market, almost none of them were boldly able to contest the call for this project development due to lack of awareness. This consumed much of our time so that it deterred us from the, project realization.

### 5. Any changes in the design of the project and implications for future work

Keeping the above challenge in mind, we amended the budget that was set which is 80,000.00 ETB for the web development to 115,000.00 ETB shifting budgets.

Any additional information that would be useful to the Internet Society community for purposes of an interim report.

