



Perkins School for the Blind Braille & Talking Book Library

175 North Beacon Street
Watertown, MA 02472-2790

Phone: 1-800-852-3133 or 617-972-7240

Website: www.perkinslibrary.org **Fax:** 617-972-7363

Email: library@perkins.org **TTY:** 617-972-7690

WHO WE ARE

The Perkins Braille & Talking Book Library (BTBL) loans audio, large print, and braille books and magazines along with playback equipment to eligible individuals who are unable to read print materials due to a visual, physical or reading disability and to organizations that serve them.

One of the first libraries of its kind for the blind in the United States, the Braille & Talking Book Library was established in 1835 by the Perkins School for the Blind. In 1931, the BTBL became affiliated with the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress.

State funding for the Library program is provided by the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, along with additional private support through the Perkins School for the Blind.

WHAT WE PROVIDE

Upon approval of your application, reading materials and playback equipment will be sent to you. There is no charge for any of the Library's services. All materials are delivered and returned through the U.S. mail, postage free.

In addition to audio books and magazines, the collection includes large print books, as well as braille books and magazines.

The Library also offers audio described videos in VHS and DVD formats. These videos contain an additional audio track that

describes the key visual elements of the film for individuals unable to see the action on the screen.

READING MATERIALS

The Library loans books in a wide array of different subject categories, spanning everything from classics to recent bestsellers in English and many other foreign languages. Books for both adults and children are available in digital cartridge, braille, large print, download, and cassette formats. The Library also offers a selection of over 100 magazines in audio, large print, and braille formats. For information on sources for recorded textbooks, contact the Library.

NEWSLINE AUDIO NEWSPAPER SERVICE

NEWSLINE is an electronic system that allows users to listen to newspapers, TV listings, and magazines through synthetic voice output via any touch-tone telephone. It is free of charge to registered Library patrons and is accessed by calling either a local or toll-free telephone number. This service can also be accessed online via a password protected website.

EQUIPMENT

Because our books are produced in a specialized format on digital cartridges or 4-track cassettes, we will loan a digital player or a cassette machine to you, free of charge. The cassette player is required to borrow older cassette titles from the collection or to use magazine services. Individuals borrowing equipment and materials are responsible for the equipment loaned to them, and must return the equipment to the BTBL if it is no longer needed.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

An individual is eligible if he or she:

- is legally blind with vision of 20/200 or less, or has a visual field no greater than 20 degrees

- is unable to see well enough to read with comfort for extended periods of time, even with correction
- has a physical limitation that makes holding a book or turning pages difficult
- is certified by a medical doctor as having a reading disability that has a physical basis (e.g., dyslexia), which prevents one from reading standard print
- is legally blind with a profound hearing loss

Schools, libraries, hospitals, nursing and rehabilitation centers, day care programs and other agencies serving individuals who qualify may also apply for an account. An institution may borrow equipment and materials for use by eligible individuals in either a group setting or for one-on-one use.

HOW TO APPLY

Complete the enclosed *Individual Application Form*. All patron information will remain confidential.

AUTHORIZATION REQUIREMENTS

A certifying authority must complete the *Authorization Form*, found on the back of the application. Proper certifying authorities are doctors of medicine; optometrists; registered nurses; therapists; and professional staff of hospitals, institutions, and public or social service agencies (such as case workers, counselors, social workers, rehabilitation teachers, and superintendents).

In place of any of these, certification may be made by professional librarians or by any person whose competence under specific circumstances is acceptable to the Library.

In the case of a reading disability from organic dysfunction, certification must be made by a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy who may consult with colleagues in associated disciplines.

USING THE LIBRARY

After your application is processed, you will receive the equipment and your first shipment of books. A catalogue listing of some of the most recent titles in the collection will be sent separately. Every two months you will be sent a copy of *Talking Book Topics*, which lists the newest available audio books. Braille readers will be sent a copy of *Braille Book Review*, which lists the latest braille and audio titles.

The Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) at www.perkinslibrary.org provides electronic access to the library's holdings, and allows borrowers to sign in to order materials online. You can also communicate directly with staff via email (library@perkins.org). All materials are delivered, and can be returned free, via the U.S. mail.

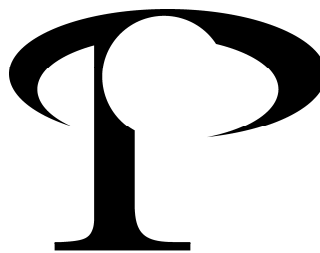
QUESTIONS?

Call the Library at 1-800-852-3133 or 617-972-7240

Email: library@perkins.org

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**Library Hours are 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM
Monday through Friday
(except holidays)**



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