



Maryland  
State Library  
Agency

**L B P D**

Library for the Blind and Print Disabled

# Your Books. Delivered.

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



**CALL: 800-964-9209**



## Digital Talking Books

Choose from over 120,000 Digital Talking Books and over 70 magazines in audio format. Books & magazines can be mailed or downloaded for FREE.



## Braille & eBraille

Choose from over 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

LBDP provides assistive technology training, both one-on-one and through the Technology User Group (TUG), at no cost to library patrons.



## Accessible Textbooks

The Maryland Accessible Textbook program provides students enrolled in 2- and 4-year Maryland colleges access to college textbooks and other open educational resources in alternative formats at no cost.

## About Us

LBDP was established in 1968 to provide accessible reading options to those unable to access standard print. The library provides popular fiction and nonfiction books and magazines in Braille/eBraille & Digital Audio at no cost. Materials are sent through the U.S. Postal Service and are also available for direct 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 print 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 and made available through the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS) on a specialized cartridge or directly downloaded from NLS's Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) database. NLS also makes audio magazines available to library patrons. Patrons may play book and magazine cartridges on Digital Talking Book Machines (DTBMs) and may play downloaded audio books and magazines on their personal mobile devices. DTBMs, audiobooks, and audio magazines are provided at no charge to library patrons.

## 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 containers. 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 at no charge 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 a 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 person 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 person certified by a competent authority as unable to read or use standard printed material as a result of a physical limitation.
- Any person certified by a competent authority as having a perceptual or reading disability who is unable to read printed works to substantially the same degree as a person without an impairment or disability.

## WHO IS A CERTIFYING AUTHORITY?

The application for service must be signed by a "competent authority," which 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, caseworkers, 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.

## DOES THE LIBRARY OFFER ANY ADDITIONAL SERVICES?

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

- Assistive Technology Training and the Technology User Group (TUG)
- Accessible College Textbooks for students enrolled in 2- and 4-year 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