



Maryland
State Library
Agency

L B P D

Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

Your Education. Delivered.

The Maryland State Library for the Blind and Print Disabled (LBPD) is a FREE service that provides accessible reading options to Maryland students with print disabilities.



CALL: 800-964-9209



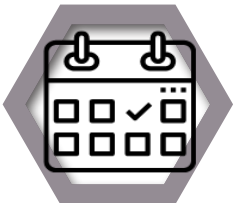
Digital Talking Books

Choose from over 110,000 Digital Talking Books and over 70 magazines in audio format. Books & magazines can be mailed or downloaded for FREE.



Braille & eBraille

Choose from thousands of braille book titles and over 30 magazines in Braille and electronic Braille formats. Books & magazines can be mailed or downloaded for FREE.



Events & Programs

The library offers free & specialized programs and events geared towards elementary, middle school, and high school students.



Accessible Community

The library works closely with the community to provide access to additional educational opportunities, tactile tours/events, and more!

About Us


LBPD was established in 1968 to provide accessible reading options to those unable to access standard print. The library provides popular fiction and nonfiction materials and magazines in Braille/eBraille & Digital Audio at no cost. Materials are sent through the U.S. Postal Service and are also available for download.


To qualify for service, applications must be completed and signed by a Certifying Authority.

Who Qualifies?

Any Maryland resident who:

- Is blind or has a visual impairment that prevents the individual from reading standard print.
- Is unable to read standard print due to a severe organic reading disability.
- Is unable to read or use standard printed material as a result of a physical limitation.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS A DIGITAL TALKING BOOK?

A Digital Talking Book is a book that has been recorded in an audio format by the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled and distributed on a specialized cartridge to be played on a Digital Talking Book Machine (DTBM). The DTBM, audiobooks and audio magazines are provided at no charge to library patrons. Alternatively, patrons may download and access Digital Talking Books and magazines to play on their personal mobile devices or DTBMs.

HOW DO I RECEIVE BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY?

All physical materials are mailed directly to patrons at their residences in specialized, postage-paid containers. All materials being returned to the library should be mailed back in the same container. Additionally, the library provides download options for Digital Talking Books, eBraille books, and audio and eBraille magazines to personal mobile devices.

WHAT DOES IT COST?

There is no cost for library services. All materials and mailings are provided to you through the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled.

WHO QUALIFIES FOR LIBRARY SERVICES?

NLS provides service to individuals who fall into any of the following categories:

- Blind persons whose visual acuity, as determined by competent authority, is 20/200 or less in the better eye with correcting lenses or whose widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.
- Any persons whose visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, is certified by a competent authority as preventing the reading of standard printed material.
- Any persons certified by a competent authority as unable to read or use standard printed material as a result of physical limitations.
- Any persons certified by a competent authority as having a perceptual or reading disability of sufficient severity to prevent the of reading printed material in a normal manner.

WHO IS A CERTIFYING AUTHORITY?

A “competent authority” is defined to include: Doctors of medicine, Doctors of osteopathy, Ophthalmologists, Optometrists, Registered nurses, Therapists, Professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or private welfare agencies, such as educators, social workers, case workers, counselors, rehabilitation teachers, certified reading specialists, school psychologists, superintendents, and librarians.

In the absence of any of these, certification may be made by professional librarians or by any person whose competence under specific circumstances is acceptable to the Library of Congress.

DO YOU OFFER ACCESS TO BOOKSHARE?

Yes! The library can provide all library patrons access to Bookshare at no cost to them. Bookshare® is an ebook library that makes reading easier. Members may access a huge collection of ebooks to read in any of several formats with the most customizable ebooks for people with reading barriers. The library has 786,623 titles and is the most extensive collection of accessible ebooks in the world. It includes books for school, career, and reading pleasure, as well as titles in over 34 languages. BookShare is intended to be used in conjunction with services from the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled and is compatible with NLS's book player.