

Reading Resources for Those in Need-- Your New York State Library Offers Solutions

Talking Book and Braille Library (TBBL)

A free library of braille and audio materials circulated to eligible borrowers

New York State Library, Talking Book and Braille Library logo

nysl.nysed.gov/tbbl

Do you need assistance...

- ...getting to the library?
- ...holding up the book?
- ...seeing the words?
- ...turning the pages?
- ...finding braille material?
- ...knowing available services?

We offer reading resources to New Yorkers with visual, physical, and reading disabilities

Library Services & Resources

A free library of braille and audio materials circulated directly to the patron's door:

- Audio books and magazines
- Audio players and accessories
- Downloadable books and magazines
- Free app for iOS and Android mobile devices
- Braille books and magazines
- New and current titles
- Fiction and non-fiction materials
- Foreign language materials
- Titles for pre-K through young adult
- Free delivery and return of all materials

Contact Us

New York State Talking Book and Braille Library
Cultural Education Center
222 Madison Avenue
Albany, NY 12230-0001

Web: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/tbbl/>

Email: tbbl@nysed.gov

Local phone: (518) 474-5935

Toll free: (800) 342-3688

Residents in New York City and Long Island should contact:

The New York Public Library
Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library
40 West 20th Street
New York, NY 10011-4211
<https://www.nypl.org/locations/heiskell>

TBBL is part of a network of libraries supported by the National Library Service of the Library of Congress.

The New York State Library is a part of the State Education Department, University of the State of New York.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who Qualifies?

Eligible residents of New York State, with the exception of residents of the five New York City boroughs and Long Island, who:

- Have a visual impairment
- Are blind
- Have a physical condition that makes holding books and turning pages difficult
- Have a perceptual or reading disability

How Does Someone Apply for Services?

- Your application must be certified/signed by a professional
- The approval process takes approximately seven days
- New patrons receive a welcome packet in about two weeks
- The welcome packet includes information and instructions

What is Available?

- Audio books & magazines
- Audio player & accessories
- Downloadable books & magazines
- Braille books, ebraille & magazines

How is Material Received?

- Free home delivery via USPS
- Download for listening on the app, supplied players or compatible player

What is the Cost?

- All services are free to patron
- Free use of books & magazines
- Free use of player
- Free delivery and return of materials

Referral Services

Referrals to services for the visually, physically and reading disabled are available. Contact us for assistance:

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Email: tbbl@nysed.gov

Local phone: (518) 474-5935

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Free Services for Institutions

Institutions that serve individuals with visual, physical or reading disabilities that impair the individual's ability to read standard print may borrow from TBBL on behalf of their service community. Eligible institutions include schools, colleges, hospitals, nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, adult care, retirement homes, correctional facilities and libraries.