

Adult Reading List: History of Braille

Louis Braille, a Touch of Genius, by C. Michael Mellor

- BR 16790
- DB 63350

Born sighted, Louis Braille accidentally blinded himself at the age of 3. He was sent to a school for blind children in Paris, one of the first in the world. There, at the age of sixteen, he worked tirelessly on a revolutionary system of finger reading that became braille. Get to know the man who invented a means of reading and writing still used today in almost every country in the world, adapted to almost every known language from Albanian to Zulu.

Braille into the Next Millennium, by Judith M. Dixon

- BR 13188
- DB 50969

Essays examining the history and future of braille include such topics as the development of the literary, Nemeth, and music codes; braille production; legal issues; library service; and literacy and computer access concerns.

The Slate Book: A Guide to the Slate and Stylus, by Jennifer Dunnam

- BR 13457

Advocates the use of the slate and stylus as a means of taking braille notes before learning electronic methods. Provides suggestions and exercises to assist in becoming proficient in this skill, which is equivalent to writing with a pen or pencil.

The Reading Fingers: Life of Louis Braille, 1809-1852, by Jean Roblin

- BR 14555

First authoritative English-language biography of the French inventor of braille text. Covers Braille's family background and how he became blind. Discusses his education, love for music, and contribution to intellectual advancement through his raised-dot system for reading.

Triumph over Darkness: The Life of Louis Braille, by Lennard Bickel

- BR 17820
- DB 68015

Biography of Frenchman Louis Braille (1809-1852), who perfected a raised-dot alphabet code named in his honor when he was only fifteen. Discusses the development of the system of reading and writing that opened the world of learning for blind people. 1988.

The Rules of Unified English Braille, from the International Council on English Braille

- BR 25717 (electronic braille only)

The Rules of Unified English Braille is the definitive UEB Rulebook produced by the International Council on English Braille (ICEB). This third edition, released in 2024, supersedes the second edition published in 2013. This edition introduces several new features including: a comprehensive index of all rules; use of Unicode braille patterns for all examples; and the addition of many more cross references. All changes to the UEB code since 2013 have been incorporated into this new edition.

Smart Fingers: A Reading Readiness Game for Teaching Braille: Includes Alphabet and Numbers, by Evelyn Dales

- BRA05316 (electronic braille only)

A non-graded reading game designed to develop skills in tactual discrimination of forms. Both the alphabet and number symbols are introduced.

Blind Children Learn to Read, by Berthold Lowenfeld

- BRE00004 (electronic braille only)

Three hundred sixty-two questionnaires concerning braille reading instruction were completed by teachers in all 50 regular residential schools for the blind in the United States and in 258 local schools. Results revealed a considerable uniformity of methods. Reading comprehension of the blind subjects, compared to that of seeing children, was at least equal in grade 4 and superior in grade 8. The book also includes a history of Louis Braille and his system, reviews basic research on braille reading, and discusses readiness for learning to read, the teacher's role in the reading program, and special problems in braille reading.