

Pennsylvania Regional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Are you unable to read standard-sized print because of vision limitations? Do you know someone who is physically unable to hold a book or turn pages? Is your reading disability physically based? If so, **welcome to the world of talking books . . . and more!** This packet describes our unique services and provides an **application to get you started.**

With the cooperation of authors and publishers, **books and magazines are produced in audio and Braille formats.** The library lends these as well as **large print books.** These materials are sent to and from registered readers in specially-marked postage-free containers by a nationwide network of Regional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. **The Pittsburgh Regional Library** provides all of Pennsylvania with audio materials. **The Philadelphia Regional Library** provides all of Pennsylvania, Delaware, and West Virginia with Braille. Both the Pittsburgh Library and the Philadelphia Library also provide large print books for their half of Pennsylvania. Nearly **170,000 books** and more than **90 magazines** are available through the network. New books are added and announced regularly. Magazine titles range from **Good Housekeeping** to **National Geographic** and, for younger readers, magazine offerings include **Cricket** and **Sports Illustrated Kids.**

Operation of the Pennsylvania Regional Libraries is funded by Commonwealth Libraries of Pennsylvania, a department of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Audio recordings, playback equipment, and Braille materials are provided by the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress. Large print books are purchased by the Regional Libraries via donations. The U.S. Postal Service is federally funded to provide free postage privileges for mailing such materials.

Services

Digital Books and Magazines

Our audio books and magazines require a special player which is available on free loan. **BARD (Braille and Audio Reading Download)** also offers audio books and magazines for download using a computer or many popular mobile devices, such as your cell phone or tablet. Audio accessories are also available.

Braille Books and Magazines

Available for all ages. The children's Braille collection includes print / Braille combinations. **BARD** also offers Braille books and magazines for download using a computer or many popular mobile devices, such as your cell phone or tablet.

Large Print Books

These are printed in larger than normal type. Many public libraries lend large print books as well.

Who is eligible?

The Pennsylvania Regional Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped provide services to the following individuals:

- **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.
- Persons whose **visual disability**, with correction and regardless of optical measurement, is certified by a competent authority as preventing the reading of regular printed material.
- Persons certified by a competent authority as unable to read or unable to use regular printed material as a result of **physical limitations**.
- Persons certified by a competent authority as having a **reading disability resulting from organic dysfunction and of sufficient severity** to prevent their reading printed material in a conventional manner.

Hospitals, nursing homes, senior centers, schools or other facilities serving persons with visual or physical disabilities may also register with the library.

Who may certify?

To apply for free library services from the Pennsylvania Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, simply complete the following application. **Your application must be certified by a competent authority**, meaning it must be signed by one of the persons described below.

In the case of visual or physical disability, a **competent authority is defined to include physician; osteopath; ophthalmologist; optometrist; registered nurse; therapist; professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies** (e.g., social worker, case worker, counselor, rehabilitation teacher, or superintendent). In the absence of these, certification may be made by a professional librarian or by any person whose competence under specific circumstances is acceptable to the Library of Congress. **In the case of a reading disability from organic dysfunction, competent authority is defined as doctors of medicine and doctors of osteopathy** who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.

**Once completed, send your application to us via mail, fax, or email.
The return information is at the bottom of the next page.**

APPLICATION

Individual Male Female Facility

First Name _____

Middle Initial _____

Last Name _____

Birthdate _____ Email _____

Check here to receive our email newsletter

Street or Box / Route Number _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ County _____

If you cannot reach me for an extended period, you may contact:

Name _____ Phone () _____

I have been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States.
By law, preference in the lending of books and equipment is given to veterans.

To be completed by certifying authority

I certify that the applicant named is unable to use standard printed material due to:

Physical disability

Reading disability

Blindness

Deaf-blindness

Visual disability

Applications for persons with **blindness, visual impairment, or physical disability** must be signed by (**other than a member of the applicant's family**) one of the following: **physician; osteopath; ophthalmologist; optometrist; registered nurse; therapist; professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or welfare agencies (e.g., social worker, case worker, counselor, rehabilitation teacher, or superintendent)**. In the absence of these, certification may be made by a **professional librarian** or by any person whose competence under specific circumstances is acceptable to the Library of Congress. Applications for persons with **reading disability** must be signed by a **doctor of medicine** or a **doctor of osteopathy**.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name (please print) _____ Title _____

Agency _____ Phone () _____

Street or Box / Route Number _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please return to Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, 4724 Baum Boulevard, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213-1389; telephone: 800-242-0586; fax: 412-687-2442; email: lbph@carnegielibrary.org

SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT

- I understand that if I no longer need materials from the Regional Library, I must return all equipment and accessories.**

Digital audio books and / or magazines. **Number of books by mail?** _____

Digital books and magazines require our free player that operates by electricity or rechargeable battery pack.

- Standard digital player.** This machine has eight controls and includes built-in audio instructions.
- Advanced digital player.** This machine has five additional controls that enable bookmarking and navigating book levels.
- Downloadable books and magazines.** Called **BARD**, this service can be used in conjunction with the digital player and / or an iOS device.

Braille books and / or magazines. **Number of books by mail?** _____

Braille is provided by the Philadelphia Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped through the mail. We will notify them of your interest. Electronic Braille is available through **BARD**.

Described Videos.

These DVDs have a menu option for audio description. With this option, a narrator describes visual aspects of the movie. Described videos are only available to **individual readers**.

Playaways.

A Playaway is a small pre-loaded digital audio book. Playaways require a single AAA battery and a pair of headphones or earbuds. Playaways are only available to **individual readers**.

Large print books.

These books with larger-than-standard type are only available to **individual readers**.

ACCESSORIES FOR EQUIPMENT

These may help with audio listening:

- Headphones** are available for readers who need them to use the service.
- Digital Talking Book Cartridge Cables** enable readers to connect a blank digital cartridge to a computer USB port to transfer BARD audio files to the cartridge.

We will send a special application for the following:

- Breath Switch Adapter / Remote Control** helps readers who have severely limited use of their hands.
- Amplifier** aids readers with a severe hearing impairment.

OTHER ACCESSORIES

Talking Currency Readers are offered through the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. They are available for free to the visually impaired. **For more information, call the Bureau at 844-815-9388.**

NEWSPAPERS

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) offers **Newsline**, a service where patrons can listen to newspapers by phone. **For more information, call at NFB 866-504-7300.**

PUBLICATIONS

Talking Book Topics lists newly available audio books; choose the format you prefer.

- Digital Cartridge Large Print Neither, I will download or view online

AUDIO MAGAZINES

Available to individual readers.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> AARP Magazine & AARP Bulletin | <input type="checkbox"/> Musical Mainstream |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American History | <input type="checkbox"/> Nation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Analog Science Fiction and Fact | <input type="checkbox"/> National Geographic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asimov's Science Fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> National Geographic Traveler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Atlantic Monthly | <input type="checkbox"/> National Review |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audubon Magazine | <input type="checkbox"/> New York Times Book Review |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bon Appétit | <input type="checkbox"/> O The Oprah Magazine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer Reports | <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma Today |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contemporary Soundtrack | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cowboys and Indians | <input type="checkbox"/> People |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Das Beste aus Reader's Digest
(German) | <input type="checkbox"/> People en Español (Spanish) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes Forecast | <input type="checkbox"/> Playboy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discover | <input type="checkbox"/> QST |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ebony | <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly Music Magazine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economist | <input type="checkbox"/> Rolling Stone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine | <input type="checkbox"/> Smithsonian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Affairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Sound & Vision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> France-Amérique (French) | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Living |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good Housekeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports Illustrated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health and Nutrition Newsletters | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel & Leisure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horticulture | <input type="checkbox"/> True West |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Magazine of the Month | <input type="checkbox"/> Vanidades (Spanish) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Missouri Conservationist | <input type="checkbox"/> Vital Speeches of the Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Money | <input type="checkbox"/> The Week |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Wired |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Writer | |

I would like to receive a list that describes **each magazine** above.

READER INTEREST SURVEY

I would like books on the following topics:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adventure / Thriller | <input type="checkbox"/> Home Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American Interest | <input type="checkbox"/> Humor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspirational (Fiction / Non-Fiction) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animals / Nature | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBTQ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art / Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best-sellers (Fiction / Non-Fiction) | <input type="checkbox"/> Modern Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biography / Personal Narrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Music (Books on music and musicians) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business / Economics | <input type="checkbox"/> Mystery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Careers | <input type="checkbox"/> Occult / Horror |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers | <input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> Plays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Psychology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic / Minority Experience
specify _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Interest (PA, OH, WV, etc.)
specify _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion
specify _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy / Folklore | <input type="checkbox"/> Romance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Foreign Language
specify _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Fiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health
specify _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Science / Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Short Stories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hobbies
specify _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports / Recreation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> War |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Westerns |

I am also interested in these topics (examples: parenting, fishing, gardening, Amish fiction, World War II, diabetes, politics, etc.) And these are some of my favorite authors:

Many books, especially best-sellers, contain strong language, explicit descriptions of sex, and / or graphic violence.

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| I will accept strong language. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| I will accept explicit descriptions of sex. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| I will accept graphic descriptions of violence. | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

YOUNG READER INTEREST SURVEY may be found in the next section.

YOUNG READER INTEREST SURVEY

I would like to receive the following audio magazines:

- Cricket / National Geographic Kids** (for ages — 14)
- Humpty Dumpty Magazine** (for ages 3 — 5)
- Muse** (for ages 9 — 12)
- Seventeen Magazine** (for ages 12 — 18)
- Spider** (for ages 6 — 9)
- Sports Illustrated for Kids** (for ages 8 — 13)

I would like to receive books on the following topics:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adventure | <input type="checkbox"/> Holidays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aging | <input type="checkbox"/> Humor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animals / Nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biography / Personal Narrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Modern Writing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Careers | <input type="checkbox"/> Music (Books on music and musicians) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computers | <input type="checkbox"/> Mystery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> Plays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Poetry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Interest (PA, OH, WV, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ethnic / Minority Experience | specify _____ |
| specify _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | specify _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fantasy / Folklore | <input type="checkbox"/> Romance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Science Fiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> Science / Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> History | <input type="checkbox"/> Short Stories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hobbies | <input type="checkbox"/> Sports / Recreation |
| specify _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel / Geography |

I would also like to receive books on these topics (examples: fairy tales, dinosaurs, baseball, nursery rhymes, etc.) And these are my favorite authors and activities.

I would like books at the following grade level: _____

Any Questions?

Contact:

**Library for the Blind
and Physically Handicapped
Leonard C. Staisey Building
4724 Baum Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-1389**

Toll-Free Telephone: 800-242-0586

Fax: 412-687-2442

lbph@carnegielibrary.org

www.carnegielibrary.org/lbph



Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Revised June 2014