



Virtual Low Vision Fair
Resources – Week 2

I Used to Love to Read
July 20, 2021

Kathy Herfel and Anna Zook from the L.E. Phillips Memorial Public Library: <https://www.ecpubliclibrary.info/>

Home delivery: <https://www.ecpubliclibrary.info/home-delivery/>

Digital media: <https://www.ecpubliclibrary.info/digital/>

Katie Saldutte from the Wisconsin Talking Book and Braille Library:
<https://dpi.wi.gov/talkingbooks>

Application for the WTBBL program: <http://dpi.wi.gov/talkingbooks>

Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC): <https://witbbl.klas.com/>

ABLE (Audio Braille Literacy Enhancement):
<https://www.ablenow.org/>

Braille Audio Reading Download: <https://nlsbard.loc.gov/>

Angela Zalg from the Office for the Blind and Visually Impaired:
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/blind/contact.htm> or call the toll free
phone number at 1-888-879-0017 for assistance
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p2/p23142.pdf>

The following pages are the Audio Book Resources that Angie discussed in her presentation.

Audio Book Resources

Compiled July 2021

Choice Magazine Listening (<http://www.choicemagazinelisting.org/>):

nonprofit organization provides audio recordings of articles, stories, interviews, essays and poems from magazines, free of charge, to people who are blind, visually impaired, or physically disabled. Quarterly issues from 100 magazines and journals.

Read by a professional narrator. CML does not use volunteer readers or synthesized voice technology.

A user with a computer can [download CML](#) onto a thumb drive. If the user does not have a computer, the user may receive a talking book cartridge that will slide into a digital talking book player, supplied free of charge through the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled, Library of Congress. The user will have about two months to listen to the issue before returning it in the provided plastic mailer.

Audible (<https://www.audible.com/>): First 30 day trial is free. Prices are stepped depending on service. Audio Plus is \$7.95 per month. Can listen to thousands of titles. Audible Premium Plus is \$14.95 per month. This gets you more options, such as podcasts, audio entertainment, and the user will be able to keep some books. There is an app available.

Kobo (<https://www.kobo.com/>): First 30 day trial is free, then \$9.99 every month. Each month user gets a credit for an audiobook, and it appears user may keep this book. Website states “Your audiobook collection is yours forever, even if you cancel”. They have an app. Can speed up or slow reading speed, sleep timer, keep collection of audiobooks and e-readers in one place.

YouTube, for example “Audio Books You Tube”

(<https://www.youtube.com/user/rt20bg/videos>) In the search bar, user can just type Audio Books YouTube. There are several channels that offer audiobooks for free.

BookShare (<https://www.bookshare.org/cms>) : Over 1 million books. Helps people with dyslexia, vision loss, and other reading barriers. Customize to match individual’s learning style, such as audio highlighted text plus audio, braille, large font, and other formats. Large library of textbooks, bestsellers, children’s books, resources, and more. Read on a smart phone, tablet, computer. Cost is free for qualified US students and schools. Less than one dollar per week for adults. Members can read as many books as they want for \$50 per year.

EPUB (<https://www.epubbooks.com/>) : EPUB is a digital book that people can read on a variety of digital devices. It stands for electronic publication. Compatible with software such as smart phones, tablets, and computers. The books are free of charge. They have several public domain books going back 500 years. Go to their website to activate an account. There is an app.

Spotify (<https://www.spotify.com/us/>) : Spotify has an app to listen to audiobooks. It appears as though currently audiobooks are free to all Spotify users. Spotify has branched out from music and podcasts to now including audiobooks. Spotify seems to carry mostly music and podcasts, so the selection of audiobooks may be smaller than other options. Enter “audiobooks” into the Spotify search bar to see what is available.

NewFiction (<http://newfiction.com/>) : Offers audiobooks and e-books. Go on their website, choose a book, and click on “Start Story”. Must have computer, smartphone, or tablet, with internet access to listen. Similar to old-time radio dramas.

DigitalBook (<https://www.digitalbook.io/>): Offers audiobooks, e-books, and podcasts. Many books are free, but some aren't. Nearly all the classics are free. Many different genres. Can stream audio in browser, or download and play later while disconnected. Can use smartphone, tablet, or computer. Can choose preferred narrator, and adjust playback speed. E-books allow changes in color, size of text, dictionaries, adding audio, and backlighting. They offer a magnification button for the visually impaired, and are working on a screen reader for the blind.

LibriVox (<https://librivox.org>) : Free public domain audio books to download. Narrators are volunteers. Several thousand books from which to choose. Many different genres. Many of the books may be old, as they are public domain books (U.S. copyright has expired). Need a computer, tablet, or smartphone.

Project Gutenberg (<https://www.gutenberg.org>) : Free service. Need computer, tablet, or smartphone. Can download them or read them online. They offer many e-books, but they offer audio books as well. For this, they partner with LibriVox. Over 60,000 free e-books. Many, but not all, of these books are older, and free due to public domain.

Internet Archive (<https://archive.org>): Non-profit organization that offers free books, movies, software, music, websites and more. It is a digital library that stores internet sites. They have thus far archived: 475 billion web pages; 28 million books and texts; 14 million audio recordings, including 220,000 live concerts; 6 million videos; 580,000 software programs (statistics according to their website at the time this list was created). Just need to sign up for a free account. Their main focus,

though, is books. They scan 3,500 books per day to add to their archives. They too enlist the help of LibriVox for some of their audio books.

LearnOutLoud (<https://www.learnoutloud.com/>): Offers educational audiobooks, podcasts, videos, documentaries, courses, etc. Website reads: “Your destination for audio and video learning”. Much of what they offer is free of charge. Over 50,000 educational audiobooks, podcasts, and videos. Sign in and download books from a computer.

Xavier Society for the Blind (<https://xaviersocietyfortheblind.org/>): Provides religious reading materials in braille and audio to people who are blind or visually impaired. Free of charge. Began in 1900. The readings are on a cartridge, with the talking book player being supplied by the National Library Service.

Aurora Ministries (<https://www.auroraministries.org/>): Provides audio Bibles to people who are unable to access books in print. They offer the audio books in a few different formats, such as cartridges to be used with the digital talking book player from NLS, an independent electronic Bible reader, and other options as well. In addition to this, they offer other religious items and services.

Chapter A Day (<https://www.wpr.org/programs/chapter-day>): Started in 1931. There are currently 4 narrators. One will read a chapter in a ½ hour every weekday. Mostly contemporary. Range from history, to biography, to fiction. On at 12:30pm or 11:00pm. Readings are archived for only one week (due to copyright restrictions). Can listen online, on their website.

Victor Reader Stream (New Generation) - <https://store.humanware.com/hus/victor-reader-stream-new-generation.html>; A handheld player for people who are blind or visually impaired. It will play books, music, magazines, audio described movies, podcasts, and more. Very portable.

Amazon Alexa & Google Home: Virtual assistant AI technology. User can talk to the Alexa or Google Home, and the unit will respond with voice. These devices can play audio books.