

Braille and Talking Book Program

for Aging Adults and Those With Low Vision



As we age, our vision often declines. Be independent. Be inspired. The braille and talking book program allows you to continue reading on your own.

What Is the Braille and Talking Book Program?

The braille and talking book program is a free library service administered by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (NLS), Library of Congress. The program is provided through a nationwide network of cooperating libraries that lend reading materials to residents of the United States and its territories and U.S. citizens living abroad who are unable to read or use regular print materials because of a visual or physical disability.

Aging adults who experience vision loss have several resources through libraries that participate in the

braille and talking book program. This library service lends high-quality talking books and the easy-to-use talking-book players needed to use them free of charge. The materials are circulated by postage-free mail. In addition, some libraries offer large-print books and magazines.

Talking books and magazines in audio formats are available online and on the go through the Braille and Audio Reading Download (BARD) service and the BARD Mobile app for smartphones and tablets.

“The talking books program has been one of the best things that’s happened to me recently. I had been developing macular degeneration over the past seven years. It’s a big load off my mind to be able to have all that lined up as my vision gets worse.”

— Jack, NLS patron since 2008

To learn more, or to sign up, visit www.loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead.

Apply for the service today!
Call 1-888-NLS-READ (1-888-657-7323)
or visit www.loc.gov/ThatAllMayRead.


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