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LibGuide: Resources for the Visually Impaired

Do you need assistance for accessing texts due to a visual impairment? The library has tools and resources for you to use!

There are some excellent sources for free materials that come with audio versions. These include:

1. BARD of the Library of Congress for books and magazines (free with proof of disability). Material can be accessed both virtually or physically via mail. https://www.loc.gov/nls/braille-audio-reading-materials/bard-access

2. National Federation of the Blind NFB-NEWSLINE provides access to news, magazines, and more (free with proof of disability). https://www.nfb.org/programs-services/knfb-reader

3. BookShare.org offers audio versions of textbooks although it requires proof of disability (free to students, $50 / yr for non-students). https://www.bookshare.org/cms/

4. Librivox provides free audio books for texts now in the public domain. https://librivox.org/

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If you need texts read aloud, there are also websites and apps that act as Text-to-Speech Readers for PDFs, EPUB, text on most web pages, and text in many other formats. These include:

1. NaturalReader which has a free base version and works for iOS, Windows 10, and Android devices.
   https://www.naturalreaders.com/

2. Speechify which offers a free app for a range of devices as well as a news reader feature for 30-50 different news services (currently available only to iOS devices).
   https://www.getspeechify.com/

Finally there are programs that offer Speech-to-Text for Dictation. Google Docs has a free version available on all types of devices. Speech-to-Text dictation is also a built-in feature in IOS, Android, Windows 10, and other programs. These can be used to dictate communications like text messages and emails, as well as formal writing.

If you would like to read a physical book or document in enlarged format, the library now has a Prodigi™ Desktop electronic magnifier! Full texts can be laid beneath the camera and magnified on a 20 inch screen to increase visibility. Documents can be zoomed in on as much as the reader necessitates. The devices can even read texts aloud! For further details, clink the link below:

The Southborough Library would like to thank William B. Warren from the Municipal Technology Committee for this information and his donation of the Prodigi™ Desktop electronic magnifier in coordination with the Massachusetts Commission of the Blind

https://store.humanware.com/hus/prodigi-desktop-electronic-magnifier-20-in.html

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