

# Recording an Audiobook for NNELS

Northern Lights Library System Conference 2017

Presented by Kim Johnson (Public Library Services Branch)  
and Sabina Iseli-Otto (NNELS)

# WHO ARE WE?

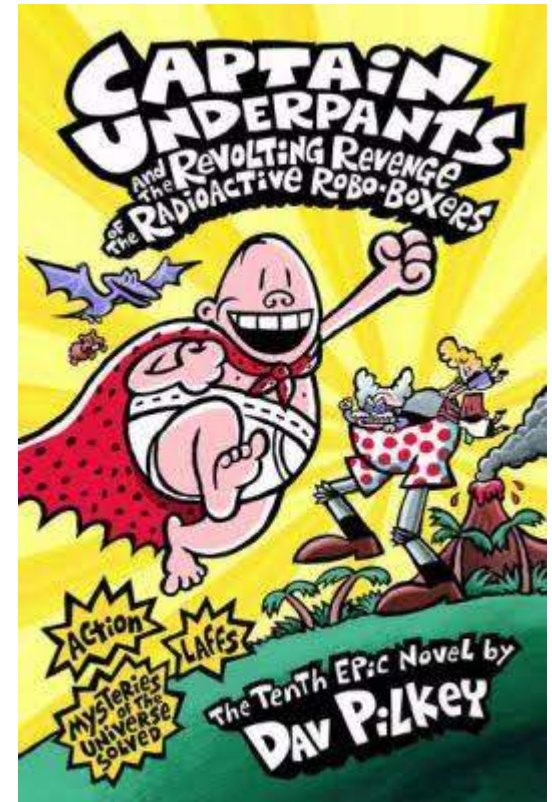
## PEMBERTON & DISTRICT PUBLIC LIBRARY

- LOCATED 32KM NORTH OF WHISTLER
- SERVING A POPULATION OF APPROX. 6,500
- SERVICE AREA OF APPROX. 5,600 SQ. KM



# WHAT DID WE DO?

- Library staff recorded the Dav Pilkey children's book 'Captain Underpants and the Revolting Revenge of the Radioactive Robo-Boxers'



# WHY DID WE DO IT?

- To raise awareness of NNELS in the community
- To contribute to NNELS
- A fun staff project
- Team building

# HOW DID WE DO IT?

- Visit from Sabina to demonstrate how to record
- One staff member took on role of creative director – casting, scheduling, recording & editing
- Scheduled & recorded in my office according to staff availability

# WHAT WORKED WELL?

- We had fun!
- All staff were involved
- It generated interest in the community.
- It added something unique to the NNELS catalogue
- We made an audiobook!

# WHAT CHALLENGES DID WE FACE?

- Adding sound effects & multiple voices made editing more time consuming. Became a large responsibility for one staff member
- Scheduling multiple staff around schedules & vacation
- Poor 'recording studio' – external noises and acoustics
- Keeping momentum going
- Access to the finished product

WOULD WE DO IT AGAIN?

Absolutely!





**UBC OKANAGAN LIBRARY:  
COMMUNITY BUILDING WITH  
AUDIO-BOOKS**

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# HOW THIS PROJECT CAME TO BE



New Recording Studio in Library

Community Service Learning Program on Campus

Library Strategic Goals

Sabina Presented about NNELS at BCLA in 2015



Inclusive Technology Lab: Pilot within Library



NNELS

# ABOUT OUR LIBRARY

- Strategic goals to support diverse students, to innovate, and to actively engage with campus and community
- Donor funded Inclusive Technology Lab, opened in fall 2015
- Campus project built new recording studio within Library for fall 2015
- UBC Okanagan 2016/17 Statistics:
  - 7,930 undergraduate students
  - 788 graduate students
  - 520 faculty, 650 staff, 950 student staff



# INCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGY LAB & RECORDING STUDIO

- Open to students registered with the Disability Resource Centre & those interested in learning about assistive tech
- Borrowing collection: ergonomic devices, SmartPens, iPads, & more
- 6 Computers with assistive software
- Distraction reduced study space
- Collaborative, height-adjustable group study spaces
- ITL Coordinator for consultations
- [library.ok.ubc.ca/itl](http://library.ok.ubc.ca/itl)



- Open to campus community
- Creative support from UBC Studios
- Technical support from IT
- Recording Software:
  - Audacity (audio)
  - Media Express (video)
  - Mediasite (Screen & Webcam)
  - [More info](#)

# LOGISTICS OF WHAT WE DID

- Community Service Learning

- Recruited volunteers and set up info sessions and training
- Coordinated student reflection including end of term wrap-up event
- Liaised with Library & NNELS to adjust structure throughout program
- <http://students.ok.ubc.ca/cslprogram/co-curricular.html>

- UBC Okanagan Library

- Created documentation based on our recording-studio
- Checked NNELS title list against library holdings
- Held training & encouragement sessions
- General troubleshooting
- <http://library.ok.ubc.ca/>

- NNELS

- Provided initial & ongoing inspiration and motivation – for myself and students!
- Provided realistic goals and title list
- Provided technical specifications and adapted documentation
- [Documentation](#)
- <https://nnels.ca/>

# WHAT WE LEARNED FROM STUDENTS

- Structure and encouragement required
  - Set deadlines
- Choosing books is the hardest part!
  - Bring set of approved books to launch
- Set workshop times based on tasks
  - Planning your book recording
  - Using the recording studio
  - Editing with Audacity

- Flexible timing not as valuable as structure
- Technical pieces around editing not a big challenge
- Student's initially unsure of the value of 'their' voice to recordings
- Value of this volunteer opportunity is small time commitment with large impact into broad community & transferable technology skills



[UBC Okanagan Library Recordings](#)

Information about actually recording a book is here:  
<https://wiki.libraries.coop/doku.php?id=public:nnels:recording:overview>

Questions? Please email us! [support@nnels.ca](mailto:support@nnels.ca)

**Thank you!**