Final report template for Community Projects and Internet Research - to be sent to gertrud@internetnz.net.nz on the date specified in your contract	
Grant reference number:	#170026
Name of recipient	*Sarvajith D R (Jith)*
Name of organisation *(if applicable)*	Blind Foundation (Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind)
Title of project/research	Accessible content for the visually impaired
Amount of funding received	*$25,000*
Budget details	*Rush Digital (contractor) - $28,500* *Staff time $20,000* • *Project oversight,* • *Project management,* • *Library staff – capturing requirements and providing digital content* *Have you achieved what you expected to achieve and with this spend? (If "No", please provide more details)* Yes. The project was delivered and the funds were fully expended. Please account for any areas of overspend or underspend. The project was the focus of three staff members for the course of the project's development, implementation, testing with end users, and demonstration to governance and management.
Project/research approach and methods	*How did you undertake this project, what were your strategies and timelines?* We workshopped with Rush Digital and members of the Blind Foundation to determine the objectives and scope of the project, based on functionality and capability of voice platform technology. Following a technical investigation to ascertain the requirements to enable development to go ahead, Rush Digital worked on the development of the prototype software. This was tested with a core group of clients to fine-tune accessibility features and the completed Proof of Concept was presented to the Board of Directors.
Summary of project/research outcomes	*Did you achieve what you set out to and how did it go?* We proved that it was possible to convert DAISY (Digital Audio Information System) format into a voice platform. This will enable written content to be digitised and made available for delivery by voice through this technology.
Achievements	*Please outline your positive outcomes*

	We outsourced for the proof of concept to be tested by a target group of people who are blind and those with low vision. Fifteen blind and low vision people from across a range of age groups took part in this testing and the proof of concept was extremely well received, users found it very accessible and user friendly. With this validation of the proof of concept where the DAISY format was successfully integrated into voice platform, we can now make the full Blind Foundation library collection of talking books and other digital content (newspapers and magazines) available for library users. As a result further development is now underway to integrate voice platform technology into more client service functions of the Blind Foundation.
Difficulties	*Please outline any difficulties you had and how you managed them* Initially we were intending to use Google Home as the device. However, we encountered difficulties with getting content to stream. We switched to Amazon Alexa which had better capability at this stage of its development.
Findings/learnings	*What were your major take away points or discoveries in doing this work?* Although voice platforms are more accessible to blind people and those with low vision than screen reader via monitor, there is still a long way to go to making the journey conversational/interactive rather than command driven.
How have you shared your learnings from this project/research?	What mediums were used to share the learnings? Have you reached the audience you expected? The proof of concept was shared to the Board of Directors and, as a result of their endorsement and support, a project of work is underway to scale up the build of accessible voice content to provide to the blind community.
Do you anticipate their being anything media-worthy in your project/research*	*Any outstanding discoveries, good-news stories or unique work (in your opinion?) *Please note we may use this information in a media release.* In the first quarter of FY2019, we are looking to launch a service for blind people and those with low vision which will include installing voice platform devices in their homes so that they can access content as it becomes available. We will launch with a media release and follow with an above the line campaign and a digital campaign.