



Accessible Reading Services

1. SSB's Communication Center, Minnesota's Accessible Reading Source

Website: mnssb.org

Our Communication Center provides books, newspapers, magazines and other printed materials in alternate formats for people who are blind, visually impaired, DeafBlind or who have other disabilities that make it difficult to read print. We convert print material into a format that works for you: audio (human, not synthesized), e-text, or braille. What types of print material? Just about anything you need, including books for school or leisure, user manuals, recipes, meeting notes, religious materials, etc. Visit the "Braille, Radio, Talking Books, News" section of mnssb.org to learn about the wide array of services available. We partner with the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library (See Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library below). We also broadcast a 24/7 radio reading service you can access on our website, through cable, and smartphone apps. Our Communication Center staff can answer your questions about the services we offer and are knowledgeable about many of the programs listed below. Give us a call at 1-800-722-0550.

Keep reading your favorite newspapers and magazines through these services we provide:

Radio Talking Book

Accessed Through: SSB's website, Paul Bunyan cable, and smartphone apps.

Cost: Free to qualifying members

Description: 24/7 radio reading service broadcasting newspapers, books, and magazines covering a wide variety of subjects and interests.

How to Register: Call us at 1-800-722-0550.

NFB-NEWSLINE

Accessed Through: Telephone, website, e-mail, NFB-NEWSLINE smartphone app, some portable DAISY players

Cost: Free to qualifying members

Description: NFB-NEWSLINE provides accessible regional and national newspapers and magazines, as well as TV listings to qualifying members. Members can access news and TV listings over the phone, on the web, through e-mail, or via the NEWSLINE app for iPhone, iPod touch, Amazon Echo, and iPad. Some new portable DAISY players, like the new generation Victor Reader Stream, can directly download NFB-NEWSLINE content as well.

How to Register: Call us at 1-800-722-0550.

2. Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library (MNBTL)

Website: mnbtbl.org

Accessed Through: Digital talking book player, BARD mobile app, portable book players, braille notetakers and hardcopy braille books.

Cost: Free to qualifying members

Description: The Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library offers books and magazines in braille and human-narrated audio that can be delivered by mail or downloaded from an online library site.

How to Register: Visit mnbtbl.org or call (800) 722-0550.

3. Bookshare

Website: <https://www.bookshare.org/>

Accessed Through: Digital talking book player, Bookshare website, portable book players, MP3 players, Read2Go and Voice Dream Reader IOS apps, Go Read Android app, braille note takers

Cost: Free to students, \$50 per year plus one-time \$25 activation fee for non-students

Description: Bookshare offers books and magazines in electronic text (e-text) formats that can be read on many devices as text-to-speech synthesized audio or braille.

How to Register: Visit <https://www.bookshare.org/signUpType> to register for an individual or organizational membership, and for eligibility information. Bookshare can also be reached by phone at (650) 352-0198.

4. Learning Ally

Website: <https://www.learningally.org/>

Accessed Through: Digital talking book player, portable DAISY players, CD, Learning Ally audio app for Android and iOS

Cost: \$119 per year

Description: Learning Ally Audio provides human-narrated audio textbooks to students from Kindergarten through college. These books can be played in audio only form from a CD, digital talking book player, or portable DAISY player. Human narration and highlighted text are synchronized while reading using the android and iOS apps.

How to Register: Visit <https://www.learningally.org/parents-students/sign-up/> to register online, or call (800) 221-4792.

5. Audible

Website: <http://www.audible.com>

Accessed Through: Audible website, iOS and Android apps, many MP3 players, portable DAISY players, braille notetakers

Cost: \$10 to \$20 for monthly memberships, or varying price if buying books individually

Description: Audible is a popular audio book service for everyone, not just readers with print disabilities. Audible books are professionally narrated and they have a large library of fiction and non-fiction titles. If using the Amazon Kindle service, Kindle and Audible books can be synchronized, so readers keep their place, whether reading the print or audio version of a book. This also works across Android and IOS devices.

How to Register: Visit Amazon to sign up for an Amazon account online, or call (888) 283-5051 for more information.

6. Kindle

Website: <http://www.amazon.com/>

Accessed Through: Kindle iOS and Android apps, Kindle Fire devices (Kindle classic devices not supported because they don't have speakers or speech functionality)

Cost: Pay per book

Description: Kindle is one of the largest e-book providers. Kindle books can be read on actual Kindle tablets or the Kindle app for iOS and Android, both of which are now accessible. Readers pay for each book, but there are many sales, promotions, and ways to get free or cheaper Kindle books.

Caution: Some Kindle textbooks, especially textbooks designed exclusively for tablets, may not yet be accessible. SSB highly recommends downloading the sample version of a textbook before buying. Amazon informed SSB that the reason these textbooks are still not accessible is because publishers are blocking text-to-speech features from working within their books. Most other Kindle books read perfectly.

How to Register: Visit [Amazon](http://www.amazon.com) to register for an Amazon account or call (888) 283-5051 for more information.

7. Nook

Website: <http://www.nook.com>

Accessed Through: Nook tablets, Nook iOS and android apps

Cost: Pay per book

Description: Nook is another mainstream e-book format, and a direct competitor to Kindle. The Nook app for iOS devices is accessible to VoiceOver users. At this time, the Nook Android app and Nook HD devices have some accessibility for screen reader users.

How to Register: Visit <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/register/popup> to register online.

8. Apple iBooks

Website: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ibooks/id364709193?mt=8>

Accessed Through: iBooks app for iPhone, iPod touch, iPad, and Mac

Cost: Pay per book

Description: iBooks can be read on all iOS devices and the Mac. At this time, the Mac version of iBooks is not accessible to VoiceOver users. iBooks for iOS works very well.

How to Register: Sign up for an Apple ID using your iOS device, Mac, or Windows computer running iTunes. All purchased books will then be associated with that Apple ID. Apple also has an accessibility department that can help with support for blind and low vision users. To reach this accessibility department, e-mail accessibility@apple.com or call (877) 204-3930.

9. Public Libraries

Website: <http://www.publiclibraries.com/minnesota.htm>

Accessed Through: Books on tape or CD, variety of mobile apps like Overdrive, some MP3 players

Cost: Free to qualifying patrons

Description: Minnesota's public libraries are another good source for free books. Residents can apply for a library card and borrow books on tape or CD, or e-books through services like Overdrive. Some libraries also lend devices that play Overdrive books. Android and iOS apps also provide access to the Overdrive service.

Hennepin Library Website: <http://www.hclib.org/>

Saint Paul Library Website: <http://www.sppl.org/>

Employment-Related Reading or Information Services

SSB's Communication Center, Minnesota's Accessible Reading Source

Website: mnssb.org

Cost: Free

How to Register: Call us at 1-800-722-0550.

We offer national job listings through NFB-NEWSLINE, and employment and career-related podcasts, books and professional magazines. We'll custom transcribe the employment-related print materials that you need into the format you need them in.

AFB CareerConnect

Website: <http://www.afb.org/info/living-with-vision-loss/for-job-seekers/12>

Accessed Through: website, iOS app

Cost: Free

Description: AFB CareerConnect is a valuable resource for job seekers who are blind or visually impaired. In addition to job listings, CareerConnect offers information and courses on a variety of job related topics and common questions.

Job Accommodation Network (JAN)

Website: <https://askjan.org/>

Accessed Through: website

Cost: Free

Description: JAN is an online resource center for employers, job seekers, and others with technical assistance on job accommodations and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Blind Abilities

Website: <https://blindabilities.com/>

Accessed Through: website, iOS app

Cost: Free

Description: Blind Abilities produces podcasts and blogs by and for people who are blind or visually impaired. Their focus is to build people's skills and confidence as they transition to college and workplaces.

Rehabilitation, Engineering, Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA)

Website: <http://www.resna.org/>

Accessed Through: website

Cost: Free

Description: RESNA is an online resource for assistive technology and rehabilitation engineering. Their mission is to maximize the health and well-being of people with disabilities through technology. RESNA has several areas of information including a certification, professional development, job bank, and a conference.

Indeed

Website: <http://www.indeed.com/>

Accessed Through: website, iOS and Android apps

Cost: Free

Description: Indeed is a well-known and frequently used employment website. Job seekers can search for jobs, and employers can search resumes for qualified candidates.

Minnesota Works

Website: <https://www.minnesotaworks.net/>

Accessed Through: website

Description: Minnesota Works is a job search website for people looking for work in Minnesota. Users can upload resumes, search and apply for jobs, and access other job tools.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Website: <http://www.ada.gov/>

Accessed Through: website, ADA reference iOS app

Cost: Free, \$0.99 for ADA reference app

Description: Website and app provide information on the Americans with Disabilities Act.