



Maryland
State Library

LBPD

Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

Your Books. Delivered.

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



CALL: 800-964-9209



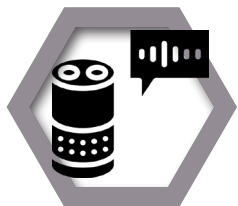
Digital Talking Books

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 20,000 braille book titles and over 30 magazines in Braille and electronic Braille formats. Books & magazines can be mailed or downloaded for **FREE**.



Assistive Technology

LBPD provides assistive technology training both one-on-one and through the Technology User Group at no cost to library patrons.



Accessible Textbooks

The Maryland Accessible Textbook program provides students enrolled in 2 and 4-year colleges access to college textbooks in alternate formats at no cost

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 US Postal Service or are available for direct download.

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

Who Qualifies

Maryland residents who:

- Are blind or have a visual impairment that prevents them from reading standard print.
- Are unable to read standard print due to a severe organic reading disability.
- Are unable to read or unable to use standard printed material as a result of physical limitations



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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 placed on a specialized cartridge to be played on a Digital Talking Book Machine (DTBM). The DTBM, books, and magazines are provided at no charge to library patrons. Alternatively, patrons are able to download and access Digital Talking Books and magazines for use on a personal mobile device or on the DTBM.

HOW DO I RECEIVE BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY?

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

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.
- Persons whose visual disability, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, is certified by competent authority as preventing the reading of standard printed material.
- Persons certified by competent authority as unable to read or unable to use standard printed material as a result of physical limitations.
- Persons certified by competent authority as having a perceptual or reading disability of sufficient severity to prevent their reading printed material in a normal manner.

WHO IS A CERTIFYING AUTHORITY?

In cases of blindness, visual impairment, or physical limitations, “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 an educator, social worker, case worker, counselor, rehabilitation teacher, certified reading specialist, school psychologist, superintendent, or librarian.

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.

ARE THERE ADDITIONAL SERVICES THAT THE LIBRARY OFFERS?

The library provides a wide range of additional services and programs:

- Assistive Technology Training/Technology User Group
- Accessible College Textbooks for students enrolled in 2 and 4 years Maryland colleges
- Specialized library events held in accessible formats, available for all ages
- Access to Bookshare for additional books in audio and accessible text formats
- Access to Newsline for additional newspapers and magazines in audio format